

Wildlife Conservation

College of Natural Resources and Environment

Degree Type(s): B.S.

Description

Do you have a passion for working outside, and want to create a more sustainable future? Do you enjoy STEM fields like biology and environmental science, but don't want to be stuck in a lab all day? If so, this major may be the perfect fit for you to combine these passions to help solve some of the biggest environmental challenges facing the animal species of our planet.

This major addresses both the scientific and the human elements of ecosystem management. It covers all manner of terrestrial species and their habitats, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. You will study a broad scope of issues including disease, genetics, human impacts, endangered species, invasive species, and ecosystem management.

Students graduate prepared to take an active role in finding new and better ways to conserve, use, and sustain the world's vital wildlife resources. This is a very research-intensive major, which provides excellent preparation for the many students who will go on to graduate school.

Interesting Fact: According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, over 100 million Americans take part in wildlife related recreation each year, which contributes over \$106 billion to the US economy annually. On a whole, the environment provides \$44 trillion in ecosystem services globally each year.

Sample Careers

- Wildlife Biologist
- Game Warden
- Zookeeper
- Wildlife Refuge Manager
- Animal Researcher
- Urban Wildlife Specialist
- Fishing And Hunting Guide

Potential Employers

- EPA
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US National Park Service
- Environmental Consulting Firms
- Conservation Non-Profits

Curriculum

- Biology & Chemistry
- Calculus & Statistics
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Economics
- Public Policy
- Geographic Info Systems
- Experiential Learning

Skills

Environmental problem solving, oral and written communications, data collection, environmental assessment, sampling, GIS, ecosystem management, spatial data analysis, and genetics research.

Related Majors

- [Animal Science](#)
- [Biological Sciences](#)
- [Biological Systems Engineering](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [Environmental Policy & Planning](#)

Resources: Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation: <http://fishwild.vt.edu/>