



Wildlife Conservation Option

in the Environmental Science and Terrestrial Resource Management major

<http://www.sefs.uw.edu/academicPrograms/undergrad/esrm/WildlifeOption.pdf>

Wildlife Conservation is the science and art of managing animal populations and their related resources. This option offers coursework in wildlife ecology, quantitative science, and the social and political aspects of wildlife conservation issues.

Students can expect hands-on field experiences including how to identify, capture, and handle animals; and how to assess, map, and plan wildlife habitats. Instruction on writing technical reports and scientific papers, and presentation of findings and implementation of wildlife conservation plans will be covered.

Required Option Courses (36 credits)

ESRM 350 (5) Wildlife Biology and Conservation
ESRM 351 (5) Wildlife Research Techniques
ESRM 441 (5) Landscape Ecology
ESRM 450 (5) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
ESRM 451 (3) Analytical Methods in Wildlife Science
ESRM 458 (5) Management of Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species
QSCI 482 (5) Statistical Inference in Applied Research I
One of: ESRM 452 (3) Field Ornithology
ESRM 453 (3) Ecology and Biology of Mammals
ESRM 459 (3) Wildlife Conservation in NW Ecosystems

Relevant General Elective Courses (examples)

BIOL 356 (3) Foundations in Ecology
BIOL 409 (5) Sociobiology
BIOL 443 (5) Evolution of Mammals and their Ancestors
BIOL 452 (5) Vertebrate Biology
BIOL 472 (5) Community Ecology
BIOL 476 (5) Conservation Biology
ESRM 400 (3) Natural Resources Conflict Management
ESRM 425 (5) Ecosystem Management
ESRM 452 (3) Field Ornithology
ESRM 456 (3) Biology and Conservation of Birds
ESRM 459 (3) Wildlife Conservation in NW Ecosystems
ESRM 457/FISH 455 (3/5) Fish and Wildlife Toxicology
FISH 475 (3/5) Marine Mammalogy
¹QSCI 483 (5) Statistical Inference in Applied Research II
¹QSci 480 (3) Sampling Theory for Biologists
¹QSci 486 (3) Experimental Design
¹FISH 557 (4) Estimation of Population Parameters

¹A minor in Quantitative Science is recommended for graduate study; see <http://depts.washington.edu/cqs/> for details about the minor.

Recommended Capstone Experience

To fulfill the 10 credit major capstone requirement, students are strongly encouraged to select the Proposal (ESRM 494), then either the Senior Thesis (ESRM 496) or Senior Project (ESRM 495). Capstone requirements include a project proposal, data collection or project implementation, analysis of data/project, final written report of findings/project, and an oral presentation. The award-winning Restoration Ecology Capstone through UW-REN (ESRM 462-464) is also available as a capstone option.

Career Opportunities and Graduate Study

With the bachelor's degree and relevant experience, career opportunities include working as entry-level wildlife managers, naturalists in national or state parks, or as field biologists for agencies and environmental consulting firms. *Most professional positions in the wildlife field require a graduate degree and this option offers strong preparation for subsequent graduate work.* Public agencies, such as the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hire wildlife professionals as do private sector environmental consulting firms, forest industry, and conservation organizations. The option also is an appropriate choice for students interested in subsequent professional degrees in public policy or environmental law.

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