

Volunteer/Unpaid, DENVER, CO – EPA Region 8, Riparian Ecosystems Intern (CLOSING DATE: 04/05/2019)

Background: Sensitive riparian ecosystems have the potential to be impacted by discharges of degraded groundwater through seeps and springs. In the proposed study area, riparian zones are supported by shallow groundwater discharging through seeps and springs. An abundance of water chemistry data exists for the project site, both from groundwater monitoring wells, and from the seeps and springs themselves. Data from the monitoring wells indicate shallow groundwater quality at the site has been degrading through time. Understanding the existing ecosystem and associated water quality is necessary to identify potential vulnerabilities for the ecosystem and animals that depend on them.

Job Description: The project involves working with EPA staff to compile existing water quality data from shallow groundwater and associated seeps and springs to identify any changes in water quality through time and gaps in available data. The student will compare the compiled water quality data with established ecological-, human- and livestock-based water quality thresholds to identify any exceedances or trends approaching an exceedance. Upon completion of the project, the student will prepare a short presentation of findings.

Specific duties may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Compilation and management of large sets of water quality data
- Statistical and geospatial evaluation of water quality data
- Wetland characterization
- Other as Needed

Desired Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Basic Excel, Word and Publisher
- Ability to work independently
- Works well on a team

Knowledge/Experience (optional, but a bonus): Field work in or basic knowledge of wetlands or other riparian areas, experience using R software, ArcGIS and/or basic numeric modelling experience. Familiarity with basic water quality standards.

Timeline: Intern will be on board for a minimum of 2 months, maximum of 4 months (there may be an opportunity to extend for a maximum of 6 months, but this is not assured)

Desired hours per week: 20-40 (preference will be given to qualified candidates available to work more hours per week)

Desired start date: May 15, 2019 (Note: From the time of acceptance, there will be a 2-4-week period prior to first day of work while paperwork is completed)

How to Apply: Email your transcripts, resume and cover sheet to Dan Wall (Wall.Dan@epa.gov) by Friday, April 5, 2019.

For More Information: Dan Wall (Wall.Dan@epa.gov), LSASD

Human Resources Contact: Elaine Robles, (303) 312-6194 or robles.elaine@epa.gov