

Visiting Scientific Specialist, Field Scientist
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) investigates and documents the biological resources of Illinois and other areas, and acquires and provides natural history information that can be used to promote the common understanding, conservation, and management of these resources. INHS is part of the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which is centrally located between Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Learn more at go.illinois.edu/PRIjobs.

[Why Work at the Prairie Research Institute?](#)
[Highlights of Employee Benefits](#) (PDF)

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. For more information, visit <http://go.illinois.edu/EEO>.

INHS is seeking to hire up to 6 **Visiting Field Scientists** to plan, monitor, and evaluate the forestry-associated Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) across the state of Illinois, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry Resources. These positions will be located in various sites throughout the state of Illinois.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct, develop, and participate in research and outreach activities of the Survey.
- Provide responsive project management for forest and forestry conservation practices established through USDA NRCS EQIP and FSA CRP.
- Provide technical assistance and project management with the completion of forest management and forest establishment projects and practices of EQIP and CRP.
- Interact with landowners to compile data on best management practices and to gather landowners' perceptions on conservation, forest wildlife, and forest health.
- Conduct initial recons, natural resource inventorying, and supervised plan writing.
- Collect information regarding management practice success and attributes in multiple conservation objectives under EQIP and CRP including healthy forest cover, soil and water conservation, wildlife and native habitats, and quality timber.
- Work with private landowners interested in Federal and State Forest management programs.
- Provide outreach and education to landowners eligible for EQIP and/or CRP opportunities.
- Provide niche skillset in forest conservation planning and forest conservation management to maximize the effectiveness of federal and state funding available through USDA NRCS and FSA.
- Provide planning and management consultation to both public and private sectors in forest management/stewardship, silviculture, reforestation, forest product utilization, watershed management, wildlife habitat management, and fire management.
- Perform other duties as needed to further the mission and goals of the Survey, PRI, and the University of Illinois.
- Keep abreast of developments in this discipline

Required Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in forestry, ecology, or related field. Alternate degree fields may be considered depending on the nature and depth of experience as it relates to this position. Field experience in forestry and/or forest conservation. Valid Driver's License.

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience in forest conservation practices applied to the landscape under EQIP and CRP. S130/190 Basic Wildland Fire Management, ATV operation skills.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

General ecology/biology of forests, grasslands, and wildlife; Biodiversity, plant or tree ID, and forest conservation in agricultural settings. Effective communication, personal relations, collaboration, organizational, teamwork, and leadership skills. Demonstrated ability to perform effectively in a diverse and fast-paced work environment consisting of multiple and changing priorities with stringent deadlines, under minimal supervision. Attention to detail, sound judgment, and strong conflict resolution skills. Proficiency in commonly employed software and databases.

Environmental Demands:

Will require working in adverse field conditions (heat, humidity, biting insects, uneven terrain, etc.), travel (including driving to and from research sites), working irregular hours, and overnights. Overnight travel may be necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this position. The successful candidate must take proper safety precautions, anticipate unsafe circumstances, and act accordingly to prevent accidents.

Proposed Start Date: Negotiable

Salary: The starting salary for this position is \$45,000 - \$50,000, depending on experience

Appointment Status:

This is a full-time, visiting academic professional, grant-supported, 12-month position subject to the continued availability of funding and programmatic need. The anticipated duration of available funding for this position is currently two years. Position may become a regular, non-visiting position at a later date depending on funding and programmatic need.

To Apply: Please complete your candidate profile at <https://jobs.illinois.edu/> and upload a cover letter, CV/resume, and the contact information for three professional references by **March 31, 2022**. Interviews may be conducted before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered.

University of Illinois faculty, staff, and students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not able to receive the vaccine for medical or religious reasons, you may seek approval for an exemption in accordance with applicable University processes.

University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. Convictions are not a bar to employment. As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System [uses E-Verify](#) to verify [employment eligibility](#). The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit [Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment](#).