

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation

Job Announcement

This is not a state position

Job Title: Project Manager, California State University Sentinel Site Network

Project Title: Building a California State University-wide Biodiversity and Climate Sentinel Site Network

Supervisors: Drs Micaela Gunther and Nick Som, Cal Poly Humboldt

Preferred start date: April 15, 2026

Expected duration: 2.5 years, with possible opportunity for extension

Wage: \$30/hour, full time + benefits

Location: Arcata, CA

Position Description:

The Sentinel Sites for Nature – California (CA-SSN, cassn.org) is long-term monitoring collaborative established to create biodiversity baselines and to assess change over time. Sentinel sites are managed by a network of partners at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the University of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS), and now with faculty from the California State University (CSU) system. The CA-SSN aims to achieve conservation goals established by California 30x30 legislation. With over 100 planned biodiversity monitoring locations across the state, the CA-SSN will deliver open-access standardized biodiversity and climate data that will support university, agency, and NGO research to advance conservation and resource management solutions. In the next three years, the CSU Sentinel Site Network (CSU SSN) will establish up to 30 long-term monitoring sites across the state.

The CSU SSN is seeking two skilled Project Managers to join our team, one to establish sites and coordinate data in northern California, based at Cal Poly Humboldt, and one to establish sites and coordinate in southern California, based at CSU Los Angeles (CSU LA). [**NOTE:** CSU LA Project Manager Position is a separate hiring.] The ideal candidate will help manage collaborators across the CSU partnership, order and deploy biodiversity monitoring equipment across the state, assist with data collection, management, and analytics across the CSU SSN, and in collaboration with the Principal Investigators (PIs), help further biodiversity studies by aiding in interdisciplinary studies of remote sensing technologies and experimental methodology to sample birds, mammals, herpetofauna, insects, and plants across California ecosystems.

Major Responsibilities Include:

- Coordinating activities and communicating clearly and frequently with PIs at both project and campus levels.
- Purchasing and receiving equipment.
- Preconfigure and set up CA-SSN equipment and other hardware for monitoring biodiversity at CSU SSN sites following [established protocols](#).
- Training students and staff on equipment deployment and maintenance.
- Managing large amounts of data within shared data repositories for CSU SSN data.
- Summarizing and preliminary analyses of data for CSU SSN sites.
- Engaging stakeholders and community members.
- Disseminating key findings.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Wildlife, Ecology, or related field
- At least two years of field experience working in this field of study
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team to achieve research goals
- Willingness to work with state agency and University partners
- Strong organizational skills with careful attention to detail
- Experience managing and analyzing large data sets

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation

Job Announcement

This is not a state position

- Generally strong field, mapping, and quantitative skills
- Experience conducting field work under challenging conditions (e.g., difficult terrain, roadside surveys, remote access)
- Willingness to work with people and train students
- Clean driver's license for frequent travel (including weekends)

Preferred Qualifications:

- Field experience in a leadership or management role
- Proficiency with vertebrate visual identification from remote cameras
- Experience with vertebrate audio identification from remote audio recorders
- Experience using GIS and R and GitHub/version control/open science frameworks to manage and analyze wildlife data

How to apply:

Interested applicants should send the following materials combined into a single pdf with last name in the file name to micaela.gunther@humboldt.edu with subject line "**CSU SSN Project Manager application**":

1. A letter of research interests that highlights relevant skills, field experiences, and career goals;
2. A cv or resume, including contact information for at least three references; and
3. Transcripts (unofficial okay) from all graduate and undergraduate institutions.
4. [SPF Self-Identification Form for Job Applicants](#)

The successful applicant will be hired by the Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation. Anticipated start date is **April 15, 2026**. **Applications received by Mar 1, 2026 will receive full consideration**, but position will remain open until filled.

About Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation:

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other legally protected status. More information about Cal Poly Humboldt SPF's Equal Employment Opportunity hiring can be found [here](#).

SPF adheres to the policy of employment at will, which permits the employer or the employee to end the employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice as permissible by law. No SPF representative other than the Executive Director may modify at-will status and/or provide any special arrangement concerning terms or conditions of employment in an individual case or generally and any such modification must be in a signed writing.

Maintaining eligibility to work in the United States is a condition of employment. Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation does not sponsor visas for staff, management, or temporary positions.

For assistance with the application process, please submit an Accommodation Request Form, which can be [found here](#) or contact ADA Coordinator at 707.826.3626 or confidential fax at 707.826.3625. For more information regarding accommodation, you may also visit the Cal Poly Humboldt Human Resources website at <https://disability.humboldt.edu/>. Individuals in need of a telecommunications relay service may contact the California Relay Service at 877.735.2929 TTY.

A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered this position within Cal Poly Humboldt SPF. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the application status of applicants or continued employment of current Humboldt SPF employees who apply for this position.