

**Summer Field Assistants:
Inventory of Endangered Amphibian Populations
Sierra Nevada, California**

Position summary: The Mountain Lakes Research Group, based at the University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL), will be hiring four field crew members for the Summer 2022 field season (June - September). As part of this project, successful applicants will inventory broad areas of Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and quantify the current occupancy and abundance of endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs (*Rana muscosa* and *R. sierrae*), describe the distribution and status of the amphibian chytrid fungus in frog populations, and evaluate habitat for future frog recovery opportunities. Duties will include visual encounter surveys and collection of diagnostic skin swabs from frog populations to quantify frog-pathogen dynamics. The research will take place at remote backcountry locations in Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Two-person teams will work a variable and flexible schedule, will work 5-10 day backcountry stints (and 2-4 days off), and will cover extensive mileage (>10 miles/day). This one-year project is funded by the National Park Service, and complements a multi-decade research program to understand Sierra Nevada amphibian declines and facilitate recovery efforts. Mountain Lakes Research Group fosters a supportive work environment that relies on open and honest communication and strong mentorship. We welcome diversity in experiences, values, and perspectives that arise from differences in race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, geographic region, and more. Information about the Mountain Lakes Research Group, including scientific publications, is available at <http://mountainlakesresearch.com>.

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

- To be considered for this position, you **MUST** have extensive backpacking experience at high elevations (>8,000'; this is not negotiable). Extensive backpacking means:
 - More than an occasional short backpacking trip.
 - Trips of multiple consecutive nights.
 - Substantial daily mileage (10 or more miles per day).
 - Carrying one's own overnight gear and food.
- You **MUST** be able to navigate across difficult terrain off trail using a map and GPS device. Difficult terrain includes thick forest, steep hills, and rocky 3rd class.
- 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.
- You must have a personal vehicle.
- You should have personal backpacking equipment in functional condition (backpacking gear is not provided).
- Additional desirable assets:
 - BA/BS in ecology, wildlife biology, environmental or other natural science.
 - Experience collecting amphibian disease diagnostic samples (skin swabs).
 - Training history or current certification in wilderness medicine (ex.: Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder) (not required)
- You must be available for the duration of the position, approximately early June to mid-September.

COVID-19 notice: As UC Santa Barbara employees, successful applicants will be subject to University of California SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy, as well as public health guidelines from other relevant jurisdictions (Mono County, State of California): https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/5000695/SARS-CoV-2_Covid-19

Compensation: Assistants will be paid \$18-22/hour as temporary employees of University of California, Santa Barbara. Housing is provided at SNARL/Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve near the resort town of Mammoth Lakes, California. Assistants are reimbursed for backpacking food expenses and work-related use of a personal vehicle. The position is expected to run from approximately early June to mid-September.

How to apply: The application period is **December 21, 2021, to January 14, 2022**. Applications MUST include:

- (1) **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) **Resume** that includes current contact information (email addresses and phone numbers) for three references who are familiar with your research and/or backpacking experience.
- (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 (mountainlakesresearchgroup.jobs@gmail.com) by January 14. Hiring decisions will be completed by mid-February 2022.

