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SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
SFI-00001



PROJECT  
LEARNING  
TREE



**MANRRS**

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## GREEN JOB FACT SHEET WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Wildlife biologists study the biology, behavior, and habitats of animal populations in the wild. Their research often takes them into the wilderness, where they conduct wildlife surveys and habitat assessments. They frequently observe animals' roles in a specific ecosystem and perform experiments to learn about animal species, ecosystem interactions, and how humans influence habitats.

### The Big Picture

Wildlife biologists play a crucial role in forestry conservation efforts, as wildlife are a key indicator of healthy forests. They help guide sustainable forest management decisions by:

- **Making observations**, running controlled tests, and analyzing their findings.
- **Consulting** on and implementing measures to improve wildlife habitat.
- **Drafting reports** and presentations for internal and external stakeholders, policymakers, and the public.

### Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$41,720 to \$106,320 per year and average about \$66,350.

### Where Can You GROW?

A career as a wildlife biologist can include a job as an **ecologist, conservation biologist, fisheries technician, or zoologist**. Some possible employers:

- Federal or state government agencies
- Zoos or environmental research facilities
- Private consulting firms
- Colleges and universities

### Moving Forward

Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a **wildlife biologist**. You'll need a four-year college or even a graduate degree.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, math (especially calculus), English, and chemistry.
- **COLLEGE:** Earn a bachelor's degree in the applied and natural sciences, such as wildlife biology, ecology, or zoology. While the minimum education requirement is a bachelor's degree, many wildlife biologists have a master's degree or a PhD.

For more about green jobs, visit [www.plt.org/workingforforests](http://www.plt.org/workingforforests)

### IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU LOVE **ANIMALS**? ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT STUDYING **HABITATS** AND WORKING OUTSIDE TO HELP THEM?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Wildlife biologists spend lots of time in the field outdoors, often in remote areas without physical comforts. To succeed in this job, you also need to have strong research and analytical abilities, reading comprehension, critical thinking, science, active listening, speaking, writing, and excellent communication skills to write reports, submit recommendations, and make presentations to industry and government.