

Head Field Technician

Department of Biology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5E2



Job Description and Duties: We are looking for a head field technician to coordinate and assist with field data collection in Grasslands National Park, SK. Primary data collection activities will be focused on an ongoing study of a wild population of black-tailed prairie dogs. We will also be initiating a pilot project on coyotes near the park that the head technician will help coordinate. The head technician will supervise 3-4 interns in coordination with the PI. The period of employment is March 1 to Aug 31, 2018. Duties will include censusing and monitoring the reproductive phenology and survival of prairie dogs, data entry and data verification. Fieldwork will involve live-trapping, handling and behavioural observations of prairie dogs and assisting with collaring and tracking coyotes. Balancing these two objectives is likely to be very rewarding, but also challenging. As such, it is expected that the head technician will display strong organizational abilities, responsibility and oversight.

All fieldwork is carried out in or near Grasslands National Park, one of the largest remaining tracts of native prairie in Canada. Prairie dog towns are home to a diversity of iconic grassland species (e.g., burrowing owls, swift fox, bison) and opportunities abound to see all of these species, plus the many more resident in the Park.

Skills required: The successful candidate will have previous fieldwork experience within a similar work environment. Good organizational, multi-tasking and supervisory abilities are essential. Applicants who have experience working with terrestrial vertebrates, and particularly mammals, will be given priority. Specific field skills required are: ability to trap, handle and observe wild mammals. The successful applicant will also have experience in data entry, checking and management. A displayed interest in ecology, wildlife, field biology, and animal behaviour is also required. An undergraduate degree in one of these, or a related, field is required. Fieldwork is carried out in a remote area of southern Saskatchewan. As such, the applicant must have a proven ability to work well with members of their own team, as well as other users of the park (i.e., other researchers, visitors and nearby landowners).

Salary will be \$1800-2100/month, based on level of experience. Food and accommodation are provided. The successful candidate will be required to provide for their own travel to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Travel between the field station and Saskatoon is provided.

If you wish to apply for this position, please send a CV with a cover letter and contact details of three references (with e-mail address), by email to Jeff Lane (contact info below) before January 21, 2018. Please indicate in your application that you are applying for the head technician position (we are also posting for volunteer interns). All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Only those selected for interview will be contacted.

Contact:
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