FURBEARER BIOLOGIST
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife

Job ID: 601896
Apply Before: 04/30/2016
Location: Mitchell
Full/Part Time: Full-Time
Salary: $34,320.00
City/County/St: Mitchell, Lawrence County, IN

To Apply

Job Description: The Furbearer Biologist functions at a professional level as a field research/management biologist within the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, responsible for ensuring the scientific validity of the statewide management of Indiana furbearers. Incumbent coordinates, designs, and conducts scientific investigations that address wildlife ecology and management of furbearing species. In addition, incumbent provides scientific analysis and interpretation of statistically reliable data to develop science-based recommendations for statewide furbearer management and regulations. This position reports directly to the Wildlife Science Supervisor (Natural Science Manager I position).

Responsibilities:

• Serve as Department and Division expert on Indiana furbearers and as liaison to various local, regional, and national research, management, and trapping groups such as Midwest Furbearer Group, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) Furbearer Working Group, Indiana State Trappers Association, and Fur Takers of America.

• Design, initiate, budget, and conduct or coordinate statewide projects to collect data on the population status, distribution, relative abundance, resource utilization, demographics, and management needs of Indiana furbearers, their habitat associations, and population response to changing environmental conditions, habitat management, and implementation of management actions where applicable.

• Direct data collection, data entry, data transfer, archiving, quality control, and quality assurance. Analyze and evaluate data to make determinations relative to the parameters listed above and provide critical interpretations of biological data.

• Prepare documents to obtain state and federal funds for projects that benefit Indiana furbearers and their habitats.

• Supervise and coordinate field and office-based activities of intermittent, part-time, and full-time employees.

• Prepare work profiles and conduct annual performance appraisals.

• Develop and provide information and workshops to enhance public understanding and participation in hunting, trapping, and wildlife related activities.

• Draft correspondence on issues requiring the signature of the Governor, DNR Director, Division Director, Wildlife Chief, Wildlife Science Program Manager, or Wildlife Science Supervisor.

• Prepare and review proposals to develop or modify Indiana Administrative Code, other legal statutes, or policies pertaining to wildlife resources.

• Prepare written reports and related documents to communicate project results including internal reports, peer reviewed manuscripts, popular articles (Outdoor Indiana, press releases), newsletters, symposia & workshop proceedings, and those needed to meet grant reporting requirements.

• Collaborate with other resource professionals and university faculty on cooperative research and management efforts.

• Review technical journals and attend professional meetings regarding current issues related to the
management and conservation of Indiana furbearers.
• Maintain and expand knowledge of wildlife population ecology, management, scientific procedure, and the principals of technical writing and oral presentations.
Preferred Experience:
- Knowledge and skill typically acquired through a graduate degree plus related work experience (M.S. or Ph.D. in wildlife science, wildlife biology, wildlife ecology, wildlife management, or a related natural sciences). Background and experience should meet the professional certification requirements of an Associate Wildlife Biologist through The Wildlife Society, Washington, DC.
- Specialized knowledge of biological principles, ecological variables and interactions, water and land management, and the life history/population dynamics of fish and wildlife species.
- Specialized knowledge of wildlife management and field techniques, scientific methods, procedures and theories, flora and fauna identification, and the ability to apply them in the management and study of fish and wildlife populations.
- Specialized knowledge personal computers and relevant software (word processing, spreadsheets, database management, statistical packages, and population modeling).
- Working knowledge of state and federal laws pertaining to fish and wildlife.
- Working knowledge of animal care protocols, wildlife capture, handling, and immobilization techniques.
- Ability to read and understand basic remote sensing information, topographic maps, other planimetric and watershed maps, plat books, aerial photos, other cartographic products, and land survey descriptions.
- Ability to operate and maintain a variety of work, shop, office, and motorized equipment including trucks, trailers, boats, outboard motors, power tools, chainsaws, directional compasses, and other hand tools.
- Ability to budget and allocate existing money and personnel resources.
- Ability to supervise staff and organize volunteers.
- Working knowledge of basic human first aid.

Additional Comments: The incumbent performs duties in a variety of different environments, including an office environment, rugged terrain, field environments that may entail accessing challenging habitats, and various adverse weather conditions (extreme heat, cold, rain, snow, and sleet). The incumbent is required to do occasional heavy lifting of equipment, tools, or materials. The incumbent may be required to work around potentially dangerous heavy construction equipment and farm equipment (e.g. bull dozer, excavators, dump trucks, graders, back hoes, tractors, disks, mowers, planters, plows, tree cutters, etc.). The incumbent may be required to travel occasionally statewide and/or out-of-state to attend conferences, or assist with projects away from his/her assigned station.

Benefits:
The State of Indiana offers a comprehensive benefit package which includes:
- Medical / Dental / Vision plans
- Health Savings Account available with Employer Contribution
- Prescription Coverage
- Employee Assistance Program
- Employer-funded Retirement Plan
- Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan with Employer Match
- Flexible Spending Account
- Work/life balance: 24 Paid Days Off and 12 Holidays, per year
- Group Life Insurance
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program