



A Career In Conservation

Conservation careers require an interest in the outdoors and nature. Most employees truly enjoy what they do because they are contributing something worthwhile to society and are involved with projects that help shape the future of our natural resources.

Conservation careers can be challenging and satisfying, but can also be very demanding. Work schedules can be irregular and require long hours, and high levels of physical activity. While working outdoors is common, some office work is also required. Excellent communication skills are needed because of frequent contact with the public.

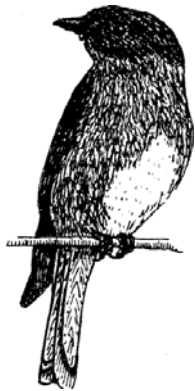
Salaried professional conservation positions require specialized degrees in fields such as Fisheries Management, Forestry Management, or Natural Resource Management. These positions require a bachelor's degree, and some require a master's degree.

Conservation positions are available with government agencies at the county, state, and federal level; and also with private organizations. Competition for these positions is usually quite keen. Employers seek candidates that have acquired a variety of experience working seasonal conservation jobs in addition to earning their degree.

Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board

County conservation boards are local natural resource management agencies whose responsibilities are to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources and to provide adequate programs of public recreation.

The Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board (CGCCB) maintains nine conservation positions. They are summarized below as a representative sample of the wide variety of positions available in the field. The executive director and manager positions require previous professional work experience in addition to a degree. The biologist positions are entry-level and require less practical experience.



Executive Director: hires and supervises the CGCCB staff, manages the CGCCB budget, and advises the conservation board and administers their policies.

Natural Resource Manager - Parks: maintains county parks and campgrounds, provides quality habitat for wildlife within parks, and provides environmental recreation opportunities. Supervises **Natural Resource Biologist - Wildlife & Parks**, and seasonal park workers.

Natural Resource Manager - Roadsides: uses integrated roadside vegetation management techniques to control weeds and brush and plant native prairie grasses and flowers in county roadsides. Supervises **two Natural Resource Biologists - Roadsides**, and seasonal workers.

Natural Resource Manager - Wildlife: manages habitat on county wildlife areas and maintains them for public use; provides technical assistance on habitat plantings for private landowners. Supervises **Natural Resource Biologist - Wildlife & Parks**, and seasonal workers.

Natural Resource Manager - Environmental Education: provides educational programs for county citizens of all ages, maintains displays in Lime Creek Nature Center, and provides public relations and promotion of outdoor recreation for the CGCCB. Supervises temporary naturalist interns and nature center volunteers.

Natural Resource Manager - Administrative: assists citizens and provides information, assists the Executive Director with financial and administrative tasks.

Natural Resource Biologist - Wildlife & Parks: works under the direct supervision of the Natural Resource Managers for parks and wildlife, providing assistance with management objectives.

Natural Resource Biologist - Roadsides (two positions): works under the direct supervision of the Natural Resource Manager - Roadsides, providing assistance with management objectives.

Tips for Success!

- Take science/ecology classes in high school.
- Get work experience by working or volunteering for conservation jobs whenever possible.
- Work hard, be dependable, and have a positive attitude – your employers are your references!
- Work on public speaking skills.

