

Paid Student/Recent Grad Summer Field Positions Available in Colorado ***Testing Ecological Monitoring Protocols for Land Practitioners***

The Partnership in Forestry and Rangeland Research Program at the Yale School of the Environment (YSE) is seeking ~**3-5 students** (graduate or undergraduate) or **recent graduates to join our ecological monitoring field** crew during June 1-August 10, 2024.

This position fulfills the 'Summer Experience' (YSE006) requirement for YSE students, is paid, and provides housing at the site.

Description

We are **seeking field crew members** for summer 2024 **to field test and implement long-term ecological monitoring protocols** that we created for **high-elevation forests and sagebrush areas** at a large Colorado ranch. This work will directly contribute to our efforts to develop and test monitoring protocols that can be used long-term to **measure and track change in ecological metrics over time**, such as plant species diversity or disease presence.

Field crew members will communicate closely with the YSE team while conducting fieldwork at the ranch in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado. The YSE team includes Dr. Bill Lauenroth (faculty director), Michelle Downey (program director), Dr. Joe Orefice (faculty collaborator), and Phoebe Ferguson (postgraduate associate). Phoebe will provide daily on-the-ground support during the summer.

These funded positions are part of a larger collaboration between YSE and land managers in south-central Colorado. The aim of this collaboration is to increase knowledge and understanding of landscapes, ecological processes, and effective land management strategies for conservation in the West.

Duties

Crew members will collect field data and work closely with the YSE team to implement monitoring protocols. Field work will include establishing long-term plots, sampling vegetation, establishing photo sites, and collecting plant specimens for a herbarium. Crew members will work daily in the field and may rotate between sagebrush and forested areas. Crew members will need to communicate well and often with the field team, the YSE team, and sometimes the ranch staff. At the end of this position, students will have gained understanding and experience in:

- Collecting plants for an herbarium
- Monitoring plant response in sagebrush and forest areas
- Identification of Rocky Mountain plants
- Using ESRI's Field Map for data collection
- Rocky Mountain West and private land management practices
- Teamwork and communication skills
- Working in a variety of field conditions

Field Site

The ranch is located in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado, a remote, rural area that is 2.5 hrs southwest of Colorado Springs and within 40 minutes of Alamosa, Colorado. The elevation ranges from 7,500-14,000 feet above sea level, and the valley floor receives an average annual precipitation of 7-10 inches.

Qualifications

- Familiarity with plant identification and vegetation sampling methods (preferred)
- Ability to work in the field safely (i.e., operating vehicle on rough dirt roads, working in the sun/rain/heat)
- Project management and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience working as a team
- Valid driver's license

General Student Expectations

- Commit 10 weeks of time during June 1-August 11, 2024, work 5-days/week and about 40 hours/week
- Conduct work professionally and timely with careful attention to detail
- Work closely and communicate often with YSE team
- Be an integral part of a field crew that works and lives together in south-central Colorado.

Compensation

- \$240 per day (\$1,200 per week) for up to 10 weeks. This amount is to cover travel to Colorado as well as a monthly stipend.
- Housing will be provided close to ranch.

How to get more Information

Please direct questions to Michelle Downey (Michelle.Downey@yale.edu) and Dr. Bill Lauenroth (William.Lauenroth@yale.edu).

Join us for an **information session** on Thursday, February 15 at 12 in G01. RSVP on Yale Connect.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted on a *rolling basis*.

Please submit the following as 1 PDF to michelle.downey@yale.edu:

- Cover letter (1-page max.)
- Resume with 2 references and their contact information

- Unofficial transcripts (Yale and undergraduate)
- A document answering the following questions (max. of 300 words per question):
 1. Describe your career aspirations and what you want from this experience.
 2. Describe the specific skills and/or experience you would bring to this work and how you have demonstrated in the past. Also, for skills, please state skill level (e.g., novice, some experience, extensive experience, expert).
 3. Tell us about your availability during June 1-August 1.