



# Wildlife Career Card—Employer #1

## *Federal government agency operating a wildlife refuge*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates wildlife refuges across the country. These areas include lands and waters that are managed to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants. National Wildlife Refuges also provide wildlife-related recreation and education opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, and environmental education.

## 1. Law Enforcement Officer

### **Description:**

Refuge officers enforce wildlife laws and regulations on the wildlife refuge; protect habitat, buildings, and other refuge facilities; and ensure employee and visitor safety.

### **Duties:**

- Participate in patrolling, surveillance, investigations, apprehensions, citations, seizures and arrests, and interactions with federal attorneys and the court system.
- Often work in cooperation with other federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

### **Skills and experience:**

- Knowledge of natural sciences, wildlife management, and criminal justice.
- Good communication skills and computer literacy.
- Valid driver's license and ability to operate a variety of vehicles.
- Ability to pass medical, drug, and physical fitness screening.
- Ability to possess firearms and meet minimum firearms qualification standards.
- Ability to work in an office environment as well as in the field.

### **Education and training:**

- College degree or high school diploma plus one year of specialized work experience. Coursework or major in sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or a related field.
- New Refuge Officers complete 30 weeks of law enforcement training and maintain CPR and First Aid certification.

## 2. Wildlife Biologist

### **Description:**

Design and conduct wildlife research, management, and monitoring programs for fish and wildlife species and their habitat.

### **Duties:**

- Monitor fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife population levels through aerial and ground surveys.
- Design and run habitat restoration or enhancement projects in wetlands, prairies, and waterways.
- Plan and conduct investigations that determine the impact of development projects on fish or wildlife.
- Design management plans for hunting, fishing, and other uses of wildlife.

### **Skills and experience:**

- Comfort with working outdoors.
- Skills in data collection, including with remote sensing equipment such as avian radar systems.
- Adeptness at analyzing data and using analysis to develop strategies for conservation and management.
- Skill with computers and ability to work both in an office environment and in the field.

### **Education and training:**

- Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or another related field.

### **OR**

- A combination of work experience and coursework equivalent to a major in a field related to fish and wildlife biology.
- Some positions require additional work experience or a graduate degree.