

Title: Herpetological (Spiny Softshell Turtle) Field Technician

Agency: Montana State University - Bozeman, Dept. of Ecology and Montana Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit

Location: Middle Missouri River, Northeast MT, downstream from Fort Peck Lake

Job Description: I am seeking a highly motivated and qualified individual to assist in monitoring the annual and seasonal habitat use, movements, and anthropogenic disturbance of an isolated population of spiny softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*) on the Middle Missouri River upstream of Fort Peck Lake in Northeastern Montana. Here they are a State Species of concern, a Tier 1 species with the greatest conservation need, and a Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species and very little is known about their populations. The position will last from mid-May thru approximately early August 2010. Tasks will include assisting in the radio telemetry and relocation of Spiny Softshell turtles along a 50mi reach of the middle Missouri River, maintenance of field equipment, navigation and piloting of the boat, and aiding in the observation and documentation of nesting females and anthropogenic disturbance to them. While at the field site we will be going down the Missouri River during the day and camping/backpacking near the river at night. Due to the remoteness of the field site our schedule will be 10 days on and 4 days off which means that we will be going up and down the river conducting research, backpacking, and camping out in the field for 10 days at a time and then will return to Bozeman, MT for four days off, and repeat. Housing in Bozeman, MT could possibly be provided with inquiry.

Send letter of interest, resume/CV, and names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three (3) references to brian.tornabene@gmail.com. Open until filled.

Qualifications: Candidates should be in the process of obtaining a Bachelors Degree in biology, wildlife/conservation biology or related field (at least two years). Strong written and verbal communication skills required. Applicant must be able to conduct strenuous fieldwork, have the physical ability and desire to work long hours in the field, and have a high tolerance for biting insects. Candidates should ideally have some familiarity or experience with fieldwork, radio telemetry, and the operation of boat. Therefore, preference will be given to people with previous experience.

Salary: ~\$8/hr (~\$1200/month) commensurate with experience

Last Date to Apply: February 28, 2010

Contact: BRIAN TORNABENE

Email: brian.tornabene@gmail.com (preferred)