

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE

What will I do "on the job"?

To give you an idea of what different **entry-level** jobs might entail, here is a sample of actual **job titles and responsibilities** written by our Wildlife and Fisheries Science alumni in response to our department's alumni employment surveys, **one to two years after graduation**.

agriculture and environmental science teacher (Central PA Institute of Science and Technology) – teach high school students about agriculture and environmental science

agriculture conservation technician (Lancaster Co. Conservation District) – work with farmers and landowners on nutrient management, conservation planning, developing and implementing conservation practices, public education

animal keeper (Elmwood Park Zoo) – perform tasks associated with the husbandry and maintenance of native and exotic animals

assistant avian rehabilitator, seasonal (The Raptor Trust) – medicinal treatment of sick or injured birds; clean bird aviaries; educate visitors and volunteers on birds and their habitat

biologist aide, seasonal (PA Game Commission) – black bear capture and handling; radio telemetry

bird trainer (Natural Encounters, Inc.) – animal management and husbandry; animal training and behavior modification; show presentations; train new staff

county park ranger (NJ) – enforce park regulations, interact with public to mediate concerns, lock and unlock parks, make presentations on wildlife

ecologist (Ecotune Environmental Consultants) – wetland delineations, Phase 1 assessment, environmental permitting, mitigation design/monitoring, stream assessments

educator/naturalist (Hawks Aloft) – conduct education programs at schools using permanently injured raptors; conduct field research as needed in the summer

environmental education specialist, seasonal (PA Bureau of State Parks) – create and implement school and public environmental education program; facilitate teacher workshops; maintain trails

environmental health and safety technician (Universal Well Services) – provide health and safety advice to crews on Marcellus and Utica shale pads and enforce OSHA standards

environmental scientist (EMC Engineering Services, Inc.) – wetland delineation, mitigation, and permitting; threatened and endangered species surveys

environmental specialist (GAI Consultants, Inc.) – conduct stream and wetland delineations and permits for clients such as Chesapeake, Williams, EQT, Dominion, etc.

erosion and sedimentation control technician (Crawford Co. Conservation District) – review erosion and sedimentation plans; review and process water obstruction and encroachment permits and ND PES storm water permits; investigate wetland, water obstruction, and earth disturbance complaints

fisheries biologist (PA Fish and Boat Commission) – obtain funding to advance habitat projects for threatened and endangered fish, amphibians, and reptiles; monitor the ecological response of populations through sampling and disseminate findings to the public and other interested parties

fish culturist (PA Fish and Boat Commission) – propagate, care for, and stock trout

harbor seal research technician (Alaska Sea Life Center) – operating remote video system, manage database, summarize data, relate research to public, guide high school student independent projects, capture and handle seals, operate skiffs, assist as field surgical technician

mortality technician (Sanders Environmental, Inc.)- perform searches for bat and bird carcasses under wind turbines

lake habitat manager (PA Fish and Boat Commission) – supervise volunteers and state agency staff in construction of fish habitat enhancement structures, operate specialized habitat enhancement boats, process habitat enhancement plan packages

natural resource technician (Letterkenny Army Depot) – mainly run the hunting program but also wildlife surveys and studies, habitat management, and forestry

outreach and development assistant (Americorps, Willow Bend Environmental Center, AZ) –lead classroom programs and field trips for K – 12 students, write grant reports

preservation compliance coordinator (County of Chester) – monitor farms with agricultural easements; GIS mapping; database management

research technician (Penn State) – research and describe impacts of Marcellus shale development on wildlife resources

water pollution biologist (PA DEP) – inspect underground storage tank facilities and emergency clean-up programs

water pollution biologist (PA DEP) – collect mosquitoes and ticks for the West Nile Virus program

watershed specialist (Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Conservation Districts) – provide technical assistance to watershed groups through grant writing, meeting facilitation, education and outreach, chemical and biological monitoring; maintain communication among groups and other agencies

wildlife biologist aide (PA Game Commission) – assist elk biologist in all aspects of managing Pennsylvania elk herd; use radio telemetry to monitor movements of radio-collared elk, conduct population survey, assist at elk check station

wildlife biologist aide (PA Game Commission) – deer trapping; radio-collaring; locating collared white-tailed deer

wildlife biologist/environmental scientist (Skelly and Loy) – wetland delineations, water quality sampling, threatened and endangered species

wildlife habitat biologist (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) – complete habitat management plans for private landowners and provide technical assistance for getting the work completed

wildlife technician, seasonal (North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.) – manage public lands to benefit wildlife and hunting opportunities; handle wildlife depredation calls and complaints; noxious weed control; public outreach programs

wildlife technician (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) – food plot and habitat management; wildlife surveys; hunter check stations

wildlife technician (USDA APHIS Wildlife Services) – work to alleviate human/wildlife conflicts

zookeeper (Maryland Zoo) – animal husbandry; animal training; some medical care and procedures

View alumni profiles online at <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/majors/wfs/careers>.

Questions? Please contact:

Ellen A. Rom
Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs and Alumni Relations
Penn State, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802
(814) 863-0362; exr2@psu.edu
<http://ecosystems.psu.edu>