

Seasonal Technician: Plant Ecology & Conservation

University of California, Riverside

The Catano Community Ecology Lab (<https://chcatano.wixsite.com/ecology>) and Larios Restoration Ecology Lab (<https://llarios12.wixsite.com/lariosecology>) at The University of California, Riverside are jointly seeking a plant ecology field technician for Spring and Summer 2026. This position will assist with a conservation grazing experiment in southern California to understand how grazing can promote the recovery and functioning of native plant communities in grasslands, oak woodlands, and coastal sage scrub habitats in southern California. The technician will develop skills and gain experience in plant ecology, including 1) plant identification; 2) field experiments and plant functional ecology; 3) restoration and conservation practices, 4) management and analysis of geospatial data, and 5) collaboration between researchers, land managers, and restoration practitioners. We are committed to an inclusive and supportive work environment and encourage individuals from all backgrounds to apply.

Position details: This is a full-time, seasonal position (up to 6 months), with possibility for renewal depending on funding and performance. Salary range is \$25.00 – \$27.35 per hour, commensurate with prior experience, and does not include benefits. The position is expected to run from March-August. Start and end dates are flexible, though priority will be given to someone who can start by March 1. The position is based out of Riverside, CA. Successful applicants are responsible for their housing/lodging. Transportation will be provided from UC Riverside to the research site located in Weir Canyon in north Orange County.

Key Responsibilities: Field work identifying native and invasive plant species across environmental gradients; lab work processing soil samples, plant biomass, and measuring plant functional traits; and data management using Excel and R (prior R experience not necessary)

Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in related field (e.g. biology, ecology, botany); fieldwork experience and ability to work outdoors and hike off-trail in rugged terrain; experience with plant ecology research (plant identification and vegetation sampling methods); excellent team-work skills; strong organization and time-management, ability to communicate effectively in English; valid driver's license.

Preferred Qualifications: Experience with plant identification, particularly southern California herbaceous flora; knowledge of principles in ecology; enthusiasm for field ecology research; experience with data processing and analysis in R.

To Apply: Submit the following to Chris Catano (ccatano@ucr.edu) and Loralee Larios (loralee@ucr.edu), with subject line, “Seasonal field technician application - YourLastName” by February 02, 2026:

1. Cover letter describing your interest in this position, how the position would advance your career goals, relevant experience, and start date availability
2. C.V. or resume (with relevant coursework included)
3. The names and contact information (email and phone) for 2 references

Questions can be directed to ccatano@ucr.edu and loralee@ucr.edu