



## Wilderness/Conservation Careers

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. (Margaret Mead)*

**Education Required:** B.A./B.S. (minimum), M.S., J.D., Ph.D.

**Possible fields of study (majors):** Biology, Environmental Studies, Journalism, Law

**Important classes:** High school: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, English  
College: *All the above plus*, Ecology, Evolution, Conservation Biology, Genetics, Biogeography, Communication

**Experience:** *Volunteering* is probably the best way to gain experience, meet employers, and make valuable *career connections*.

**Job Market:** There are many jobs where you can utilize the skills you gain by volunteering and by studying diligently in high school, college, and graduate school to make the world a better place. The wilderness/conservation job market is wide open for those who have the right combination of *education and experience*.

### Types of Wilderness/Conservation Careers:

**Nonprofit:** Nonprofit organizations operate from grants and donations from individuals, companies, and government agencies.

#### *Examples of Nonprofits (National or International):*

**Conservation International** ([www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)): To conserve the Earth's living natural heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.

**National Audubon Society** ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)): To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

**National Wildlife Federation** ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)): To educate, inspire, and assist people from diverse cultures to conserve wildlife and other natural resources and to protect the Earth's environment in order to achieve a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future.

**Nature Conservancy** ([www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)): To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

***Examples of Nonprofits (National or International) [continued]:***

**Sierra Club** ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)): To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

**Student Conservation Organization** (<http://www.sca-inc.org>): To build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

**Wildlands Project** ([www.twp.org](http://www.twp.org)): To protect and restore the natural heritage of North America through the establishment of a connected system of wildlands.

**Wilderness Society** ([www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org)): To deliver to future generations an unspoiled legacy of wild places, with all the precious values they hold: Biological diversity; clean air and water; towering forests, rushing rivers, and sage-sweet, silent deserts.

**World Wildlife Fund** ([www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)): To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

**Government:** Government agencies operate from federal/state/city funds that are allocated by elected representatives of the respective government.

***Examples of Government Agencies/Jobs:***

**AmeriCorps** ([www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)): To meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

**National Park Service** ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)): To promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** ([www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)): Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.