

Title: Field Technician

Location: North Cherokee National Forest, near Erwin, TN

Job Description: Indiana State University is looking to hire a technician to work on a bat presence study in the North Cherokee National Forest. The focus of this study is to compare the efficacy of acoustic data, GIS models, and traditional mist netting survey methods for predicting the presence of Indiana and Northern long-eared bats. The successful applicant will be working on a small crew with a graduate student to conduct acoustic surveys, radio telemetry, mist netting and emergence counts – with work being during both the day and night. Additional duties will include data entry, gear maintenance, decontamination following white-nose protocols, and various other tasks. The position will start mid-May and run to mid-August. The successful candidate will obtain experience in multiple bat survey methods while learning bat ID and gaining telemetry experience in mountainous terrain.

Qualifications: The candidate must be able to work independently and as part of a crew, while also enjoying work in a remote location away from internet and cell phone service. Although housing is required, some work nights will require primitive camping. Must be willing to work varied daily schedules, often long hours (> 10 hr days). Must be comfortable hiking in a rugged mountainous forest environment, with the majority of the hiking off trail in rhododendron, poison ivy, stinging nettle and chigger inhabited areas while carrying heavy packs (up to 40 pounds) for long periods of time in hot and humid conditions. Other hazards include lightning, heavy rain, driving on unmaintained mountain roads, bears, stinging insects and venomous snakes. The candidate must be comfortable working, camping and hiking in the forest both at night and during the day. Preference will be given to those who are competent in navigation using map and compass, GPS, data recording, and mountain telemetry. Applicants must have a clean driving record in order to obtain a Forest Service driver's license and must be comfortable driving long distances at any time of the day or night on winding roads. Preference will be given to those with experience driving 4x4 vehicles on unmaintained mountain roads. Candidates with rabies vaccines will have the opportunity to handle bats, but rabies vaccine/bat handling experience is not a requirement for this position.

Salary: \$400/wk for 12 weeks with housing provided

Application process: We will begin interviews as soon as potential candidates are received with a closing date of 31 March 2015. Please email a cover letter, resume, and three references as ONE PDF document to appalachian.myso@gmail.com with "Bat Technician" as the subject line.