



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Volunteer Job Description

Title: Ecological Monitor

Purpose: Ecological Monitors at Midewin play a vital role in monitoring various species and habitats throughout restored and remnant habitats at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The data collected by volunteers is used to evaluate management needs and effectiveness, resulting in better ecological management practices.

Duties and Responsibilities: Tasks include but are not limited to visiting designated monitoring sites a specified number of times, following the protocol for data collection, and submitting data to volunteer coordinator at end of monitoring season.

Department and Location: There are various specific ecological monitor jobs at Midewin. These include Frogs and Toads, Butterflies, Streams, Plants of Concern, Native Vegetation, Lichens and Birds. Monitoring site locations on Midewin are designated to volunteers in the beginning of the field season.

Qualifications: Individuals should have an interest in and/or knowledge of Midewin flora and fauna, be methodical, organized and able to follow data collection protocol. Volunteers should be prepared for variable weather, uneven terrain, and hazardous insects and plants. Individuals must arrange their own personal transportation to Midewin. Volunteers should be able to work as a team and/or individually.

Time Commitment: Time various based on program.

Monitoring Job	Registration Date	Monitoring Season	Minimum hours
Frog Monitor	Feb 1st	Mar - Aug	3 surveys per season
Bird Monitor	March 1st	late May - mid Aug	3hrs/mo
Plants of Concern Monitor	April 20th	Apr - Sept	4 hrs/mo
RiverWatch Monitor	March 15th	May - July	1 survey annually
Butterfly Monitor	June 1st	July - Aug	6 surveys per season
Lichen Monitor	April 15th	May - Oct	4 hrs/mo

Duties require participation in 5 or more hours per year.

Training: Training in specific monitoring protocol is conducted either through workshops or on-the-job training.

Benefits: Opportunity to participate hands-on in the ecological restoration and management at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Over the long term, volunteer monitors can expect to observe long-term progress towards the ecological restoration of Midewin. Volunteer monitors have opportunities to see and learn about rare and unique plants and animals on Midewin, along with their associated ecosystems. Volunteers receive ongoing recognition from their supervisor and other employee staff, Volunteers serving more than 5 hours annually are invited to an annual volunteer recognition banquet in November.