

Wood Turtle Field Technician

Position: Seasonal Field Technician

Work Week: 40 hrs/week

Location: Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Duration: May 3, 2021 through August 20, 2021

Salary: \$12.00/hr + travel and lodging

Position Description:

Technicians will assist with visual encounter surveys and radio telemetry to help determine the occupancy status and spatial ecology of wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) in privately managed forests in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula. This project is a collaborative effort between Michigan State University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement Foundation, Inc. (NCASI) and the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) to study the effects of private forest management on wood turtles and inform potential federal listing of the species. Primary duties include using visual encounter surveys to detect wood turtles, marking turtles and collecting tissue samples, tracking turtles using VHF telemetry, monitoring nesting sites, and following proper animal welfare, decontamination protocols, and state and federal regulations. This position requires that the technician maintains focus and enthusiasm for thorough research under harsh conditions. Hiking for hours in the remote wilderness on foot over difficult terrain through temperature extremes and clouds of biting insects is the norm. In return the technician will get to work with a charismatic species, gain valuable field experience, have unforgettable wildlife encounters, and witness the beauty of the UP's wilderness first-hand.

Technicians will work May 3, 2021 through August 20, 2021 (\$12.00/hr; 40hrs/wk) and will spend the field season residing in Michigan's beautiful western Upper Peninsula with housing and transportation provided by Michigan State University.

Position Requirements:

Successful candidates will demonstrate:

- Ability to work and collect data under harsh environmental conditions such as inclement weather, difficult terrain, biting insects (black flies, mosquitoes, ticks, etc.), poison ivy and sumac, and hot/cold temperature fluctuations.
- Knowledge of and/or an interest in the focal species and project goals. Knowledge of other local fauna and flora is also encouraged.
- That they work well independently and as part of a team and can communicate in a constructive and professional manner with project leaders and partners.
- Confidence in accessing remote areas using a university vehicle and navigating to and from sites using only a map and compass.
- Familiarity with the field techniques used in this study and excellent attention to detail when recording and entering data.

- Adherence to safety, decontamination, and animal welfare protocols.

Minimum Qualifications:

Must be working towards, or are in possession of, a college degree in wildlife ecology, biology, conservation, or related field with an interest in applied wildlife sciences and have strong interpersonal skills.

Timeline and Application

This position is open until April 1, 2020 or until a suitable candidate is found. To apply for this position please email a cover letter stating your interests and qualifications, your resume, and three references in a single PDF document to: Tricia Brockman (brockm16@msu.edu). In the subject line of your email please include your name and the position title.

We will not contact references without applicant permission.