

BIOLOGIST Position Description

A position is available at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District (SLCMAD) for a highly motivated candidate to help oversee mosquito surveillance in the greater Salt Lake City area. The selected candidate will work under the Laboratory Director at SLCMAD to assist in training, management, and material planning of the laboratory and its seasonal staff. In addition, the successful candidate will provide technical advice alongside the Laboratory Director for operation of other programs in SLCMAD. Critical tasks include field work to set and retrieve mosquito traps, mosquito sorting and identification, preparing mosquitoes for virus detection, pesticide resistance monitoring, mosquito colony rearing, and collaborating on applied research projects. Projects can include investigating links between pesticide resistance and operational control efficacy, new product/technology evaluations, insect behavioral bioassays, field ecology investigations, and interagency collaborations with other research groups.

Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District seeks candidates who will contribute to a climate that supports managers, staff, students, and visitors of all identities and backgrounds.

This position is a full time, year-round position, carrying many opportunities to interact with our leadership team and collaborators across the region.

New hires are required to provide documentation showing an updated Utah driver's license and a Utah Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator License within 30-days of their first day of work. SLCMAD will provide time to study for the Utah Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator License Exam. If an out of state applicant has any impediments to these deadlines, please be transparent with your situation so that a reasonable expectation can be negotiated.

- Visa Sponsorship is not available for this position.
- Relocation assistance will not be provided for this position.

Required Qualifications:

- Candidates must have B.Sc. degree in Biology/Entomology/Ecology/related field supported by relevant experience in other laboratory or research settings.
- Must effectively communicate both orally and in writing to the public, government agencies, and coworkers in a tactful and courteous manner.
- Must accept and follow through on instructions from supervisors and managers.
- Must be comfortable using word processors, databases, spreadsheets, statistics, map-based applications, and various District software as required.
- Must be proficient in basic principles, methods, and tools used in scientific research, investigation, data collection/analysis, report writing, quality control, and overall good laboratory practices.
- Must handle intermittent physical stress, such as climbing ladders, pushing/pulling/lifting up to fifty (50) pounds, repetitive motions for equipment operation, and extended sitting for meetings/deskwork/microscopy.
- Must be comfortable with outdoor work, such as traversing uneven ground (fields, dirt banks, shallow ponds, etc.).
 - Although training and personal protective supplies will always be provided, field work will periodically expose candidates to situations containing pesticides, insects, insect-borne disease, inclement temperatures/weather, and the public.

- Must have reasonable flexibility to work overtime and/or temporarily shift hours to nonstandard times, including evenings, weekends, and holidays when mosquitoes are most active.

Preferred Qualifications (used regularly in work environment):

- Prior involvement in vector control with mosquitoes and/or ticks.
- Competency to mechanically inspect, service, and repair surveillance tools and equipment.
- Understands chemical hygiene and handling of potentially hazardous materials (ex: pesticides and laboratory reagents).
- Comfortable interpreting pesticide labels, calculating concentrations, and preparing solutions for laboratory/field use.
- Familiar with basic molecular biology techniques such as extraction, preservation, and amplification of genetic material from organisms like mosquitoes and viruses.
- Experience with mapping and spatial analysis.

Professional Development Expectations:

- Willing to keep informed of current developments in vector biology/control/surveillance.
- Willing to attend conferences and trainings to learn recent information and skills related to vector biology and control.
- Willing to conduct presentations, posters, and other forms of data dissemination at local, regional, and national meetings.

Agency: Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District

Position: Biologist

Number of Openings: 1

Pay Rate Type: Salary

Pay Range: \$42,278.00 - \$84,556.00

Noted pay ranges reflect the potential pay opportunity for each job profile. The hiring rate of pay for the successful candidate will be determined considering the following criteria:

- Prior relevant work or industry experience.
- Education level to the extent education is relevant to the position.
- Unique applicable skills.

Application Guidelines:

You will be required to submit both a resume/CV and a completed agency application form.

For general questions about the position or the application process, please contact Dr. Greg White, Assistant Director: Greg@SLCMAD.org. You can submit documents via email to Dr. White or other members of SLCMAD leadership.