

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Species At Risk Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer Title

Species At Risk Volunteer

Summary

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is currently offering a unique opportunity for an individual to participate in a well-established research and recovery program for at-risk reptile species in southern Ontario. Under the supervision of UTRCA's Species At Risk Biologist, Scott Gillingwater, the Species At Risk volunteer opportunity will provide theoretical and practical field biology skills, including detailed research and data recording, animal handling, habitat assessment, habitat rehabilitation and creation, as well as provide safety training, canoeing skills, community outreach skills, interpretation of Species At Risk legislation, and opportunities for independent learning, team participation and problem solving.

Proposed Activities

The activities proposed will include the study and recovery of a number of at-risk wildlife species (primarily reptiles), listed both Federally and Provincially, in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These efforts align with peer reviewed recovery strategy goals designed to conserve and recover species based on both landscape level and single species level recovery strategies. The project being proposed by the UTRCA is both well-respected within the local community and the scientific community.

The volunteer will participate in most or all of the following:

- carry out appropriate recovery actions, as identified in current provincial/federal reptile-at-risk recovery strategies/plans;
- conduct scientific research on species at-risk throughout the Thames River watershed and possibly portions of the north shore of Lake Erie, necessary to aid in species recovery;
- collect, compile, enter and organize data;
- learn about species at risk identification and recovery;
- gain knowledge of local natural history;
- learn wildlife capture and handling skills;
- mark, measure, weigh, assess health of a number of at-risk turtle and snake species within the Upper Thames River Watershed and possibly along Lake Erie;
- participate in turtle nest site creation, maintenance and protection;
- participate in turtle egg protection/incubation and hatchling release;
- participate in turtle and snake surveys and monitoring;
- assist in distributing results to appropriate government and non-government groups;
- be eligible to apply for internal job postings with UTRCA;
- receive workplace training

Additional Opportunities That May Also Be Available

- Volunteer may have the opportunity to use and enhance presentation skills by presenting information to individuals and community groups;
- Volunteer may also be able to take part in Fisheries and Benthic Research, which may include benthic studies and electro fishing studies within the Upper Thames River Watershed;
- Participate in other UTRCA conservation activities throughout the watershed

Equipment

Field equipment and personal protective gear will be provided by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Skills/Qualifications

- must be able to get to Fanshawe Conservation Area (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority) each morning (near Huron Street and Clarke Road in the City of London).
- must be in good physical condition for field work
- must be able to work outside, in heat, humidity, rain, and insects
- must be willing to handle wildlife (will be taught wildlife handling skills)
- canoeing/kayaking experience an asset, but will be taught if volunteer has no prior experience
- understanding of, or experience with, local wildlife an asset but not necessary
- education in natural sciences or related program an asset but not necessary

Start Date and Length of Volunteer Opportunity

Start as soon as possible

Length of volunteer opportunity is dependent on the volunteer's availability, though most field survey and recovery activities occur between May and September

Contact Information

Send Resume and Cover Letter To:

Human Resources

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

1424 Clarke Rd. London, Ontario

jobs@thamesriver.on.ca



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

