



THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS



Bumble Bee Surveys in the Sierra Nevada

*****revised with radio telemetry component and increased per diem rate!*****

Spend your summer in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains! We are looking for volunteer field technicians to conduct bumble bee surveys in recently burned landscapes on the Eldorado National Forest in the Sierra Nevada, California.

PROJECT DATES (tentative): May 20, 2019 – August 25, 2019 (exact dates TBD).

TRAINING: The field season will begin with an intensive training session in bumble bee identification and survey techniques (which include capturing and handling bumble bees – most of which will be released unharmed), plant identification to species, radio telemetry, and orienteering and safety. These skills will be honed further throughout the field season.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Technical field volunteers will spend most days conducting bumble bee surveys and vegetation surveys, as well as following marked bees using radio telemetry. Data entry will also be required. Work will typically follow a schedule of 7 days on, 3 days off.

An average day will include a 30 min - 1 hour drive and up to 40 minute hike through steep and difficult terrain to access survey areas. Surveys are conducted from approximately 8:00am through mid-afternoon. Data entry will be required on most days; a computer will be provided. Work will be moderately physically demanding involving off-trail hikes into survey sites and working in hot, dry conditions.

REQUIREMENTS: Experience in bee surveys is not required but would be highly favored, as would knowledge of Sierra Nevada flora. Previous ecological fieldwork in rugged environments is also preferred. Applicants should be physically fit enough to conduct surveys for approx. 8 hrs per day in rugged terrain with dense chaparral. A personal vehicle is highly desirable but not strictly required.

Volunteer field technicians should have a strong desire to learn more about bumble bees, bee ecology and plant identification, and a willingness to face the rigors of fieldwork with good humor. These rigors include physically demanding work, long work days, wet and cold weather, hot and dry weather, mosquitoes, occasional contact with bears and rattlesnakes, and housing that may be rustic and/or somewhat crowded.

EQUIPMENT: Field technicians are expected to provide their own basic field gear, including hiking boots, daypack, water bottles, raingear, etc.

COMPENSATION: These are volunteer positions. Compensation includes the valuable skills you will develop, the satisfaction of joining important conservation efforts, and the joy of working with fun-loving people in the mountains. We will provide free shared housing, mileage reimbursement for all project-related travel, and a **per diem of \$50 (amounts to approximately \$1250 per month)** to help with food and general living expenses.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about this IBP program, please see our <http://birdpop.org/pages/sierraPollinators.php>

TO APPLY: Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of two references to [Mandy Holmgren](mailto:mholmgren@birdpop.org), Biologist at: mholmgren AT birdpop DOT org.

