We are recruiting candidates for an M.S. position starting August 2016 to study gopher tortoises at Eglin Air Force Base on the Florida Panhandle. Stipend during the first academic year will be through a departmental assistantship and duties will include assisting with the departmental vertebrate museum collection as well as serving as a graduate teaching assistant (GTA). Summer stipend will be through a research grant. Candidate must be willing to work collaboratively, including conducting field work as required by a sponsored contract, summarizing data for and writing reports, assisting with proposals, and co-authoring papers, with professional Virginia Tech biologists located in Florida as well as with faculty mentor. Student will have some flexibility in research focus, but at least part of the work may involve analyzing camera-trapping data on tortoise activity patterns and vegetation comparisons between habitat types.

Qualifications: Successful applicants usually have an undergraduate GPA above 3.3 and GREs above 50th percentile. Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries & Wildlife, Ecology, or related field. Field experience with wildlife management and research is desirable. Strong preference for candidates that have work experience post-graduation, ability to identify plants of the southeastern U.S. or demonstrated ability to learn, and those who have published or presented research results.

Anticipated starting date: August 2016

To apply: Applicants should submit a letter of interest and a c.v. (including grade point average and GRE scores) as well as contact information for three references. Review of applicants will begin May 11. Promising candidates will need to submit an official application to the graduate school at Virginia Tech (http://www.grads.vt.edu). Contact information: Dr. Carola A. Haas, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, Mail Code 0321, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, cahaas@vt.edu, 1-540-231-9269. Please put “gopher tortoise grad position” in subject line of emails to Professor Haas.