

## ECOLOGICAL MONITORING TECHNICIAN

### **About LAD Foundation & Pioneer Forest**

The LAD Foundation was established by Leo A. Drey in 1962 to preserve lands of natural and cultural significance and to undertake related charitable activities. Over time, its holdings expanded to nearly 4,000 acres across fourteen units. These include seven state-designated natural areas leased to the Missouri Department of Conservation; two areas and a trail system leased to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for management by Missouri State Parks; and nearly 1,000 acres of riparian land under scenic easement to the National Park Service as part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. In 2004, Leo and his wife Kay donated their Pioneer Forest—acquired primarily in the 1950s and now encompassing nearly 144,000 acres in six Missouri Ozarks counties—to the foundation. Today, this forest is managed as a conservation and recreation area and serves as a demonstration forest in the public interest.

The LAD Foundation is a Missouri private operating foundation dedicated to exemplary stewardship of Pioneer Forest and other natural and cultural areas. Its mission includes advancing scientific research, education, public recreation, and encouraging projects and policies that positively influence the Missouri Ozark region and beyond.

### **About LAD's Ecological Monitoring Technician**

This position supports LAD Foundation's ecological monitoring and land stewardship efforts across Pioneer Forest. This seasonal position assists with monitoring wildlife, aquatic resources, and plant communities in relation to ecological restoration and land management activities. Primary responsibilities include mapping and treating invasive species, conducting vegetation surveys in glades, woodlands, and forests, and monitoring terrestrial and aquatic wildlife using camera traps, acoustic units, and other survey techniques. The technician will also assist with karst and cave biota surveys, ensure accurate data entry and quality control, and maintain field equipment. Successful candidates will participate in hands-on restoration and monitoring activities in shortleaf pine-oak woodlands, glade ecosystems, and other forested habitats. The position reports directly to the Chief Ecologist and works closely with other stewardship staff.

**Location:** Salem, Missouri and Missouri Ozark region

**Duration:** May 15 – August 15 (flexible start/end dates)

**Hours:** 40 hours/week,

**Salary:** \$25-\$28/hr. Commensurate with education and experience.

**Benefits:** Housing stipend, flexible start and end dates, flexible unpaid time off for holidays, duty vehicle, and employee development and training.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Map and treat invasive species using approved herbicide techniques.
- Conduct vegetation surveys and assist with habitat assessments.
- Monitor wildlife and aquatic resources through remote sensing, capture, or observational methods.
- Assist with karst and cave biota surveys.
- Perform accurate data entry and maintain data integrity.
- Maintain and calibrate field equipment and ensure compliance with safety protocols.

### **Education and Experience**

- Bachelor's degree or 60+ credit hours in Environmental Science, Ecology, Wildlife, Botany,

- Biology, Forestry, or related field.
- Experience with herbicide handling and application.
- Familiarity with identification of native and non-native plants and wildlife.

### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

- Ability to operate vehicles safely, including 4x4 trucks and UTVs; valid Missouri driver's license required.
- Proficiency in map reading, field navigation, and GIS applications.
- Strong communication skills and ability to work independently or as part of a team.
- Competence with Microsoft Office and digital field equipment.
- Ability to learn and apply basic first aid and CPR.

### **Work Environment and Physical Requirements**

- Work outdoors in variable weather conditions, including heat, rain, and rugged terrain.
- Lift and carry up to 50 lbs. and hike long distances in high temperatures.
- Maintain visual acuity and attention to detail for extended periods.

### **Location and Housing**

The position is based at the Pioneer Forest office in Salem, Missouri, with fieldwork across multiple sites from Montauk State Park to Van Buren and Ellington. A Foundation vehicle is provided for work-related travel, including commuting from home to work sites, with mileage logged daily. A housing supplement may be available for those relocating to the region; note that vehicle use and housing supplements are considered taxable benefits under IRS regulations.

### **Special Note**

Salaried and hourly employees are expected to use a mobile device-cellular phone for LAD business, as needed.

### **TO LEARN MORE**

To learn more about the LAD Foundation visit [www.ladfoundation.org](http://www.ladfoundation.org). To learn more about the position, you may contact our Chief Ecologist, Dana Morris at [Dana.Morris@ladfoundation.org](mailto:Dana.Morris@ladfoundation.org).

### **TO APPLY**

If you are interested in the position, please submit a cover letter and resume **by March 15, 2026** to [Dana.Morris@ladfoundation.org](mailto:Dana.Morris@ladfoundation.org). Include "LAD Ecological Monitoring Technician" in the subject line.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive; an employee will also perform other reasonably related job responsibilities as assigned by immediate supervisor and other management as required. The organization reserves the right to revise or change job duties as the need arises. This job description does not constitute a written or implied contract of employment. Management reserves the right to change job descriptions, job duties, functions, and requirements.

### **EOE STATEMENT**

LAD Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, creed, color, ancestry, medical condition, or any other characteristic protected by law.