



Playa Lakes Joint Venture IMBCR Data Analyst/Biostatistician

Position Summary

Every spring since 2016, the PLJV partnership collects data on breeding grassland birds throughout its six-state region using the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions protocol (IMBCR), generating thousands of lines of data that need to be analyzed. In addition, we will begin vegetation data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of grassland restoration treatments in New Mexico. We seek a motivated and experienced data analyst to 1) complete partner-specific data analyses on effectiveness of management techniques and 2) evaluate internal PLJV-specific questions regarding grassland bird density and occupancy in relationship to wetlands and other landscape-scale grassland and wetland patterns. This is a full-time position with funding for three years. There is the potential to become a permanent position, dependent on fundraising.

Major Duties

- Use parametric, information theoretic, and machine learning statistical techniques, as appropriate, to analyze multi-year grassland breeding bird data according to partner and internal PLJV needs
- Use GIS to extract appropriate spatial and remotely sensed data for use in analyses.
- Communicate with state, federal, and nonprofit partners about results of data analyses and development of future projects
- Write and submit reports to partners on-time
- Attend partner meetings, as appropriate, to present results
- Work with Conservation Science Director and other PLJV staff to develop and fundraise for additional projects and decision support tools using IMBCR data

Required Qualifications

- Experience analyzing large, complex datasets
- Experience with hierarchical distance sampling models and machine learning models such as Boosted Regression Trees
- Experience using GIS to extract spatial covariates
- Self-motivated and able to work remotely
- Demonstrated capacity to deliver products on-time

Additional Desired Qualifications

- Advanced degree in statistical analysis, biological sciences, or other related field
- Knowledge of the ecology of the grasslands and playas of the western Great Plains
- Experience with cloud computing
- Strong communications skills, including the ability to succinctly explain detailed scientific information in a way that is understandable to the average audience
- Ability to build and establish relationships with a diversity of state, federal, corporate, and nonprofit partners

Other Requirements

- Must possess and maintain a valid state driver's license
- PLJV is a fully remote office environment. Candidates must have access to appropriate work/office space with internet access sufficient to perform regular office tasks (e.g., email, zoom/teams/google calls, etc.).
- This is primarily an office position and travel requirements will be limited (<10% of time). Therefore, physical demands are limited to those required for moving within your office space and the ability to navigate airports, hotels, and other meeting spaces.

About Playa Lakes Joint Venture

PLJV is a regional partnership of federal and state wildlife agencies, conservation groups and private industry dedicated to conserving bird habitat throughout portions of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Our mission is to conserve the playas, prairies and landscapes of the western Great Plains through partnerships for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people. The Joint Venture facilitates cooperation among a broad coalition of partners on the national, regional, state and local levels to fund and implement habitat conservation. We provide regional planning, value-added efficiency and implementation approaches, while our partners provide financial, technical and local expertise to develop conservation projects. In addition, PLJV supports local conservation partnerships, state agencies and other partners by developing various decision support tools, as well as providing education about how to use the tools to target and deliver the most effective habitat conservation. PLJV also works with a variety of partners to inform landowners about conservation programs and to target conservation efforts in areas that will provide the most benefit.

Supervisor

This position reports directly to the Conservation Science Director. Job performance is reviewed in the context of responsiveness to objectives and priorities as determined by the Conservation Science Director. Annual work plans for the position will be developed by the position incumbent in consultation with the Conservation Science Director. Beyond a work plan, the incumbent is largely self-directed in accomplishing objectives.

Salary, Benefits, and Start Date

Starting salary is commensurate with education, experience, and location with an expected range of \$60,000 - \$70,000 per year. PLJV offers a generous benefits package, including full medical and dental coverage, HSA with annual contribution to defray medical deductibles, and a 7% salary match toward our retirement plan. We anticipate this position will begin working on or around June 3, 2024.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

People are essential to realizing our mission to conserve birds and wildlife across the western Great Plains. At PLJV we are committed to including all voices within our landscape in order to implement conservation work by collaborating with a wide variety of individual and community stakeholders and ensuring that our work is reflective of their values, beliefs, and ways of knowing. We commit to building more equity into our programs and services by improving our awareness and understanding of the unique perspectives of people, engaging in dialogue with communities of all backgrounds, and taking actions that support our combined interests in a meaningful way.

Job Location

This is a fully remote job, however, preference will be given to candidates within the Playa Lakes Joint Venture Region.

To Apply

Playa Lakes Joint Venture is an Equal Opportunity Employer and seeks a diverse applicant pool. Please email your application documents as one complete PDF file to jobs@pljv.org with IMBCR Data Analyst in the subject line. All applications should include a one-page cover letter and a CV or resume. If submitting a resume, please include citations for any publications that illustrate your experience. In the cover letter, please include salary requirements and an estimated start date. The deadline for all applications is Sunday, April 7, 2024.