



NATURAL  
RESOURCES

# Conservationist

Conservationists work with private landowners as well as 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.



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE



Inspiring Minds to Grow

Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity





# career profile

Name: Susan Lithgow  
Job Title: Conservationist


Employer: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

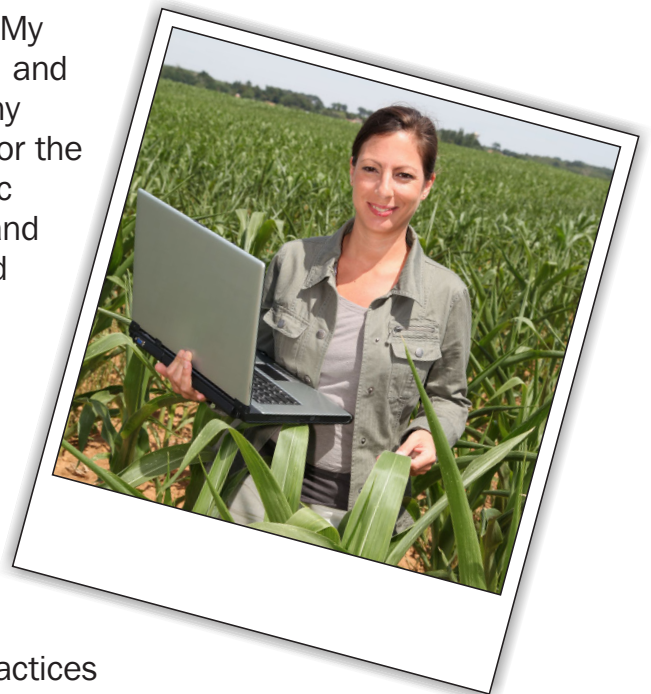
Education: BS, University of Minnesota: Crookston

 Let me begin by saying I love the outdoors. My family and I participate in fishing, hunting, skiing, and camping. There is no question in my mind that my childhood led to my career as a conservationist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As far as academic preparation for my job, I took natural resources and environmental science classes in high school and studied agricultural environmental stewardship in college.

 Now, I advise farmers and landowners on the best practices for improving their land and productivity without damaging the environment. In doing so, I must draw from my knowledge of soils, wildlife, forestry, water, and other resources. I strive to identify appropriate

conservation practices that will ensure sustainability of resources. Examples of my work include soil erosion control strategies, wildlife habitat restoration, prescribed burns, watershed management, and improvements for outdoor recreation activities. I measure and assess vegetation, prepare environmental impact statements, and monitor conservation programs. I plan and direct construction and maintenance of conservation improvements. The use of technology has become increasingly important for my job. Nearly every day I use high-tech equipment for monitoring, measuring, and navigation purposes.

 This job is tailor-made for me. I like that my work takes me outside for much of the time. I also find that I'm faced with a variety of problems that keep me challenged.



# Conservationist

## overview



A **conservationist** works with private landowners and federal, state, and local governments to manage, improve, and protect the planet's natural resources.

## suggested high school courses



natural resources, environmental science, chemistry, biology, botany, and mathematics

## experience needed



Seek job placement opportunities while attending school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

## degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree in natural resources, crop science, soil science, biology, or a related field, such as forestry, plant physiology, or environmental science is required.

## potential employers



colleges or universities, conservation organizations, environmental organizations, governmental agencies, research firms

## salary range



\$53,473 to \$86,910

## employment outlook and trends



Growth in employment for conservationists is expected to be about **average**.

## professional organizations



World Association of Soil and Water Conservation [www.waswc.org/](http://www.waswc.org/)

American Society of Agronomy [www.agronomy.org/](http://www.agronomy.org/)



## Want to Learn More?

[www.agcareers.com](http://www.agcareers.com)

[www.illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/industry/en/Home](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/industry/en/Home)

[www.mycaert.com/career-profiles](http://www.mycaert.com/career-profiles)

[www.ffa.org/documents/prof\\_handbook\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook_introduction.pdf)

[www.forestrycareers.org/](http://www.forestrycareers.org/)

[www.ffa.org/AppCtr/Pages/CareerExplorer.aspx](http://www.ffa.org/AppCtr/Pages/CareerExplorer.aspx)