



## **Reptile Research Technician**

**University of Georgia  
Odum School of Ecology  
Applied Wildlife Conservation Lab**

**Hourly pay rate: \$11.50**

**Commitment: up to 40 hrs/week**

**Start date: Expected, October 2019**

**End date: Funding guaranteed through 31 March 2020**

**Posting is open until filled**

**Description of Duties:** This position will involve work on two partnering research projects occurring across multiple field sites in Georgia.

The field work for the primary position will involve radiotracking indigo snakes that are equipped with a novel GPS technology. Therefore, monitoring will involve continual assessment of the efficacy of this technology. Additionally, this position will be responsible for monitoring cameras located at gopher tortoise burrows that are capturing images of burrow commensals, with particular interest in indigo snakes. Much of this field work will take place independently and remotely at an off-site location near Denton, GA. This project is being launched with support from Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT).

Responsibilities on the second project will involve assisting with an on-going project with Southern Ionics Minerals (SIM) in Brantley and Charlton County where we conduct pre-mining surveys and burrow scoping for gopher tortoises. During spring and fall relocation sessions (if necessary), we excavate and relocate tortoises to several GA Department of Natural Resources WMAs where we conduct post-translocation monitoring research. Our research program includes applying GPS telemetry and wildlife camera monitoring to explore the integration of translocated and resident gopher tortoise populations. Hence, the researcher will be trained on VHF tracking, checking cameras, and trapping tortoises. This portion of the project would involve assisting the tortoise team with efforts at both the mining site and WMAs, as needed. The technician will undergo specific task training with current project researchers. MSHA safety and first aid trainings will be required as a new employee working on the SIM mine site.

As our lab has a strong mission for community engagement and public education, the technician may also assist with the occasional education event (field, classroom, tabling) or SIM staff training on wildlife identification.

Our office is located at the UGA Marine Extension in Brunswick. This position will also involve office work to transfer and manage datasets associated with both projects, and to conduct basic



development and analysis of data, as necessary for adaptive project management, assessing equipment performance, and preparing reports for the sponsor, public, and scientific community. Specifically, office tasks are certain to include data entry and management, reviewing and organizing camera trap images, managing datasets of spatial locations of snakes, GIS mapping of spatial data, analysis of spatial and camera data, and basic report preparation and activity summaries for DOT.

**The Schedule:** Typically, the Technician will be expected to work 5 days a week (M-F) and will involve 3-4 field days and 1-2 office days; however, the work schedule may require slightly shorter or longer work weeks depending on the weeks' task schedule and mine plan.

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, along with vacation requests (within reason), will be accommodated but as unpaid leave. This position is guaranteed for five months, with possible extensions based on job performance and funding availability.

**Skills:**

- Undergraduate degree in Biology, Ecology, Wildlife Management, or related field;
- Knowledge of southeastern herpetofauna and other commensals of tortoise burrows;
- A dedicated interest in wildlife conservation and the management of habitats and endangered species;
- Field experience with radiotracking is required, and specific experience with tracking snakes is highly preferred;
- Field experience in the deployment and management of wildlife cameras and large amounts of photo data will add to candidate competitiveness;
- Field experience with surveying for *Gopherus* spp. including experiencing with burrow cameras and scoping burrows is highly preferred;
- Working knowledge of GIS and data management software is highly preferred;
- Capacity to operate independently and be a good team player;
- A high-level of organization and professionalism and pride in quality performance;
- An overall positive attitude, and direct, honest, and efficient communication with supervisor is necessary due to the nature of this position operating remotely and with a large degree of independence.
- Flexibility with scheduling and physical and mental resiliency as this position is shared between two research projects.
- Good physical condition and a patient temperament - this job will be physically demanding, periodically requiring long days in very hot and sometimes very buggy field conditions.

**Benefits:** Pay rate is \$11.50/hr for up to 40 hrs/week. Since this position is temporary and cannot exceed the federal restriction of a maximum 1300 hours in one year, benefits are not provided by the University of Georgia. The technician will be required to support housing and transportation



expenses and will also need to provide their own computer. Living location can be negotiated based on the candidate's preference.

**Project Supervisor:** Dr. Kimberly Andrews, Research Faculty – Odum School of Ecology

**Apply through the UGA iPAWS website:** The posting is labelled as “Temporary Lab/Research-Andrews” through Dept 551 (School of Ecology). Posting #: [G/R03978P](#).

Inquiries for additional details can be directed to Kimberly @ [kma77@uga.edu](mailto:kma77@uga.edu).  
Please use the subject line: REPTILE TECH

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