



# Careers in the Wildlife DIVISION

The Wildlife Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department consists of four programs: Big Game, Small Game, Private Lands and Public Hunting, and Wildlife Diversity. Each is led by a program director and four field-based regions, each led by a regional director. Regions are divided into two districts consisting of a district leader and a team of wildlife biologists who conduct biological surveys and provide assistance to private landowners. In addition, wildlife management area (WMA) project leaders and their staff of wildlife biologists and wildlife technicians operate and manage 50 WMAs totaling more than 748,000 acres. The activities of these professionals are vital as expanding urbanization and population growth put unparalleled pressures on Texas' natural and cultural resources.



## Division Activities

- Coordinate and conduct wildlife research
- Inventory and monitor wildlife species
- Evaluate habitat
- Recommend hunting seasons and bag limits for game species
- Provide technical assistance to private landowners
- Foster conservation of nongame and rare resources
- habitat improvement
- Support land acquisition and management
- Restore wildlife

Additionally, the Wildlife Division utilizes wildlife management areas (WMAs) as sites to conduct wildlife research, field tours, seminars, and habitat management demonstrations. Public access is provided to these lands for other appropriate uses such as hunting, fishing, nature study, camping and hiking.

All job vacancies are listed online at [tpwd.texas.gov/jobs](http://tpwd.texas.gov/jobs)

Applications are accepted only for current vacancies.



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## Work Environment

Division staff are located statewide, with most assigned to the regional offices in Tyler, Rockport, Brownwood, and Alpine. Field staff may office in local communities or from their home. Field biologists and technicians spend much of their time away from the office conducting habitat management assessments, assisting landowners with habitat management, gathering data, and maintaining properties managed by the division. Staff typically work a 40-hour week, but the schedules are not necessarily 8 to 5 or Monday through Friday, and take place regardless of weather conditions. Field work does require some time in the office to analyze information collected.



## Preparing for a Career in Wildlife Management and Conservation

Spend time outdoors observing wildlife and the natural world. Contact a wildlife biologist and discuss the pros and cons of a wildlife-related job. Enroll in high school courses that relate to biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, English and communications. Visit a college or university that offers degrees in Wildlife Management or Conservation Biology. Talk with professors and students in those programs to learn about educational needs and programs that might suit you best.

# CAREER CHOICES, EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

### FISH AND WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN (WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN)

Wildlife technicians perform skilled field and maintenance work in the development of wildlife resources including repairs and maintenance activities involving power tools, lawn equipment, farm machinery and heavy equipment. They also perform technical functions including surveys, data collection and records maintenance.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduation from high school or GED.
- 0-2 years relevant experience depending on classification. Relevant experience includes knowledge in farming, ranching, construction, plumbing, welding, electricity and vehicle maintenance.

### NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST)

- Design and conduct studies on wildlife resources
- Manage wildlife in a specified region

- May work with big game, small game, nongame, and/or urban wildlife
- Conduct surveys of wildlife species and their habitats,
- Formulate recommendations for hunting seasons and bag limits,
- Analyze data and prepare reports
- Act as professional witnesses during public hearings
- Assist landowners with the conservation, management and development of wildlife habitat
- Assist landowners with the proper management of the various wildlife populations
- Directly manage wildlife habitat and conduct research and public hunts on 50 wildlife management areas across the state

An extensive knowledge of wildlife ecology and basic statistics is essential. Familiarity with wildlife literature and proficiency in the use of computer software for word processing and data analysis are necessary. Good communication skills and an ability to work with diverse groups are required.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree, preferably in Wildlife Science, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Ecology, Range and Wildlife Management, or closely related field in Natural Resources Management. Major coursework from Bachelor's or post-Bachelor's degree programs must include a minimum of 24 hours in Wildlife/Habitat Conservation, Wildlife/Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Biology, and/or Research Methods.
- Current Associate Wildlife Biologist certification or current Certified Wildlife Biologist certification issued by the Wildlife Society may substitute for the required minimum of 24 hours coursework in the above-listed subjects.
- 0-6 years relevant experience depending on classification.

#### PROGRAM SPECIALIST

- Coordinate program activities within the agency and between other state or federal agencies
- Are trained in a specific discipline such as wetlands, migratory birds, upland game birds, white-tailed deer, mule deer, bighorn sheep, cultural resources, conservation biology, ecology, and/or data management
- Conduct field work
- Coordinate research
- Provide support for other field staff in their particular areas of expertise.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- In general, these positions require a degree in Wildlife Science, Wildlife Management or a closely related field but vary widely based on program needs.
- Experience requirements vary by position.