

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: Field technician

Conservation Science Partners (CSP) is seeking a summer field technician responsible for conducting visual encounter and trapping surveys for amphibians in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). Work will consist of hiking to and surveying >100 wetlands throughout the park with a field partner, and will require extended stays (e.g. 4-5 days at a time) in the field over the course of the summer (10-12 weeks, 400-450 hours total).

The project is in collaboration with Dr. Erin Muths at USGS and RMNP. The technicians will coordinate activities with personnel from other Federal and State agencies. The technicians will work with the principal investigators (PIs) at CSP and USGS to ensure that study plans are implemented and necessary data are collected. The technicians will work under supervision of and receive direction from the PIs, including coordinating weekly work assignments. Most field work will be performed independently and without direct supervision from PIs. Work is reviewed periodically for adequacy, accuracy, and conformance to written procedures. The technicians will also perform data input and provide a detailed summary of the season's activities.

Technicians will work in 2-person teams. Field work will involve exposure to extreme environmental and weather conditions (e.g., snow, rain, high altitude, intense heat, exposure to mosquitoes/insects). Teams will work independently, often in remote locations. The work involves long hours spent standing, bending, walking, and a great amount of physical exertion (e.g., hiking a minimum of 3 miles a day). The incumbent may be required to carry a backpack weighing up to 50 pounds in the performance of the assignment. Core hours will typically be 8am to 5pm, although some days may be up to 12 hours. Length of days will be dictated by weather and field conditions. The position will be based in Fort Collins, with trips to RMNP.

About Conservation Science Partners. CSP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit scientific collective established to meet the analytical and research needs of diverse stakeholders in conservation projects. Our mission is to apply human ingenuity to the preservation of species, populations, and ecosystems using scientific principals, innovative approaches, and lasting partnerships with conservation practitioners. We connect the best minds in conservation science to solve problems in a way that's comprehensive, flexible, and service-oriented.

CSP is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, creed, veteran status, parental status, or marital status in its programs and activities. We recognize that diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences can only enrich our community and our conservation mission and goals. As part of our intentional efforts to increase inclusivity, equity, diversity, and justice, we encourage applicants from underrepresented groups in conservation, e.g., those who identify as women or non-binary, LGBTQ+, are people of color, or represent any combination of these and other identities.

Core responsibilities and skills:

- Assess the presence of amphibians, performing visual encounter surveys and capture amphibians using standard protocols

- Collect, record, and maintain ecological data accurately and maintain field equipment
- Maintain clear communication with RMNP personnel and backcountry office & coordinate backcountry campsite use (e.g., reserving campsites)
- Clear communication with USGS regarding vehicle use and proper vehicle maintenance (e.g., mileage record keeping, cleaning and fueling vehicle)
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control, and report writing
- Complete weekly detailed summaries of field work and field work schedule and a final report at the end of the season with detailed maps and descriptions of completed surveys
- Demonstrate capacity to work in creative collaboration with diverse partners
- Ability to follow USGS, CSP, and RMNP COVID protocols
- Familiarity using handheld GPS units and navigating with a map and compass
- Weekly reports and the final report will be completed remotely, although an in-person orientation and periodic in-person meetings will occur as needed

Required Qualifications

- Valid driver's license
- Wilderness First Aid certified through August 2022
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel and Word for data entry
- Ability to backpack long distances (e.g., >10 miles/day, at elevations >7,000 ft, sometimes in inclement weather, carrying one's own gear, food, and research equipment).
- Ability to camp (up to 4 nights in the field, sometimes in inclement weather)

Desired skills (or a willingness and aptitude to receive training):

- Familiarity with amphibian species in RMNP (and ability to identify life stages)
- Comfortable conducting nighttime surveys in remote areas
- Familiarity with GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS)

Work Environment/Physical Conditions

- Technicians will primarily be working in remote areas of RMNP, including areas that were burned by the East Troublesome and Cameron Peak fires in 2020. Hard hats will be provided for work in burned areas.
- Environmental conditions can be cold, wet, and snowy. Physical hazards include cold, dehydration, thunderstorms, hailstorms, and blizzards. Applicants should have personal backpacking equipment in functional condition. Provided backpacking gear includes a tent and stove. A vehicle will be provided for the team, but pending COVID-19 requirements, technicians may be asked to drive a personal vehicle (mileage reimbursed). Safety protocols related to working in the field will also be provided to crews.

Application deadline and expected start date. Preference given to applications received by February 25th. Start date will be dependent on snowmelt, but likely on or after May 16th , 2022.

Location. Fort Collins, CO, with travel to and from RMNP (vehicle provided).

Compensation. $15-$18/hour depending on experience.

How to apply. Please **email** a cover letter explaining how your goals, skills, and experience fit the core responsibilities of the role. Include the names and contact information of at least three relevant professional references, as well as your CV, and send to: hiring@csp-inc.org. *Your cover letter, reference list, and CV should be compiled and sent as a single PDF file.* Please indicate **RMNP FIELD TECHNICIAN POSITION** in the subject line.