

## POSITION SUMMARY – RIPARIAN ECOLOGIST

Apply your research skills to improve large-scale habitat management for endangered species. Enter a unique working environment where the energetic culture of a small, fast-paced, interdisciplinary research group intersects with one of the most successful collaborative endangered species recovery programs in the nation. Connect cutting-edge science to decision-makers responsible for endangered species management and restoration program governance. Invest your time in making a difference.

Headwaters Corporation is seeking a motivated, field-oriented scientist to join a team that conducts interdisciplinary research with a focus on implementation of the [Platte River Recovery Implementation Program](#) (PRRIP). Headwaters serves in a unique role as a private consulting firm that carries out the day-to-day functions of PRRIP implementation by providing the Executive Director and all staff. This includes PRRIP administration, managing the PRRIP's land and water resources, and implementation of a robust science program that uses adaptive management and other science tools to inform the use of those resources. The Headwaters technical team includes biologists, ecologists, an ecological statistician, geomorphologists, hydraulic engineers, water resources planners, civil and biosystems engineers, and a science policy advisor that specializes in adaptive management and restoration program governance. *Candidates must have the independent drive to tackle complex, multidisciplinary problems and the desire to work for a small firm.*

This position will be focused on implementing monitoring and research to assess the relationship between channel morphology and invasive riparian vegetation, specifically *Phragmites australis*. Other tasks will include working collaboratively with other staff to evaluate the effectiveness of large-scale sediment augmentation and large-scale flow releases to manage riparian vegetation.

Major duties include, but are not limited to:

- Field and remote data collection in a riverine environment; data management, analysis, and evaluation. *Applicants must have a strong desire to be in the field implementing field-based monitoring.*
- Interpretation and synthesis of topographic, hydrologic, hydraulic, vegetation, spatial, and environmental data.
- Development and interpretation of empirical and numerical models.
- Preparing technical reports and scientific manuscripts in conjunction with other staff.

### Highly Desirable Characteristics:

- Experience implementing field work on highly dynamic river/wetland systems.
- General background in watershed processes (vegetation community dynamics, river and groundwater hydraulics, geomorphology, and river/wetland ecology).
- Knowledge of and experience with plant species identification (riparian vegetation), field methods for quantifying changes in vegetation community, and plant physiological ecology.
- Knowledge of and facility with statistical analysis techniques, modeling using various platforms or tools, R, GIS, databases.
- Experience that includes establishing goals and objectives and developing and managing time and resources to achieve goals and objectives.
- Mature judgment, initiative, imagination, resourcefulness, energy, tact, and integrity.

Headwaters' main office is located in Kearney, NE, near the midpoint of the PRRIP Associated Habitat Reach (AHR). This is the ninety-mile reach of the central Platte extending from Lexington, NE to

Chapman, NE where most of the PRRIP work occurs on the ground. Headwaters' science staff are located in Kearney, water/engineering staff are based in Headwaters' Lakewood, CO office, and our geoscientists are based in Fort Collins, CO. **This position will be housed in the Kearney, NE office. Applicants MUST be willing to live and work in central Nebraska.** Periodic travel throughout NE, CO, and WY for meetings and conferences (3 - 5 days a month) will also be necessary.

### EDUCATION

B.S. in Botany, Riparian or Wetland Ecology, or related technical field required. Graduate degree preferred in addition to a willingness to pursue relevant professional registration (e.g., PWS).

### EXPERIENCE

Minimum of 2 years of progressively responsible professional experience. Prefer candidates with at least 3 – 5 years of directly relevant experience.

### BENEFITS

Headwaters Corporation will offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience and qualifications relevant to this position. Starting range of \$45,000-\$65,000/year.

Headwaters offers an excellent compensation and benefits package including medical, dental, and life insurance; a 401(K) plan; and paid vacation time and holidays. Headwaters Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### APPLICATION

Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Application materials should be submitted electronically and addressed to:

Jason Farnsworth, BCES  
Executive Director, PRRIP  
Headwaters Corporation  
4111 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 6  
Kearney, NE 68845

*Please send a cover letter, resume, and three references in PDF format to:*  
[farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com](mailto:farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com)

### OVERVIEW OF HEADWATERS CORPORATION

Headwaters Corporation is a natural resources management consulting firm that specializes in the review and implementation of large-scale endangered species recovery and river restoration programs; management of independent science review processes; planning, design, and implementation of river restoration and wetland mitigation projects; and application of a variety of areas of scientific expertise to project planning, design, and implementation. We have a small, highly qualified team comprised of leading river restoration program managers and adaptive management practitioners, experts in restoration program governance and function, river ecologists, western water resources experts, biologists, geomorphologists, water resources engineers, and land managers. With offices in Nebraska (Kearney) and Colorado (Lakewood and Fort Collins), Headwaters Corporation provides a broad range of services to public and private clients. Visit our website at [www.headwaterscorp.com](http://www.headwaterscorp.com) for more information on our purpose, our people, and our work.