

Title: Wildlife Field Technicians (Seasonal, 6 months)

Work location: Fort Drum, NY (free housing available upon request)

Salary: Minimum \$19 per hour depending on experience (minimum \$23 with Bachelors)

Start Date: 22 April 2024 **End Date:** 30 Sept 2024

The NY Natural Heritage Program seeks two seasonal field technicians to conduct surveys for rare turtles and monitor populations of monarch butterflies at the Fort Drum Military Installation from late April 2024 through September 2024. Preference will be given to applicants who can commit to working for the duration of the position. The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) is a program of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) whose mission is to collect, analyze, and share scientific information that can be used to preserve native species and ecosystems. NYNHP works in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and other state, federal and private organizations involved in natural resource management, land protection and stewardship, and advancing the conservation of biodiversity. For more information, please visit www.nynhp.org.

Duties

- Conduct visual surveys for Wood and Spotted Turtles, check and set turtle traps, mark and process turtles.
- Document the presence of Monarch Butterfly host plants; assess monarch presence and activity by life stage.
- Deploy and maintain trail cameras throughout the Installation; assist with review of photos from trail cameras and catalog photos taken.
- Collect data for an ongoing research project into the impacts of roadside dust on Monarchs.
- Assist with a wide range of physical and technical tasks; use hand-held data collection devices including tablets, Trimble GPS units, and detailed note taking; send weekly reports to funders.

Required Qualifications

- Field experience in one or more of these areas: zoology, botany, wildlife management, ecology.
- Willingness and capability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Possession of a valid driver's license.
- Ability to work professionally on an active military installation.
- As per Fort Drum requirements, applicants must be U.S. citizens and a background check will be conducted.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with field sampling methods, collecting biological/environmental data in challenging field conditions, logistical planning for field work, working independently and as part of a team without direct field supervision.
- Familiarity with aerial photography and field navigation using aerial, topographic, and road maps.
- Knowledge or ability to learn regional butterflies, turtles, milkweed species, and natural communities.
- Experience with herpetological and entomological field work is preferred but not required and training will be provided.

Working Conditions/Physical Effort

- Willingness to work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult and hazardous terrain, and under physically demanding circumstances, in isolated settings. Will be working on an active military base.
- Surveys require hiking in and around swift moving streams and turbid water, thick vegetation (briars, thorns, poison ivy) and wetlands with biting insects.
- Willingness to work occasional weekends and/or holidays to access otherwise restricted areas.
- A work vehicle will be provided for field work and other required duties and free housing is available if needed.

Apply by January 15, 2024 for optimal consideration! However, review of applications will take place until positions are filled. Your application should consist of a brief cover letter describing your interest and qualifications for the position, a 1–2-page resume, and contact information for three professional references. Please email your application to Ashley Ballou at ashley.ballou@dec.ny.gov as a single PDF titled "Lastname_FortDrum2024.pdf" with an email subject of "Fort Drum Wildlife Application 2024." As an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer, the Research Foundation will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race, color, religion, sex, national origin and veteran or disability status.