Federal and state agencies that manage natural resources offer most employment opportunities in fish, wildlife, and conservation biology. These agencies include federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Geological Survey, National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Marine Fisheries Service; state departments of wildlife and natural resources. Non-governmental organizations, e.g., The Nature Conservancy, as well as private companies and environmental consultants also offer excellent opportunities.

Participation in internships, volunteer activities, or cooperative education opportunities is highly recommended to enhance practical training and development. Undergraduates who go on for graduate-level studies can attain more advanced positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels, including as researchers and teachers in academic institutions.

Our degree is also excellent preparation for veterinary school. Examples of career opportunities include, but are not limited to: fishery/wildlife/conservation biologist, ecologist, or natural resource manager; environmental consultant; research scientist; and educator. Within these areas, a variety of specializations are possible including fish, wildlife, and conservation education and interpretation, habitat enhancement and restoration, administration, research, law enforcement, sampling of biological populations, statistical analyses, and resolution of human-wildlife issues.

For more info: The Career Center career.colostate.edu
Career Center Liaison for the Warner College of Natural Resources warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/

Conduct informational interviews to see what people are doing. Let the Career Center assist you.

Contact the Career Center at 491-5707 to schedule an appointment with your Career Counselor, Barbara Richardson.

Actual Job Titles of Graduates
- Aquaculturist
- Assistant Refuge Manager
- Biological Science Technician
- Conservation Officer
- Crew Leader
- District Wildlife Manager
- Environmental Educator
- Fish Hatchery Manager
- Fisheries Technician
- Habitat Management Specialist
- Interpretive Ranger
- Laboratory Technician
- Park Ranger
- Stewardship Assistant
- Telemetry Technician
- Wildlife Consultant
- Wildlife Technician

Actual Employers of Graduates
- Aquatic Biosystems
- Bureau of Land Management
- Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Mosquito Control
- Colorado State Parks
- Golden Gate Raptor Program
- National Research Ecology Lab
- National Wildlife Research Center
- Peace Corps
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- Wyoming Dept of Game and Fish
In the Fall of 2008, WCNR surveyed alumni from 1987—2007 to find out where they are now. Of those who responded to the survey, here are some highlights.

**5 Years Out Highlights:**
- 98% employed or not seeking employment
- 65% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 26% employed in different field by choice
- 77% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 77% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $48,300

**10 Years Out Highlights:**
- 100% employed
- 67% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 26% employed in different field by choice
- 90% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 90% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $52,400

**20 Years Out Highlights:**
- 100% employed or not seeking employment
- 80% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 9% employed in different field by choice
- 86% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 88% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $66,500

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**Check out these websites:**
- The Career Center: www.career.colostate.edu
- WCNR Career Page: warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/
- Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates: www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
- The Ecological Society of America: www.esa.org/careers_certification/employment.php
- Texas A & M Wildlife & Fisheries Job Board: wfsc.tamu.edu/jobboard/
- American Zoos and Aquariums: www.aza.org/JobListings/
- The Wildlife Society: careers.wildlife.org
- Links to State Fish & Wildlife Agencies: fw.ky.gov/statelink.asp
- Society for Conservation Biology: www.conbio.org/jobs/
Participating in seasonal and voluntary work, internships, and cooperative education opportunities will enhance your chances for permanent full-time employment. Pre-graduation experience gives students a taste of what a career in fish, wildlife and conservation would be like and an edge in applying for jobs and graduate schools. But the edge isn’t what it used to be—many employers and graduate schools have come to expect it.

Additionally, while four weeks at Pingree Park is great base of field skills, having work experience that demonstrates you can deal with the realities of field work—varying weather conditions, rustic living conditions, hiking long miles over rough terrain, and operating a variety of vehicles or heavy equipment—is important. Many undergraduates will do field research or internships for college credit or volunteer with a professor or graduate student to gain experience.

The best way to find a relevant position on campus is to network with your professors—don’t send a mass email to all faculty members. Read about the work they are doing and contact those that interest you. You may need a little persistence and patience to get a position. Exploring a career through an internship, volunteer or summer field experience as an undergraduate will help you decide if fish, wildlife and conservation biology is right for you.

The career opportunities on the first page are what you might expect from your first job. However, as you gain more experience and/or education, there are a number of other opportunities that may open up to you.

For example, as you progress in your career, you may move from “Biological Science Technician” to a “Wildlife Biologist”. Perhaps you may become a “specialist” or a “manager.” Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

Aquatic Biologist  
Assistant State Director—Wildlife Biology  
Education Director  
Environmental Attorney  
Environmental Engineer  
Environmental Field Coordinator  

Environmental Specialist  
Fisheries Biologist  
Habitat Manager  
Law Enforcement Ranger  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Park Biologist  

Project Manager  
Senior Scientist  
Wildlife Biologist  
Wildlife Conservation Biologist  
Wildlife Refuge Manager  
Veterinarian

10 Things employers want
1. Communication Skills  
2. Honesty/Integrity  
3. Teamwork Skills  
4. Interpersonal Skills  
5. Motivation/Initiative  
6. Strong Work Ethic  
7. Analytical Skills  
8. Flexibility/Adaptability  
9. Computer Skills  
10. Organizational Skills
Graduate School Checklist:

- Determine which degree will be most beneficial to you in your career growth, M.S., Ph.D., J.D.
- Develop a list of schools that offer programs in areas that interest you; warnercnr.colostate.edu/apply-to-graduate-school/
- Obtain information about the research professors are conducting at the schools.
- Gather information about the programs and rate them.
- Gain experience in the field you want to pursue in graduate school.
- Ensure that you have met all undergraduate prerequisites for the graduate school program(s) you apply for.
- Develop a plan to pay for graduate school.

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