FNR Flight Crew Technician Ad

The Zollner lab has a research project funded by the Indiana DNR to fly in light aircraft to conduct nocturnal infrared and RGB video of white-tailed deer, coyote, and turkey across Indiana. This video data will eventually be scored to estimate density across all of Indiana.

Two-three undergraduate positions are available at a pay rate of \$15/hour; successful hires will assist with data collection from January-early April of 2025. The students will ride in the back seat of a small fixed-wing aircraft and operate infra-red imagery monitors and GPS units collecting data. They will need to carefully save the resulting files and deliver them to the project lead promptly the next day. Depending on the location of the surveys being flown on any given night, working hours for a shift could begin as early as 6:30 PM and last until as early as 5:00 AM the next morning. On average, we expect most shifts to last 7 hours of work on a given night. The students must commit to providing one full night of work collecting data each week throughout this study period. Overall, there will be four/five students scheduled to collect this data and most weeks only three flights will run. So, not each student will get a shift each week.

We will work with students to ensure that their assigned shifts are compatible with their class assignments and exam schedules. To develop a team of student workers with different class schedules, we plan to hire a mixture of upper and lower division students. Junior, Sophomore, and Freshmen students are preferred. Incoming graduate student Emma Johnson will be leading the crewed flight team and hiring camera operators.

Camera operators will also be trained on analyzing the footage from last semester. On weeks where they do not get a flight shift or if they desire more hours, they will be scoring imagery (counting up species heat signatures). Doing this, students may work up to but no more than 20 hours per week.

To apply for one of these positions, email a copy your résumé and a one-paragraph description of your interest in this project to Emma Johnson (john3188@purdue.edu) before 5 PM on Friday, November 22. We will review applications the following weekend and contact the most qualified applicants for interviews the week of November 25. Hiring decisions will be made by December 5th. Send questions about the job or application procedure to Emma Johnson (john3188@purdue.edu).