

Job Description

Position: **Vegetation Ecologist** (Staff and Contract positions)
 Reports to: Senior Ecologist
 Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Paragon is a leading environmental consulting company specializing in soils, vegetation and wetlands as they relate to natural resource and infrastructure development and reclamation. Our team has the good fortune to work on many of the largest and most dynamic industrial projects in the country. Our reputation with clients is built through using applied science, decades of experience, and consistently sound judgment to help their projects be successful. We recognize the collective strengths of our team and are committed to providing high-quality service, while providing a safe and rewarding work environment. Paragon offers our team members an engaging and professional workplace that fosters creativity and diversity. We invest in our team by offering competitive salaries and benefits, interesting projects, and numerous professional development opportunities.

Paragon is currently seeking Vegetation Ecologists of all levels to join our team. Title will be commensurate with experience. We're hiring for full-time summer and permanent full-time staff positions, in addition to pre-qualifying contract vegetation ecologists that would like to be on our pre-qualified subcontractor list.

Summary of Position:

As a Vegetation Ecologist, you will be reporting to the Senior Ecologist and to Project Managers as appropriate for client projects. Your knowledge and skills in plant species identification, vegetation and wetland classification and mapping, vegetation ecology, forestry, wetland and environmental assessment areas will be applied in existing and new client projects or programs, primarily within the oil sands, pipeline, mining and power sectors. Strong data collection and analytical skills are assets, along with effective communication within a team of vegetation and ecological technical staff. This position is responsible for conducting fieldwork, managing and analyzing data, and for successful intermediate applicants with more experience, supervising and mentoring junior staff through field and reporting tasks, and drafting reports. This position requires a strong understanding of vegetation and wetland science and reclamation, as well as demonstrated writing skills.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Assisting and/or leading detailed vegetation and wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring data collection in the field (often in remote locations), with limited supervision.
- Complete basic to more advanced plot data manipulation, summary and statistical analyses with direction from more senior staff.
- Work with employees from other environmental consulting companies, subcontractors and regulatory agencies while maintaining Paragon's reputation.
- Assist the Senior Ecologist and Project Managers with tasks as requested and manage personal priorities and schedule for multiple project requests.
- Prepare regular, timely and accurate timesheets for clients, including all billable/non billable hours.
- Prepare expense reports, including all receipts, and submitted regularly and on time to Paragon admin staff.
- Successful intermediate applicants may also: supervise field activities as crew lead of more junior staff; act as a coach and provide technical support to more junior staff; develop, design and prepare small proposals and reports while participating in large proposal and report production under supervision; conduct peer reviews within junior to intermediate levels.
- Successful senior applicants may also: supervise the work of all levels of staff; manage complex projects including budget and schedule management, client liaison, and technical leadership; lead projects through federal, provincial, and municipal regulatory processes; develop and deliver training; mentor and support all levels of staff in technical requests and career development; lead business development activities.

Qualifications:

- Relevant post-secondary degree from a recognized university or college that is related to Environmental Sciences, Vegetation and Wetland Ecology or Plant Sciences.
- Understanding of the natural resources industry and standards, with at least two years of relevant vegetation and wetland experience in the field and office.
- Experience in the identification of common plant species in Alberta. The ability to identify more difficult (rare) species is an asset. Please provide the region (e.g., boreal, foothills, parkland and/or prairie) and groups of plants (e.g., bryophytes, willows and/or sedges) your knowledge and skills currently span.
- Familiarity with the Alberta Wetland Policy and associated directives and tools is highly desired.
- Safety Certificates: Standard First Aid, GDII, H₂S, OSSA, CSTS, PCST, Bear Aware, ATV and ARGO training recommended.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, as well as in a team setting.
- Strong working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite. Operational knowledge of ArcGIS (including 3D softcopy mapping), PC-ORD and statistical packages (such as R) is an asset.
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License, with clean drivers abstract, able to travel throughout the provinces and work weekends when necessary.
- Good physical condition with the ability for high mental alertness and moderate physical exertion during field work.
- Intermediate and senior applications:
 - Advanced experience with rare plant studies and environmental impact assessments with the ability to identify analytical techniques appropriate for various project scales.
 - Experienced in completing complex and detailed vegetation and wetland mapping products using and/or manipulating standard classification systems as required
 - Professional designation within Province of Alberta (and/or corollary designations from other provinces). Please provide designation number and length of membership.

Please submit your application to info@paragonsoil.com, and include a cover letter that outlines why you would be a good fit for the Paragon team, your resume (with three references) - and indicate whether you are applying for the staff position or contractor pre-qualification. If you want to be considered for the contractor roster, please include your rate sheet.