

Summer Field Assistants for Study of Endangered Amphibians Sierra Nevada, California

Position summary: The Mountain Lakes Research Group, based at the University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, will be hiring two or more assistants for the Summer 2021 field season. Successful applicants will work in the Sierra Nevada mountains as part of a team restoring populations of the endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs (*Rana muscosa* and *R. sierrae*) in the presence of the amphibian chytrid fungus, a widespread amphibian pathogen. During the summer we will be conducting frog translocations, reintroductions of captive-reared frogs, capture-mark-recapture surveys to assess the status of frog populations established via translocation/reintroduction in previous years, visual encounter surveys, and the collection of diagnostic skin swabs from frog populations to quantify frog-pathogen dynamics. The research will take place primarily at remote backcountry locations in Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, and national forest wilderness areas. This research is part of a multi-year project funded by several federal and state agencies and private foundations.

Eligibility and requirements:

The ideal candidate will have extensive backpacking experience in mountain environments, demonstrated leadership and communication skills, experience working both as part of a group and individually, and previous experience conducting field research in remote locations and on amphibians.

- To be considered for this position, you **MUST** have extensive backpacking experience at high elevations (>10,000'; this is not negotiable). Extensive means more than an occasional short trip, with multiple consecutive nights, and substantial daily mileage (up to 10 miles per day) with overnight gear and food.
- You **MUST** be able to navigate across difficult terrain off trail using a map and GPS device.
- You **MUST** be comfortable working alone in remote areas for hours at a time, and feel comfortable collecting data independently while managing the challenges of a montane or alpine environment (weather, altitude, mosquitos).
- You **MUST** have a passion for conducting field research, under all conditions.
- Candidates should have experience capturing and handling amphibians: experience PIT tagging is including inserting PIT tags.
- Employees generally have held undergraduate or graduate degrees in ecology or wildlife biology.
- You must have a personal vehicle.
- You should have personal backpacking equipment in functional condition (backpacking gear is not provided).

COVID-19 notice: As UCSB employees, successful applicants will be subject to university COVID-19 guidelines for workplace safety, as well as public health guidelines from other relevant jurisdictions (e.g. Mono County, US National Parks). Social distancing and PPE may be required for some aspects of our work, despite occurring in outdoor settings. Driving separately to field sites may be required.

Compensation: Assistants will be paid \$18-20/hour depending on experience. Housing is provided at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory near the resort town of Mammoth Lakes, California. When in the backcountry (which will be most of the time), assistants are also provided \$30 per diem to cover

food expenses and replacement of personal backpacking gear, and are reimbursed for use of a personal vehicle. The field season is expected to run from approximately early June to mid-September.

How to apply: The application period is December 21, 2020, to January 11, 2021. Applications should include:

- (1) a cover letter that details your backpacking and research experience (including with amphibians), states why you are interested in the position, and why you would be an asset to the project,
- (2) a resume that includes contact information (email addresses and phone numbers) for three references who are familiar with your research and/or backpacking experience, and
- (3) transcripts from undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) institutions. Unofficial copies of transcripts are acceptable.

To apply, email applications (formatted as a single PDF document) to Thomas Smith (snarlapplications@gmail.com) by January 11. Hiring will be completed by mid-February 2021. Information about the Mountain Lakes Research Group, including scientific publications, is available at <http://mountainlakesresearch.com>.

