

**JOB OPENING:** Santa Cruz Island Restoration Biological Science Technician (3), Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, California

**EMPLOYER:** California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES; [www.ciesresearch.org](http://www.ciesresearch.org))

**Position Background:** Three biological science technician positions to support invasive plant species control and habitat restoration are available on Santa Cruz Island (SCI) National Park and Preserve, Ventura, CA. Restoration work will be targeted at controlling non-native plant species within the boundaries of the Scorpion Fire. This is a full time, field-based position with the majority of work conducted on Santa Cruz Island. A 5-6 month commitment is desired. This project is in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), and successful applicants will work closely with staff from this organization.

**Position Description:** As part of a team of 2-4 people, successful candidates will work to suppress emergent non-native plants on Santa Cruz Island. The position advertised is for employment as a seasonal biological science technician with CIES. All three positions have a duration of approximately 5-6 months beginning February 9, 2022 and continuing through Jul/Aug 9, 2022.

Primary job duties will include handling/mixing/applying herbicide to non-native plant populations using backpack-style applicators and vehicle mounted spray rigs while recording progress and coverage on GPS units/ArcGIS Collector and field notebooks. Occasional additional duties will be required, such as data entry and proofing, vehicle and equipment maintenance, equipment troubleshooting, and aiding project leads in writing progress updates.

Successful applicants will be required to work a “8 days on, 6 days off” schedule (pending schedule changes due to weather). Field technicians will live in provided housing during field stays on Santa Cruz Island. As such, field technicians will be required to live in close quarters within a small community of coworkers and island staff. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to maintain a positive and respectful

attitude while living and working in a small group are required aspects of the job. All food, clothing, bedding, and personal supplies will need to be brought back and forth to the island; there are no stores to purchase forgotten items. Housing is not provided on the mainland between workweeks.

Field staff will be expected to work 160 hours per month (two approximately 80-hour work weeks per month, with the opportunity to perform office tasks such as data entry and trip report writing to reach 160 hours/month (should field work fall short of 160 hours per month). Island field schedule will be Wednesday-to-Wednesday, with the first and last day of each tour including travel time to and from the mainland aboard the NPS vessel Ocean Ranger. The office schedule is flexible.

**Qualifications:** Applicants should have a strong interest in island ecology and a desire to work on habitat restoration projects. Enthusiasm for fieldwork and for working in a variety of weather conditions is a must. The ability to carry 30-40lb backpack sprayers on steep slopes and uneven terrain is essential. Having a good work ethic, the ability to work independently and as a team member, being a motivated self-starter, and a willingness to learn are a must. Successful candidates must be willing to work long hours in the field, maintain accurate field notes/data collection, and possess excellent balance and agility. Applicants must be comfortable with the use of chemical herbicide, and

willing to apply herbicide to non-native plants. Much of the work involves steep hiking, applicants must be able to carry heavy backpacks and other equipment, swing digging tools, etc.

Preference may be given to those who possess: 1) Bachelor's degree in biological sciences or related discipline; 2) prior experience with habitat restoration work, herbicide application, and vegetation surveys; 3) knowledge of native and non-native California flora, 4) ability to move and lift equipment and materials up to 50 lbs; 5) ability to hike in steep, unstable terrain; 6) desire to work in a remote field setting both independently and as part of a field crew; 7) superior observational and data collection skills; 8) excellent written and verbal communication skills; 9) proficiency in Word, Excel, and ArcGIS Collector; 10) a valid driver's license with clean driving record; dirt road and 4WD experience preferred.

**Compensation:** The position will pay **\$20.70 per hour** (A base wage of \$18 per hour with an additional 15% wage bonus in lieu of health care benefits). Compensation is negotiable based on experience and ability to perform additional job responsibilities. A field **per diem of \$20 per day** will be provided through reimbursements for multi-day trips.

**Additional considerations:** These positions are based out of Ventura, CA with regular travel via boat to Santa Cruz Island from Ventura Harbor. Successful applicants will be required to arrive at the transportation dock to start work at the beginning of their scheduled tours; reliable personal transportation is needed to arrive on time, there is very limited public transportation in Ventura, typical harbor arrival time is 7am. Additionally, applicants will need to be comfortable with boat travel for approximately 2-3 hours each direction during the employment period. Island work and scheduling is dependent on many factors, so flexibility to schedule changes is preferred. Island housing is provided during work tours and consists of a shared bunkhouse with amenities (bathroom/shower, living room, kitchen, and internet). Cell phone service is limited, internet service may not be reliable. Housing on the mainland is not provided. Protocols for reduction of Covid-19 risk must be strictly followed, more information on these protocols will be provided at time of hiring.

Applicants must provide their own field clothes, sturdy boots, food, bedding, and personal items. Herbicide application requires the use of closed toed boots with thick socks, long sleeve shirts, long pants, gloves, and eye protection. CIES will provide data collection devices, spray equipment, and proper PPE for work tasks (gloves, eye protection, hand washing stations, rags, etc.).

Please be aware that this posting is for 3 positions, beginning Feb 9, 2022. Positions will end Jul/Aug 9, 2022.

**Application Submission:** Please email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references (include names, email addresses, and phone numbers) to: [jobs@ciesresearch.org](mailto:jobs@ciesresearch.org).