

Job Announcement – Turtle Biologist

The Patuxent Research Refuge (Refuge) located in Laurel, MD is seeking quotes from interested vendors to assist in services for Eastern box turtle and spotted turtle surveys including searching, capturing (including trapping), measuring, marking, and identifying adult vs. juvenile or male vs. female Eastern box turtles and spotted turtles, recording data, managing data, safe handling of live animals. Familiarity with technologies or software such as MS Excel, GIS, GPS, and GoogleEarth mapping is required. The vendor will be responsible for surveying along roads and trails by vehicle on the entire refuge encompassing about 11,000 acres, and will also respond to calls from staff or public about sightings on the refuge. Interested vendors must show experience working with common turtles of the Eastern United States, mid-Atlantic region; be able to correctly identify species; maintain an accurate sequential numbering system for unmarked turtles; identify the unique number for a marked turtle; safely and correctly mark turtles using a notching file or drill; safely and correctly set and close traps; collect the biological data such as overall health, weight, dimensions, take the GPS coordinates where found; accurately record all data on provided datasheet and enter data into database; and assist with maintaining and updating the turtle maps. The biologist must be aware of safe handling protocols for reptiles and amphibians to prevent spread of disease, safe marking so as to prevent injury, safe protocol/procedure for trapping.

Biologist must be able to work independently and outdoors most of the day in hot humid conditions, where briars, ticks, may be present. Biologist is required to communicate clearly, lift supplies up to 30 lbs, possess a valid driver's license, and pass the DOI Defensive Driving course. Occasional use of personal vehicle may be required if refuge vehicle not available.

Expected survey period is June 1 – October 31, 2018, but is flexible depending on start date. Hours of duty are Mon- Fri, 8-4pm, 40 hours/week. Housing may be available .

Support from this biologist will provide multiple benefits to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the communities that it serves, and the natural resources it protects. The refuge biology program contributes to the restoration and preservation of faunal species of conservation concern or at-risk species, particularly in rarer habitats that are quickly disappearing on a landscape scale or are hard to maintain.

Application deadline: COB May 16, 2018.

Send letter of interest, resume, and 3 references (*preferably all in one document*) with applicant name and position applying for in file name to:

Sandy Spencer, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Patuxent Research Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sandy_Spencer@fws.gov