



**CONSERVATION PROGRAM BIOLOGIST I
CONSERVATION HERPETOLOGIST
POSITION NUMBER: 22095824**

**Duty Station: Benton, Arkansas
Full Time: Yes
Salary: \$61,443.00 - \$86,609.00 Annually
Class Code: Q403U**

JOB DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY:

Join the team of professionals that are tasked with conserving Arkansas's rarest species. These individuals identify the issues impacting Species of Greatest Conservation Need and federally listed species, and work with partners, landowners, and contractors to implement conservation actions to help ensure their survival.

The selected individual will be responsible for the conservation of Arkansas's native species, statewide. Duties for this position include routine monitoring of populations, identifying crucial conservation needs, implementing conservation actions, developing conservation strategies, establishing conservation goals, performing public relations activities, generating reports on computer-based programs and other duties as deemed necessary. The job requires heavy physical demands, working in inclement weather, and traveling away from the duty station for extended periods of time. The employee will be required to wear a commission uniform.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Aquatic Conservation Ecologists are responsible for identifying, coordinating and implementing conservation actions to help restore declining populations of focal species to self-sustaining levels. The AGFC Aquatic Ecology Program consists of four staff members with statewide responsibility for the conservation of all species within their respective taxon groups. Assisting with conservation projects managed by other ecologists is required to achieve the greater conservation mission of the AGFC. Familiarity with Arkansas's diverse aquatic fauna is an important skill for all members of this team. Ecologists must work with Federal, State, NGO, and other AGFC personnel to identify and prioritize critical conservation actions for their species groups, and communicate these needs to administrators, landowners, and the public. This position requires good written and verbal communication skills to inform the public, social media posts, detailed project plans, and agency reports. This position represents the agency on internal and external committees to further the conservation goals and objectives of the AGFC. AGFC Conservation Ecologists must be self-starters, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and independent operators.

This position is governed by state and federal laws and agency/institution policy.

TYPICAL FUNCTIONS:

Plans and implements a budget to achieve conservation actions for assigned taxa including procurement, contracting, and acquisitions within agency and State of Arkansas policies.

Supervises contractors, subordinate technical personnel, part-time employees, interns and/or volunteers.

Develops, coordinates, and implements routine monitoring programs for rare aquatic taxa. Collects, analyzes and reports biological data through agency reports and peer reviewed journal articles.

Develops agency responses to federal inquiries and requests regarding focal taxon, such as species status assessments.

Ensures proper maintenance of all assigned equipment, including preventative maintenance of vehicles, boats, outboard motors, and trailers.

Performs public outreach by responding to requests for information, presenting information to the public, and reviewing permit applications to possess or collect native species.

Leads an Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Taxa Team.

Performs other duties as assigned.

SPECIAL JOB DIMENSIONS:

Frequent in-state travel and field work with exposure to inclement weather is required.

Occasional exposure to dangerous animals may be required.

This position often requires working weekends, long hours, and/or in poor weather conditions.

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS:

A working knowledge of the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Familiarity with the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan.

An understanding of the life-histories of amphibians, crocodylians, turtle, lizards, and snakes; and have the ability to identify all species found in Arkansas.

Ability to readily identify other Arkansas aquatic taxa in the field.

Experience with multiple taxa-specific sampling methods.

Ability to identify and implement conservation actions for species conservation.

Knowledge of conservation funding sources: ESA-Section 6, State Wildlife Grants, & Mitigation Funds.

Possesses one or more S.C.U.B.A. certifications.

Experience with surface supply dive systems.

Ability to operate a boat and back a boat trailer.

Knowledge of basic boat and trailer maintenance requirements.

Ability to clearly convey complex scientific concepts through written, oral, and visual media to diverse stakeholder groups.

Good public speaking skills and affable attitude when talking to the public and interacting with staff.

Experience publishing in scientific literature.

Experience with advanced statistical methods and analyzing data in Program R, SAS, or similar statistical software.

A working knowledge of Google and Microsoft based programs (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and Google suite (Docs and Sheets).

Experience coordinating and administering multiple research and conservation projects simultaneously.

Experience with developing, implementing and managing budgets.

An understanding of and appreciation for the mission, goals and objectives of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Certification as a Fisheries Professional through the American Fisheries Society.

Strong organizational skills.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE:

A bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, conservation biology, natural resources, environmental science or a related field plus four years of experience in a related field plus two years of demonstrated leadership of wildlife management activities.

OR

A master's degree in wildlife biology, conservation biology, natural resources, environmental science or a related field plus three years of experience in a related field plus two years of demonstrated leadership of wildlife management activities.

PREFERRED EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE:

The formal education equivalent of a master's degree in natural resources; plus five years of natural resources experience; and two years in a leadership role.

Ability to acquire Master SCUBA Diver certification within 3 years.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:

Must possess a valid driver's license.

OTHER JOB RELATED EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ALL OR PART OF THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPT FOR CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, UPON APPROVAL OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES CHIEF.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All applicants are subject to a criminal background check.

For more information contact Eric Brinkman, eric.brinkman@agfc.ar.gov.

Applications must include complete work history and references. Applicants may apply online at <https://jobs.agfc.com>. Applications must be submitted by midnight on **February 23, 2024**.

“AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, THE COMMISSION WILL MAKE ANY REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES”