

2017 SEASONAL VEGETATION MONITORING CREW LEAD



The Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto is currently seeking a crew lead for the upcoming 2017 vegetation monitoring field season. The Vegetation Sampling Protocol (VSP) is used for sampling a variety of natural heritage features such as wetlands, woodlands and grasslands, and across the public and private lands. Monitoring information will support research, conservation and resource management initiatives in the City of Kitchener as well as across southern Ontario. Crew leads will direct and conduct field inventories sample vegetation communities, and communicate with staff, the public, and other partners regarding the VSP program.

VEGETATION MONITORING CREW LEAD DUTIES:

Crew leads' primary responsibility will be to oversee and conduct field inventories. Crew leads will exhibit excellent field knowledge of vegetation community and plant species identification, including the ability to use vegetation identification keys. Crew leads will be responsible for driving and hiking to sampling locations, following rigorous sampling protocols for data collection, data quality control, data entry, and aiding in the preparation of technical reports. Crew leads must possess familiarity with GIS software, GPS, and other navigation tools.

Crew leads will also be responsible for direct supervision of their assistants, ensuring that data is being collected efficiently and accurately, facilitating communication among other crews and the VSP Coordinators, monitoring and maintaining the condition of field equipment and maintaining and enforcing health and safety standards in the field. Well-developed organizational and leadership skills are needed, as well as the ability to work effectively within a team.

Field work will involve travel to and from sites located on private and/or public lands throughout the specific watershed to which you are designated, navigating potentially long distances off trail, and establishing and monitoring plots using VSP, sometimes in adverse weather conditions. Applicants will be required to hike daily while carrying a pack with field equipment, and be comfortable with occasional overnight travel for more remote sites.

Other duties include data entry using a Microsoft Access database, collection of herbarium quality plant specimens, identifying plants to species in both a field and office setting, communicating effectively in a small crew setting, and operating safely in sometimes harsh and stressful field conditions.



EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Applicants should have graduated from a program in biological sciences, ecology, natural resources or a related field. The ideal applicant will have at least two years of experience in plant identification, GPS/GIS navigation, field work in remote areas, and an Ontario G License. Previous experience in a leadership role and experience with VSP is highly desired. Certification in MNRF wetland evaluation or ecological land classification will be considered an asset.

COMPENSATION: The salary for this position is \$665 per week. You will be required to work 35 hours per week.

SCHEDULE: May 29 – August 31 2017. The first week of the work involves VSP training north of Toronto (in the Lake Simcoe watershed).

LOCATIONS: The position will be based out of the City of Kitchener with the base and reporting office at 131 Goodrich Drive, Kitchener.

Applicants should email a cover letter, resume, and the contact information for at least three references to Danijela Puric-Mladenovic at d.puric@utoronto.ca. All application materials should be emailed by **April 18th, 2017**. For more information, please visit our website <http://forestry.utoronto.ca/vsp/>