OPS Park Ranger (Non-Native Invasive Plant Tech)
State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection
OPEN COMPETITIVE

Our Organization and Mission:
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the state’s lead agency for environmental management and stewardship - protecting our air, water, and land. The vision of DEP is to create strong community partnerships, safeguard Florida’s natural resources, and enhance its ecosystems.

The Work You Will Do:
OPS Park Ranger (Non-Native Invasive Plant Tech)

Contact: Samantha McGee, Environmental Specialist I; 321.298.6505 or Samantha.McGee@FloridaDEP.gov

The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park in both Brevard and Indian River Counties is seeking a qualified, self-motivated, individual to fill a full-time (40 hrs./week) OPS position. The primary responsibility of this position involves the safe treatment of non-native invasive plant species using a variety of herbicides as well as mechanical removal. The position also requires surveying, locating, and documenting areas where non-native invasive plants have become established. In addition, the employee will track daily progress using prepared data sheets and enter data monthly into the Florida Park Service data tracking system. There may be an opportunity for the individual to occasionally assist with other resource management activities such as prescribed fire. Although not a requirement for this position, if the individual assists occasionally with wildland fire activities, a moderate pack test is required to perform those duties. This is a full-time 40 hours per week position. The applicant should be prepared to work under strenuous and uncomfortable outdoor conditions which can occur in south/central Florida environments.

The Difference You Will Make:
The Division of Recreation and Parks provides resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources. Florida state parks are managed and preserved for enjoyment by all through providing appropriate resource-based recreational opportunities, interpretation and education that help visitors connect to the Real Florida. SM

How You Will Grow:
DEP encourages its leaders to constantly innovate and seek efficiencies. We believe in supporting and encouraging you as you take on important and often complex projects while offering you the opportunity to gain valuable experience quickly.

Where You Will Work:
The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park is situated in Southern Brevard County and Northern Indian River County. The park totals 22,000 acres and harbors 22 diverse natural community types as well as over 70 protected species. The park provides quality resource-based recreation, with over 60 miles of multi-use trail for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and nature study, as well as access to more than ten miles of the St. Sebastian River for paddling, boating, and fishing.

Click the attached link to learn more about this beautiful park: https://www.floridastateparks.org/index.php/St-Sebastian

The Benefits of Working for the State of Florida:
Working for the State of Florida is more than a paycheck. The State’s benefits package for eligible OPS employees includes:

- State Group Insurance coverage options, including health, life, dental, vision, and other supplemental insurance options;
- Retirement plan options, including employer contributions (For more information, please click www.myfrs.com);
- Flexible Spending Accounts;
- And more!

For a complete list of benefits, visit www.mybenefits.myflorida.com.

*Seasonal and part-time OPS employees (less than 30 hours average per week) refer to the links above for detailed eligibility requirements.

Pay:
$15 per hour

Your Specific Responsibilities:

- Treats non-native invasive species mainly with the use of herbicide and occasionally using mechanical techniques
- Tracks daily progress on data sheets
- Assists with invasive plant data collection and database entry
- Maintains clean and safe herbicide storage facility
- Assists with biological surveys as needed
- Assists with prescribed fire if able (a moderate pack test required to perform this duty)
- Performs preventative and corrective maintenance on all equipment and assigned vehicles daily. Communicates equipment maintenance needs to management.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:
KNOWLEDGE OF:
- Florida’s natural communities, including both native and non-native invasive plants
- Management techniques used to control invasive species
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft office software suite

SKILL IN:
- Familiarity with tools and equipment used in invasive species management such as herbicide sprayers, chainsaws, hand tools
- Operating ATV’s/UTV’s and other 4WD vehicles
- Using mapping and survey devices and applications such as GPS devices and Avenza maps

ABILITY TO:
- Work independently with minimal supervision in remote locations
- Follow verbal and written instructions/directions
- Navigate remote areas with the use of a compass, maps, and smart phone applications
- Work in adverse environmental conditions while walking across uneven terrain
- Perform physical labor that requires lifting 40 pounds
- Ability to occasionally work with a diverse team
- Communicate with other staff members and the public effectively

Minimum Qualifications:
- Must possess a valid drivers’ license
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must consistently and diligently wear provided personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Understands and comprehends technical information contained within herbicide labeling and instructions
- Must be willing to operate ATV/UTV and other 4WD vehicles
- Willingness to work with a variety of chemical herbicides
- Ability to work in strenuous outdoor conditions of south/central Florida that can include extreme heat and biting insects

Preferred Qualifications:
Preference will be given to individuals that possess previous experience/working knowledge of Florida native and exotic flora and fauna, as well as use of GPS and or GIS equipment and software.

DEP is committed to successfully recruiting and onboarding talented and skilled individuals into its workforce. We recognize the extensive training, experience, and transferrable skills that veterans and individuals with disabilities bring to the workforce. Veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact our recruiter for guidance and answers to questions through the following email addresses:
The State of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer and does not tolerate discrimination or violence in the workplace.

Candidates requiring a reasonable accommodation, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, must notify the agency hiring authority and/or People First Service Center (1-866-663-4735). Notification to the hiring authority must be made in advance to allow sufficient time to provide the accommodation.

The State of Florida supports a Drug-Free workplace. All employees are subject to reasonable suspicion drug testing in accordance with Section 112.0455, F.S., Drug-Free Workplace Act.