



Environmental Scientist & Specialist

Environmental Scientist and Specialists direct and support land and nutrient management operations to comply with company programs and regulatory requirements.



Inspiring Minds to Grow

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career profile

Name: Elizabeth Jones
Job Title: Environmental
Scientist and Specialist

Employer: The Nature Conservancy

Education: MS, University of Idaho: Moscow

 I am employed as an environmental scientist for The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit organization. I think my academic preparation is pretty typical for people in my field. I took natural resources and environmental science classes in high school. They were definitely my most interesting classes. Since I found interest in the subject, I decided to study environmental science in college. I ended up going to grad school where I became more involved in laboratory work. I also obtained a teaching assistantship that helped me improve my communication skills.

 In my current position, I work with a team of individuals to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. I study the effects of different contaminants on water quality and the harmful effects they have on ecosystems and humans. The bulk of my work involves field research and laboratory work. I monitor water quality and analyze scientific data to determine the extent of pollution. I document my research and write technical reports. As a follow-up to the reports, I seek solutions to pollution problems. I develop plans to reclaim contaminated land and water. I'm often called upon to write articles and give presentations in support of our work.



 I consider myself a friend of the environment. Even if I have only a small impact, I know I am contributing to a better environment.

Environmental Scientist and Specialist

overview



An **environmental scientist and specialist** identifies problems and finds solutions that minimize hazards to the health of the environment and the population.

suggested high school courses



[environmental science](#), chemistry, earth science, biology, natural resources, computer science, and mathematics

experience needed



Participate on campus in labs and research trials when possible. Seek an internship while in school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree is sufficient for most jobs, although a master's degree is often preferred. A PhD is usually necessary for university positions or research.

potential employers



environmental organizations, governmental agencies, research firms, universities

salary range



\$45,340 to \$102,610

employment outlook and trends



The future job market for environmental scientists and specialists is **high**.

professional organizations



National Association of Environmental Professionals www.naep.org

Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences www.aess.info/



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