Conservation Careers

Ignite your passion for nature, wildlife, and the outdoors

Michael Gale, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Presentation Outline

- Conservation Careers
- Trends & Traits
- Getting Hired
  - Experience
  - Networking
  - Narrative
Conservation Careers

- Conservation Scientist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Botanist
- Park Ranger
- Environmental Educator
- Wildlife Law Enforcement
- Landscape Architect
- Organic Farmer / Urban Farmer
- Photographer
- Conservation Policy...

List amended from The Wildlife Society and TenTree blog. Photo credit: Vic Garcia (top), FWS (bottom).
# Conservation Careers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>Duties</th>
<th>#Jobs</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Scientists</td>
<td>Manage conservation land, projects</td>
<td>36,500</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$60,220 / yr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Biologists</td>
<td>Study and work on wildlife issues.</td>
<td>21,300</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$59,680 / yr</td>
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</tbody>
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### Pros
- You can make a difference. Rewarding.
- Involve working outdoors.
- Visit wild and wonderful places.
- Work with others with the same values.

### Cons
- Feel like you can’t make a difference.
- Tolling field work, more time behind a desk that you might want.
- Unlikely to make you rich.

JamesBorrel.com Blog
Trends & Traits

- Growth expected to be average (7% increase) depending on occupation.

- “Hot” Issues

- Sought Characteristics:
  - Technical expertise (e.g., Geographic Information System [GIS], modeling)
  - Work Experience (internships, field work, and/or community service)
  - Communication skills (oral and written)
  - Project and team management
Getting Hired

- Network
- Skills
- Narrative

Serendipity

J - O - B
Getting Hired

- **Skills** (Read: Experience)
  - Community Service
    - Zoos, aquariums, museums, nature centers, public lands, parks, and/or be a *citizen scientist*
  - Internships
  - Conservation Crews
    - The Corps Network - [https://www.corpsnetwork.org/](https://www.corpsnetwork.org/)
    - Student Conservation Association - [http://www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)
Getting Hired

- **Network**
  - More than “who you know.”
  - Informational interviews and job shadows.
  - Gets you on some good listservs.
  - Join societies and organizations:
    - Join the one specific to **your interests**.
Getting Hired

- **Narrative**
  - This is how you’re known within the conservation community - the *story you tell* and the *story that’s heard*.

- **Advice**:
  - Be positive and helpful.
  - “Manage up.”
  - Read, read, read.
  - Remind yourself of the “why”
Getting Hired

**Resources**

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - https://www.fws.gov/workforwildlife/
- Check Idealist.org and other websites.
- Social media (e.g., @naturejobs on Twitter)
- Blog articles, like this one from James Borrell.
FINDING AND APPLYING FOR FEDERAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
Web Resources

- **Career Guides**

- **Go Government** also information about finding and applying for federal jobs and internships.

- **Best Places to work in the Federal Government**

- **USAJobs** [https://www.usajobs.gov/](https://www.usajobs.gov/)
  - Federal Occupations by College Major
  - A - Z List of Federal Agencies
Questions & Contact

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