Temporary/Seasonal Internship Opportunity

TITLE: Wetland Soil Technician
CLASSIFICATION: Temporary/Seasonal (non-benefits eligible)
AGENCY: Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH)
WEBSITE: www.eih.uhcl.edu

JOB DESCRIPTION:
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) in the summer of 2021 to assess the condition of the nation’s freshwater and estuarine wetland habitats. The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) has been contracted to sample these wetland sites across Texas. We are currently recruiting 1 position to act as the primary wetland soil technician during field sampling with dates ranging from April-October, 2021; starting and ending dates can be flexible depending on availability. Primary role will be conducting soil surveys including: excavation of soil pits, delineating soil horizon boundaries, use of Munsell soil color charts, and collection of soil samples. All work will be based out of Houston, TX, but extensive travel is required to conduct state-wide field work. This is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable field experience in all aspects of wetland condition assessment.

LOCATION: Based in Houston, TX; includes state-wide overnight travel

SALARY: Starting at: $1,400/month (full-time, non-benefits eligible); travel expenses covered by grant funds

QUALIFICATIONS:
Applicants should be pursuing or possess a Bachelor’s degree in natural resource management, ecology, biology, soil science, environmental science or a closely related field. Applicants must be willing to travel but the selected intern(s) will need to have a location to stay nearby UHCL.

Required
• Travel up to 14 days at a time and work long hours (10+) in the field during high-heat, summer months
• Be in good physical condition and able to lift 50 lbs.
• Ability to traverse steep and rough terrain and comfortable working from a boat, canoe or kayak
• Must possess a positive attitude and willing to work independently and as a member of a team
• Availability for overnight travel throughout the duration of the internship (including weekends)

Preferred
• Experience conducting soil surveys including: excavation of soil pits, delineating soil horizon boundaries, use of Munsell soil color charts, and collection of soil samples
• Previous scientific data collection and experience in wetland delineation
• EPA Region 6 directed training will be held in early 2021 (dates and platform TBD). It is strongly preferred for the chosen candidate(s) to be available to attend the training, whether in person or online. If training is held in person, travel costs will be covered by EIH.

Additional Notes: All applicants must possess a valid driver’s license and be physically able to drive university vehicles. Applicants must pass criminal and motor vehicle background checks prior to hire. This is not a benefits eligible position. Due to university COVID-19 protocols, selected candidate(s) may be asked to participate in a 14-day self-quarantine prior to official start date.

Applications should submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references to Mandi Gordon.

START DATE: April 16, 2021, depending on availability
END DATE: September, 2021, depending on start date; 18-week appointment period
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday March 12, 2021
CONTACT: Mandi Gordon, (281) 283-3794, gordon@uhcl.edu (e-mail preferred)