

Agency: Purdue University Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Location: O'Bannon Woods State Park, Corydon, Indiana

Job Category: Hellbender Field Technician - Indiana

Salary: \$15.00/hr

Start Date: August 12, 2024

End Date: October 11, 2024 with possible extension

Last Date to Apply: June 30, 2024

Description: A technician is needed to assist with Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) releases and field surveys near Corydon, Indiana. One ~2-month appointment is being sought. The appointment will start in mid-August and last through early October.

The primary responsibility of the technician will be to assist the field coordinator with Eastern Hellbender nest searches, releases, habitat supplementation, and radio telemetry. Surveys will involve kayaking, lifting heavy rocks (>80 lbs), and snorkeling in cold water. This will require extended periods of time snorkeling in cold water, out-of-state travel, and long drives. Additional work could include water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate surveys, and the attendance of outreach and education events. Some camping might be required.

Duration: August 12 – October 11, 2024. Start and end dates are somewhat flexible within those months.

Qualifications:

- A background in wildlife, fisheries, forestry, natural resources, or related discipline is required.
- The ability to swim and a complete comfort with water and full submersion is required.
- Applicants must be willing to work with or near amphibians, reptiles (including snakes), and possibly other wildlife.
- Previous animal handling, especially amphibians, experience is preferred.
- Previous radio telemetry experience is preferred.
- Applicants must be physically fit and willing to hike, swim, camp, kayak, and lift heavy objects.
- A valid U.S. driver's license is required.
- Applicants must be willing to work long hours in sometimes unpleasant conditions (i.e., hot, cold, rainy).
- Applicants must be comfortable working extended hours in cold water. Wetsuits and snorkels will be provided. Any accessories (e.g., neoprene socks, neoprene rash guards, water shoes) will not. Camping gear will not be provided.

- Applicants must be comfortable living in cramped quarters possibly with other individuals.
- Basic, rustic housing (camper) is provided in O'Bannon Woods State Park in Corydon, Indiana.

To apply:

Deadline: June 30, 2024

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please apply quickly! Please send a resume, at least two references, and a brief email describing your interest in the position to Nick Burgmeier. Please use the subject line, "**Purdue Fall Hellbender Technician Position – 2024.**"

Contact Person: Nick Burgmeier

Contact Phone: 812-767-0057

Contact email: nburgmei@purdue.edu

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.