



(925) 672-4577 | Phone
(844) 206-6977 | Fax
2001 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94520
www.ccrzd.org

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Title: Livestock Pond Sampling and Analysis Intern (1-3 positions)

Status: Intern, Estimated 2-6 Months, ~40 hr /mo

Reports to: Agriculture Conservation Manager, Action Conservation Team Manager

Application Deadline: First review of applications on January 8, rolling basis after that

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks a highly motivated candidate (or candidates) to assist in environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling of restored livestock ponds in Contra Costa County to assess the success of the restoration in meeting conservation objectives (i.e. providing habitat for rangeland wildlife and threatened/endangered species). The expected length of this internship is highly flexible, ranging from one to six months between January and June 2024. One individual could fill this position for six months or three individuals for two months each. Preference will be given to one individual to fill this internship for 6 months. This internship will mostly be in-person outdoors, sampling in the field with CCRCD staff and occasional remote work from a computer.

CCRCD works with public and private landowners to restore failing livestock ponds that are crucial breeding habitat for threatened and endangered species. For more information, please visit the CCRCD website at <https://www.ccrzd.org/rangeland-conservation>.

Environmental DNA is organismal DNA that has been shed by an organism and can be found in the environment (skin cells, hair, feathers, excrement, etc.) Depending on conditions, this DNA can survive from one to three weeks in bodies of water and be sampled to show presence, allowing researchers and citizen scientists to detect rare and/or cryptic species.

Primary Duties

Contra Costa County Livestock Pond Sampling

- Assist CCRCD Staff in site visits to 12 pond sampling locations in Contra Costa County rangelands three times between January and June (36 total events) to collect eDNA samples for analysis. Sampling will occur during normal business hours (M-F, between 8 AM-4 PM)
- Organize and interpret results of eDNA Monitoring to determine if livestock pond restoration and conservation objectives are being met
- Develop outreach materials discussing results of sampling for dissemination to partners, to external stakeholder, and the public through blogs, newsletter articles, and the CCRCD Annual Report

Minimum Qualifications

- 18 years or over with an interest in natural resources, wildlife, conservation, environmental science, working outdoors, or other similar disciplines
- Strong work ethic, the ability to work independently with minimal supervision, work cooperatively with diverse stakeholders, and take the initiative
- Competency with current computer and tablet technologies, including G-Suite and MS Office

Desired Qualifications

- Experience completing scientific monitoring, botanical species surveys, nesting bird surveys, and/or plant population counts.

About Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

CCRCD is a non-regulatory, special district of the state whose mission is to facilitate the voluntary conservation of natural resources in Contra Costa County. Our federal partner, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provides technical support for our programs.

Work Environment

This position would require multiple field visits to livestock ponds in Contra Costa County, meetings at the CCRCD Offices in Concord/Clayton (or other locations TBD), and carpools to livestock ponds to sample ponds. Additional work (reporting, data entry, etc.) could be accomplished at the CCRCD offices, or completed remotely.



(925) 672-4577 | Phone
(844) 206-6977 | Fax
2001 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94520
www.ccrd.org

Physical Requirements

The primary workplace will be out-of-office, in the field, in potentially inclement conditions. Fieldwork requires the ability to lift 50 pounds and to potentially hike up to 2 miles over uneven terrain, in remote areas, with exposure to a wide range of adverse weather conditions (heat, cold, wind, snow, rain, etc.).

Compensation

CCRCD can provide three, \$650 stipends to interns who complete one, two-month internship (one internship refers to a complete sampling of all 12 ponds in a two-month period, data entry, analysis, and reporting). Depending on scheduling availability, these stipends could be given to one, six-month intern or three, two-month interns. Preference will be given to individuals that can commit for the full six months.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Heidi Petty, Watershed Program Manager, at hpetty@ccrcd.org.

For more information, please visit the CCRCD website at <http://www.ccrd.org> or call us at (925) 672-4577

CCRCD is committed to creating a diverse work environment and is proud to be an equal-opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Our work serves all communities, including those marginalized or underserved. We strongly encourage applications from people who share similar experiences with these communities.