

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 10% of lands in the entire USA, from grasslands to high desert, from coastal areas to alpine forests. An immense diversity of native plant communities, many rare or endangered, define the character of these lands. Seeds of Success (SOS) is the national native seed collection program, led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with a variety of federal agencies and non-federal organizations.

The Chicago Botanic Garden seeks to hire a **Team Lead Technician** to support SOS native seed collection operations and lead a collection crew of 2 contracted technicians. The Socorro Field Office will be the base for the crew, but seed collection will occur throughout the Chihuahuan desert, Arizona/New Mexico Plateau, and Arizona/New Mexico Mountains. Data collection often occurs in remote locations, where cellular connection is unavailable or inconsistent.

Salary and duration: \$840/week; start date July 8th; position last approximately 5.5 months

SOS TEAM LEAD - POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Primary duties for this position include:

- Manage seed collection crews, carryout seed collections, and coordinate with BLM field office staff
- Coordinate with BLM New Mexico state office botanical staff to identify ecoregional priority species for seed collection, review historic collection sites and identify gaps in geospatial data
- Coordinate with BLM staff to plan field operations and solve logistic problems
- Identify potential SOS collection locations and scout for new potential collection sites; work with BLM to develop the format of a SOS collection plan
- Ensure quality, accuracy, and timeliness of seed collections and data provided by the collection crew Lead team to make ≥ 40 SOS native seed collections (20 restoration collections, 15 conservation collections, 5 research collections) using the BLM SOS protocol www.blm.gov/SOS (training provided through the CLM Workshop)
- Timely, accurate reporting of time and effort activities, adherence to all Chicago Botanic Garden policies and procedures for employees and communication with the Chicago Botanic Garden's manager of Conservation Science Training Programs.

Minimum qualifications:

- B.S. (M.S. preferred) in Botany, Plant Science, Ecology, Environmental Science or a related field
- Strong plant identification skills (to species) and knowledge of plant taxonomy; strong knowledge of plant biology
- Experience maintaining accurate and detailed data records (in field and in electronic databases – Excel/Access)
- Experience collecting and processing plant seeds
- Experience working with agency, academic, private, or non-profit partners to coordinate, plan, and execute fieldwork on public or private lands
- Capable of conducting daily field work in rough terrain in harsh environmental conditions (heat, rain, biting insects), and motivating a field crew through those tough conditions
- Experience driving large field vehicles with 4-wheel drive; driving on gravel and dirt roads; off-road driving
- Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training

Additional preferred qualifications:

- Experience scouting, planning, and conducting seed collections (through SOS programs or other seed handling/collecting work)
- Familiarity with plants and ecosystems of the western U.S.
- Prior leadership experience (team lead or experience supervising staff)

- Proficiency in ArcGIS to display maps, visualize georeferenced data, and interface with GPS units

To apply:

To apply, email your cover letter, resume, and the names of three (3) professional references to Dr. Joanne Crawford, Manager, Conservation Training Programs, Chicago Botanic Garden at **JCrawford@chicagobotanic.org**. In your cover letter, be sure to address your interest in the position and how you meet the qualifications outlined in the position description. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position has been filled.

CHALLENGES, HARDSHIPS, AND/OR DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POSITION:

Field conditions of New Mexico can be extreme: hot summer conditions with potential for heavy monsoonal rainfall, flash floods, and lightning strikes; high altitude sun exposure; and occasional wildlife encounters (rattlesnakes, bears, and scorpions). Seed collection and vegetation monitoring activities can be physically demanding due to stooping and bending for long periods of time. Ability to lift up to 40 lbs and hike up to 6 miles per day is expected. Fieldwork will require overnight travel and will involve overnight camping in remote areas. Safety is a pre-requisite, particularly where industry development (energy extraction, e.g. Natural gas) is occurring and during hunting season, and will guide how fieldwork is conducted.