

Advertisement: Wildlife (Turkey) Technician

Agency: Montana State University – Bozeman, Dept. of Ecology in cooperation with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

Location: Northern Black Hills, South Dakota. Position based in Lead, South Dakota

Project: A study of Merriam's wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*) in the Northern Black Hills seeks to quantify survival and reproduction characteristics. Specifically, this project seeks to understand how individual and environmental factors affect hen survival, nesting success, and poult survival. Radio telemetry will be utilized to monitor hen and poult survival and to facilitate habitat evaluations at nest sites.

Duties: Technician will participate in all field aspects of the project. Primary duties will include: monitoring hens via radio telemetry, nest location, nest monitoring, habitat evaluations, and conducting poult counts. Technician will also be responsible for equipment maintenance, data management, and other duties as required. The ability to interact positively with members of the public, landowners, livestock producers, and other agency personnel is critical.

Required Qualifications: Candidates should have a background in wildlife biology, ecology, or a related field. The demands of fieldwork require individuals willing and able to work long days and occasionally work long periods (up to 10 days) without time off. Technicians must be in good physical condition and capable of hiking 10+ miles across rugged terrain in a variety of weather conditions (snow, rain, heat). The ability to read a topographic map and navigate using a GPS is crucial, as is the ability to safely operate a 4WD pickup on low maintenance roads. Additionally, the ability to collect and legibly record high quality data is a must. Most work will be conducted alone; must be able to work independently or as part of a team. Applicants must be willing and able to live in bunkhouse-type quarters and able to maintain professional relationships while living and working with the same people day-in and day-out. Above all, I am seeking a hard-working, results-oriented individual with an ability to solve problems and get the job done in a safe and effective manner.

Desired Qualifications: Individuals with experience using radio-telemetry are highly preferred, as are those with experience quantifying vegetation communities. Individuals with animal handling experience (wildlife *or* farm/ranch), particularly turkeys or other game birds will be given preference. Mechanical aptitude and a general ability to solve problems is also desired.

Terms of Appointment: Position begins approximately March 15, 2017 and runs through mid August 2017. Salary: ~\$1425/month, with potential increase for a high performing technician. Housing is provided in Lead, SD. All project-related travel will be in a project-provided vehicle, but technician is responsible for his/her own transportation to Lead.

To Apply: Email a cover letter specifying interests and qualifications, along with a resume/CV (including contact information for three (3) or more references) to: michael.yarnall@msu.montana.edu. Emailed files should include applicant's last name.

Applications will can be submitted until February 28, 2017, but applications will be processed as they are received, and position likely will be filled prior to February 15, 2017.