

Conservationist

Description

Conservationists work with private landowners and federal, state and local governments to manage, improve and protect the planet's natural resources. This career involves advising and consulting with farmers as to the best practices for improving their land and productivity without damaging the environment. Conservationists research and study conservation management practices to provide sustained production of forage, livestock and wildlife.

Education/Training Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in biology, crop science, soil science, natural resources, or a related field (required)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Biology
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Natural Resources

Common Responsibilities

- Research or study conservation management practices
- Develop technical standards and specifications used to manage, protect and improve the natural resources of conservation
- Maintain soil stability and vegetation for nongrazing uses, such as wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation
- Manage forage resources through fire, herbicide use or revegetation to maintain a sustainable yield from the land
- Plan and direct construction and maintenance of conservation improvements such as water shed research and soil-erosion control structures
- Study forage plants and their growth requirements to determine varieties best suited to particular area
- Offer advice regarding water management, forage production methods and control of brush

Typical Employers

Conservationists can be employed by research firms, colleges or universities and governmental, environmental or conservation organizations.

Additional Resources

[Association of Consulting Foresters](#)
[National Association of State Foresters](#)
[Pennsylvania Forestry Association](#)
[Society of American Foresters](#)