

GOPHER TORTOISE RESEARCH-INTERNSHIP

LDWF Internal Information:

Location: Southeast Louisiana

Position Reference Number: 513-24001 (when filling out your application, enter this number for supplemental question number 8. You may enter more than one position reference number per application)

Background: The Wildlife Diversity Program has several projects that study rare, threatened, and endangered species throughout the state. This project is designed to assess reproductive activity and nesting and predation rates at several sites on LDWF's Sandy Hollow WMA and private industrial timber property for the federally threatened Gopher Tortoise. This effort is to maximize the persistence and recovery of this species and its habitat.

Project Scope: The intern will work full-time. Primary duties will include (1) monitoring Gopher Tortoise mating attempts, nesting activity, and the rate of nest predation at sites with Gopher Tortoise burrow cameras, (2) monitoring and maintaining burrow cameras, (3) cataloging photographs, (4) recording data, (5) entering data into a database, and (6) zoological identification. Potential tracking of adult Gopher Tortoises via radio telemetry techniques may be required. This position requires office work and extensive fieldwork, which may include long, irregular hours. Fieldwork will require travel from the office to field sites (transportation provided) and working in extreme weather (heat/humidity) and around biting insects and other wildlife. Ideal candidates will be able to take detailed notes, be proficient with Microsoft Office, and have some experience working with reptiles. The intern will gain invaluable experience conducting field work on a federally threatened species; working with Department staff and industrial landowners; and with monitoring and survey techniques, zoological identification, and other skills related to herpetology.

Timing: 18 May to 25 August 2023 (flexible beginning and end dates)

Housing: Not provided

Compensation: College credit is contingent upon university approval. Interns may receive \$12 per hour.

Application deadline: March 20, 2024