Spring 2014 Student Contract Position – Biological Technician

Application deadline: 22 March 2014. The period of performance is from approximately 1 April through 18 May, 2014.

Job Description The primary duties will be collecting sage-grouse feathers from sage-grouse lek locations in the western United States. Leks are traditional breeding areas for male displays. The work involves (1) traveling to priority regions identified within the sage-grouse range in Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, (2) locating individual leks using GPS coordinates, and (3) identifying and collecting sage-grouse feathers for DNA analysis. Almost all work will be performed in field situations as part of a one- or two-person team and will involve overnight camping, sometimes in remote locations. The position requires large amounts of travel, often on 2-track and dirt roads, because of the broad distribution of sage-grouse leks in the western United States. The recipient must have the ability to perform independently in field settings. The recipients must have basic navigation skills using GPS equipment and map reading abilities using hardcopy or ArcGIS software.

Compensation Compensation is $14.57 per hour. The government provides vehicles and transportation expenses but does not provide camping equipment. However, field time is compensated by a camp rate of $18/day to offset the cost of meals. It is expected to be a full-time position during the period of performance although hours and schedules can be varied. The primary duty station will be: US Geological Survey Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Snake River Field Station, 970 Lusk St., Boise, ID 83706

Special Terms Applicants must be currently enrolled as a student or have graduated within the past 12 months. For all legal purposes, student is regarded as an independent contractor. Payments for services are reportable and taxable as earned income. No taxes or social security will be deducted. Student is responsible for payment of all taxes as a result of income received under this order. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will report the total amount paid under this order to the Internal Revenue Service on a Standard form 1099. The student is not considered an employee and will not receive a W-2 form. For payment, student must have a checking or savings account at a financial institution that will accept direct deposits of Federal funds.

Students will be required to complete and clear a background investigation/fingerprint security clearance. Once selected will also be required to complete computer security awareness training and comply with the USGS Computer and Network Security Handbook. First Aid/CPR is required and training will be provided by the USGS.

Contact Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and unofficial transcripts to:
Steve Knick
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Boise, ID  83706
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