Riparian Botanist Position Available at Applied River Sciences, Arcata, CA
February 23, 2024

Applied River Sciences (formerly McBain Associates) is seeking a Riparian Botanist position that would lead revegetation design development, field-based vegetation monitoring and vegetation mapping, supporting project environmental planning needs, supporting revegetation implementation, and planning/conducting post-project stewardship and invasive species management.

Applied River Sciences is a professional consulting corporation applying fluvial geomorphic and ecological research to river preservation, management, and restoration. Our company has 20 employees with offices in Arcata, California and Reno, Nevada. For over 27 years, we have provided our clients with solutions to highly complex environmental problems in aquatic ecosystems using objective and clear science, in a timely and efficient manner. Our primary interests are: (1) maintaining, or attaining, river ecosystem health in regulated rivers; (2) assessing impacts of land use activities on stream ecosystems, and (3) recommending management strategies that improve those ecosystems. Applied River Sciences provides a variety of services in hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, fisheries, general aquatic, and riparian ecology, as well as GIS and AutoCAD. We have a broad client base that includes state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, non-profit organizations, utility companies, water districts, and private consulting firms.

Position duties and responsibilities may include:

- Leading riparian revegetation design development, plant acquisition, and cost estimation
- Leading, conducting and reporting compensatory regulatory studies
- Leading field data collection, data entry and management, analysis, and reporting
- Designing, implementing, and reporting on invasive species treatment and biomonitoring as a component of restoration
- Assisting with designing, implementing, and reporting riparian and wetland ecology studies related to instream flow management
- Assisting with revegetation implementation oversight, coordination, and support
- Communicating complex ideas to a diverse stakeholder and clients including public speaking, technical writing, and working with landowners
- Identification of difficult plant groups (grasses, sedges, rushes, willows etc.)
- Assisting with the preparation of study plans, scopes of work, and budgets
- Directed work within a GIS platform including digitizing, finalizing layers, and managing spatial data

Desired skills and abilities:

- Ability to prepare and conduct studies related to mitigation monitoring and reporting
- Experience with vegetation mapping, natural community identification and special status plant surveys
- Experience with environmental regulations and permitting
- Experience conducting or overseeing revegetation and/or invasive plant management
- Experience performing various forms of monitoring as a component of restoration
- Proficiency with Microsoft Excel for data organization and basic data analysis
- Ability to use R-Stat
- Ability to use QGIS or similar GIS platform

- Proficiency with dichotomous keys to identify plants
- Wetland Delineation training
- CRAM training
- Handheld GPS and tablet mapping
- Ability to multitask
- Excellent written and verbal skills
- Well-organized, detail oriented, and able to prioritize tasks
- Self-motivated and ability to work independently
- Strong collaboration skills with clients and staff

Candidates should have completed at least a bachelor's degree in plant ecology, botany, or similar field. Coursework must include plant taxonomy, plant ecology, GIS, and statistics classes. Coursework in plant physiology, hydrology, and soils desired but not required. Candidates should have prior vegetation sampling field experience and a familiarity with ecological restoration.

Our working environment requires an ability to work independently, take responsibility, and develop supporting logic that serves as a basis for resource decision making. Candidates should have some prior experience working in and around streams and rivers. Field work often includes long days in difficult terrain and diverse climatic conditions and could require travel and work up to 7 days without returning to the office or home station. Many field locations have no cell service or internet. Candidates should be comfortable around water and a strong swimmer. A valid California Driver's license with a good driving history is required.

The position will be based in Arcata, CA, and initial salary will be $30/hr to $35/hr depending on experience. The position is initially part-time and would transition to full-time (with a generous benefits package) after a 90-day introductory period. The position is available immediately and will remain available until March 31 or until filled. Please e-mail a resume with references to jobs@riversciences.com. Please include Riparian Botanist in the email subject line, one letter of recommendation, and an example of written work as the sole author.