

**University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center
Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation**

OPS Position: *Milton, Florida*

The University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC) is hiring multiple, temporary positions (approx. 20 hr/week, employment for 1 year or less) beginning mid-August. The position requires monitoring the distribution and population of the Gulf Coast Solitary Bee, *Hesperapis oraria*. The Gulf Coast Solitary Bee is a rare bee endemic to the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida that depends upon the Coastalplain Honeycombhead, *Balduina angustifolia*, as its single floral host. The bee is only known to be active for a few weeks each year when the Coastalplain Honeycombhead is in flower.

The employee is required to work with a team collecting data on vegetation characteristics and the presence of the Gulf Coast Solitary Bee. The employee will also assist with data collection on other coastal dune projects. The applicant should be self-motivated, detail-oriented, and prepared for conditions such as working in high heat, full-sun exposure and walking on unstable terrain (i.e., sand). The position will be mainly field based but may also include data entry or other office work. This position will require early morning hours, travel to field sites, and the ability to stay overnight at some locations. This is a great opportunity for gaining hands-on experience with field sampling techniques used in scientific research.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with field work or exposure to extreme conditions
- Experience with using Excel and other Microsoft programs
- Experience using GIS software
- Interest in scientific research

To apply, fill out the OPS application found on our website <https://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/jobs/> and email completed form to gmangold@ufl.edu with the subject line: OPS for hire.

Salary: \$12-13 per hour

Application deadline: 8/22/2022

Contact person: Gina Mangold, gmangold@ufl.edu

More information about the Gulf Coast Solitary Bee and its floral host can be found here:

[UF researchers publish article identifying important habitat characteristics for the rare, imperiled Gulf Coast Solitary Bee and its floral host Coastalplain Honeycombhead. - UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center](#)