Riparian Botanist Position Available at Applied River Sciences, Arcata, CA
May 5, 2025

Applied River Sciences (formerly McBain Associates) is seeking a Riparian Botanist position with experience in developing and implementing field-based vegetation monitoring plans, vegetation mapping and classification, conducting aquatic resources delineation and reporting, and invasive species management plans.

Applied River Sciences is a professional consulting corporation applying fluvial geomorphic and ecological research to river preservation, management, and restoration. Our company has 20 employees with offices in Arcata, California and Reno, Nevada. For 30 years, we have provided our clients with solutions to highly complex environmental problems in aquatic ecosystems using objective and clear science, in a timely and efficient manner. Our primary interests are: (1) maintaining, or attaining, river ecosystem health in regulated rivers; (2) assessing impacts of land use activities on stream ecosystems, and (3) recommending management strategies that improve those ecosystems. Applied River Sciences provides a variety of services in hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, fisheries, general aquatic, and riparian ecology, as well as GIS and AutoCAD. We have a broad client base that includes local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, non-profit organizations, utility companies, water districts, and private consulting firms.

Riparian Botanist position duties and responsibilities may include:

- Conducting and reporting Aquatic Resource Delineations.
- Conducting and reporting Special Status Plant Surveys.
- Classifying and mapping vegetation and Sensitive Natural Communities
- Developing and implementing invasive plant species management plans.
- Communicating complex ideas to a diverse stakeholder and clients, including public speaking, technical writing, and working with landowners.
- Identification of difficult plant groups (grasses, sedges, rushes, willows etc.).
- Assisting with the preparation of vegetation components of multidisciplinary study plans, scopes of work, and budgets.
- Directed work within a GIS platform, including digitizing, finalizing layers, and managing spatial data.
- Work with multidisciplinary team members, colleagues, and clients (geologists, hydrologists, aquatic ecologists, engineers, herpetologists, fluvial geomorphologists) on riverine restoration projects in the western United States.

Desired skills and abilities:

- Experience with conducting USACE wetland delineation and reporting.
- Experience with conducting and reporting vegetation mapping, natural community identification, and special status plant surveys.
- Experience with invasive plant management.
- Experience with environmental regulations and permitting.
- Ability to prepare and conduct studies related to vegetation mitigation monitoring and reporting.
- Experience performing various forms of vegetation monitoring as a component of restoration.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Excel for data organization and basic data analysis.

- Ability to use R-Stat for statistical analysis.
- Ability to use ESRI or similar GIS platform.
- Proficiency with dichotomous keys to identify plants.
- CRAM training.
- Ability to multitask and work in a team environment.
- Excellent written and verbal skills.
- Well-organized, detail oriented, and able to prioritize tasks.
- Self-motivated and ability to work independently when needed.
- Experience collaborating with clients and staff and working together as a team.

Candidates should have completed at least a Masters's degree in plant ecology, botany, or similar field. Coursework must include plant taxonomy, plant ecology, GIS, and statistics classes. Coursework in plant physiology, hydrology, and soils is desired, but not required. Candidates would have prior wetland delineation and rare plant survey experience and a familiarity with ecological restoration.

Our working environment requires an ability to work independently, take responsibility, and develop supporting logic that serves as a basis for resource decision-making. Candidates should have some prior experience working in and around streams and rivers. Field work often includes long days in difficult terrain and diverse climatic conditions and could require travel and work up to 7 days without returning to the office or home station. Some field locations have no cell service or internet. Candidates should be comfortable around water and a strong swimmer. A valid California Driver's license with a good driving history is required.

The position will be based in Arcata, CA (preferred) and initial salary will be $37/hr to $50/hr depending on experience. The position is full-time (with a generous benefits package) after a 90-day introductory period. The position is available immediately and will remain available until June 6 or until filled. Please e-mail a resume with references to jobs@riversciences.com. Please include Riparian Botanist in the email subject line, one letter of recommendation, and an example of written work as the sole author.