

Invasive Species Crew Positions with the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA)—terrestrial and aquatic opportunities



Apply by February 23, 2024

General Information

KISMA is a partnership with 20 regional partners (Ottawa NF, NPS, DNR (multiple offices), KBIC, MNA, Michigan Tech, KLT, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, TNC, Molpus Timberlands Management, Baraga Iron CD, HKCD, MSU Extension, UPRC&D Council, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, etc.). **Our mission is to facilitate cooperation and education among federal, state, tribal, and local groups and landowners to prevent and manage invasive species across land ownership boundaries, and to foster native aquatic and terrestrial communities.**

Service Location: Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga Counties—working from Houghton

General Conditions: This is a seasonal position. Employees will work 30-40 hrs/wk for 12 weeks from late May through late August. Work schedule will be five days per week M-F (occasional weekends), 8 hrs/day for the summer portion.

Additional work of 10 to 20 hrs/wk may also be available through September and October. Preference will be given to applicants able to commit to some workdays in the fall.

Work consists of approximately 90% field responsibilities and 10% landowner contacts, outreach and education, and data management; the mix may vary due to weather and seasonal considerations. Employees will be supervised by Dr. Sigrid Resh (KISMA Coordinator), Emily Klawiter (KISMA Asst. Coordinator), and TBD Crew Supervisor.

Essential functions include:

1. Assist with invasive species field work (smart phone required)
 - a. Be able to ID >30 invasive plant species and as many native species as possible
 - b. Conduct manual and biological invasive plant control
 - c. Collect data, map and monitor infestation sites
 - d. Survey, ground-truth, and map invasive species infestations
2. Assist with invasive species data management
 - a. Enter field data according to KISMA data management protocols
 - b. Create maps in Google Earth or GIS
3. Outreach/Education and related duties
 - a. Assist with organizing, advertising and conducting invasive species outreach/volunteer training events
 - b. Attend classroom and field training as requested by supervisor

Qualifications:

1. Education: Coursework or experience related to botany, general biology, or ecology. Oral and written communication skills necessary for outreach to landowners.
2. Computer skills: Competent with MS Excel and Word
3. Applicant must:
 - a. Be willing to carpool to field sites
 - b. Be able and willing to work efficiently outdoors in a variety of conditions and terrains
 - c. Be able to work cooperatively with other crews and the general public
 - d. Exhibit excellent attention to detail in collecting and recording field data.

Preferred Skills and Attributes:

1. Have reliable personal transportation for work-related use and maintain a valid driver's license
2. Work Experience, especially field experience in invasive species identification and control, or native plant restoration
3. Experience using GIS software and hand-held GPS
4. Ability to identify native and invasive vegetation of MI
5. Demonstrated outreach skills and teaching experience
6. Backpacking experience, camping experience and/or outdoor work experience

Benefits of Position:

- Résumé builder working in the beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula
- Experience with native and invasive species identification
- Hone teamwork skills and experience leading volunteers
- Opportunity to network with many local park managers and environmental professionals.
- Opportunity to serve local communities by making a difference in the environment and improving habitats in a tangible way

Compensation: \$15-\$17/hr. depending on experience; mileage reimbursement at federal rate for travel to required training and field sites.

To apply: Email cover letter that includes position(s) of interest, resume including academic and field experience, and list of three references (name, job title, email or phone number) to: Dr. Sigrid Resh (scresh@mtu.edu)