

UGA main campus (Athens, Georgia) / SREL (near Aiken, SC) during field season

Job Category

Graduate Assistantships

Salary

Stipend w/tuition remission

Start Date

01/07/2020

Last Date to Apply

11/15/2019

Description

We are seeking a motivated graduate student to study the fate of confiscated box turtles released back into the wild on the Savannah River Site (SRS), near Aiken, SC. Turtles are being subjected to widespread illegal collection from the wild, threatening species once considered secure. When wildlife agencies are able to confiscate illegally collected turtles, they are faced with the dilemma of determining their suitability for release back into the wild. SREL, in collaboration with SC Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service-Savannah River, has initiated research to address this growing management concern using box turtles as a case study. The selected student will be involved in post-release monitoring to evaluate site fidelity and survival, but will also have access to health data collected prior to release. The student may also be expected to help assess the status of resident box turtle populations on the SRS, a National Environmental Research Park (<http://srel.uga.edu/research/nerp>). Due to the timing of the project, the student will conduct their field work prior to taking coursework. SREL is a remote unit of the University of Georgia located on the SRS, approximately 2.5 hrs away from UGA main campus. The selected student would be enrolled through UGA's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (<http://www.warnell.uga.edu/>). The selected student will also be expected to publish his/her work as peer-reviewed manuscripts, with manuscripts in "submission-ready" form prior to graduation. Applicants should submit their CV (including GPA and GRE scores), contact information for at least three references, and a one-page letter describing their research interests as they relate to this position to Dr. Tracey D. Tuberville, tubervil@uga.edu. Please put "Box turtle conservation assistantship" in the subject line of email. Submissions will be considered as they are received, but are due no later than 15 November 2019. More information about the Tuberville Lab, including people and publications, can be found at: www.tuberville.srel.uga.edu. Dr. Kurt Buhlmann at SREL will also serve as PI on the project (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kurt_Buhlmann).

Qualifications

Minimum qualifications include a B.S. in ecology, wildlife biology or related discipline. Admission generally requires a GPS of 3.0. Preferred qualifications include field experience with reptiles (including radio-telemetry), prior experience conducting independent research, and demonstrated writing skills. A positive attitude, strong work ethic, and good communication skills are all a must. Only prospective students with a strong interest in applied herpetological conservation should apply.

Contact Person

Dr. Tracey Tuberville
