

# **NJ Fish & Wildlife, Endangered & Nongame Species Program**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Title: **NJ Fish & Wildlife Seasonal Technician**  
Supervisor: Kris Schantz, Principal Zoologist, Endangered and Nongame Species Program  
Date Prepared: November 30, 2023

### **Summary of Position:**

#### **EASTERN COPPERHEAD RESEARCH:**

NJ Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) has partnered with Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) on an eastern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) radio-telemetry research and habitat management project. We are seeking a **responsible, detail-oriented** person that, once trained, is able and willing to work in the outdoors alone and as part of a team. Time will be divided between field work and project administration. Field work will consist of eastern copperhead radio-tracking using radio telemetry and environmental data collection approximately 3 days/week, and habitat stewardship for rare species including invasive species removal approximately 2 days/week. Administrative activities will include GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping and data management which will be performed for short periods of time daily and/or during inclement weather.

#### **Duties:**

1. Assist with radio tracking of multiple eastern copperheads, including extensive off-trail searching.
2. Ecological data collection (hiking to remote, difficult to reach locations, assisting with measurements).
3. Perform invasive plant species control in sensitive habitats using mechanical (hand) removal techniques.
4. Perform stewardship activities that benefit the copperhead population and/or enhance copperhead habitat (e.g., planting native plants, moving heavy logs/debris, etc.).
5. Administrative activities including GIS mapping, data management, equipment management and other computer tasks.
6. Perform tasks as assigned by the Fish & Wildlife supervisor and/or research partners at FoHVOS.
7. Maintain confidentiality of copperhead location data.

#### **Qualifications:**

1. Enrollment in or completion of Bachelor's degree in ecology, natural resource management or related fields is **required**
2. Knowledge of invasive plant species identification and management is **preferred**
3. Knowledge of flora and fauna of New Jersey is **preferred**
4. Knowledge of GPS/GIS is **preferred**
5. Ability to conduct physically strenuous field work in rugged terrain is **required**
6. Ability to stay motivated and productive while working alone outdoors is **required**
7. Willingness to learn to handle eastern copperheads (i.e., catch with a snake hook and snake bag in the field and/or release in the field after lab-processing) is **required**

**Compensation:**

- \$17.00-\$21.00/hour depending on education and experience
- When a state vehicle is not available to conduct necessary tasks (e.g., transporting a snake to Rutgers University, participating in other ENSP projects), personnel will be compensated at \$0.47 per mile for each mile that exceeds commuting miles to the Fish & Wildlife field office (i.e., “Assigned Workstation”) in Hampton, Hunterdon County.

**Hours:**

Approximately 40 hours/week (Monday – Friday), approximately 7:30AM to 4:00PM (includes 0.5-hour unpaid lunch period).

- This is a field work position with the potential for start/end times to fluctuate based on the number of snakes in the study, the location of the snakes, weather conditions, etc.

**Start – End Dates:**

Approximately June 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>

- **A commitment is required for the full term of the position**, some flexibility is available if discussed at the time of hiring.

**Work Locations:**

- Field Work/Office Work: Mercer County
  - This is the location where the majority of field and office work will occur.
- Assigned Workstation at Fish & Wildlife office: Hampton, Hunterdon County
  - This is the officially assigned workstation, however personnel will spend little time at this location.

**To apply, please email the following materials to Kris Schantz ([kris.schantz@dep.nj.gov](mailto:kris.schantz@dep.nj.gov)) by COB, February 2, 2024:**

Applications missing any of these items will not be considered.

1. A cover letter addressing how your education/experience qualifies you to accomplish the job duties listed above
2. A resume (maximum of two pages)
3. Provide names, e-mails, phone numbers, and mailing addresses of three references