

CONSERVATIONIST

A Conservationist is responsible for improving, protecting, and managing earth's natural resources. To do so, they work closely with private landowners, federal, state, and local governments. Conservationists also frequently meet with farmers to consult them on the best practices for their land and how to increase their productivity while keeping the environment safe.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Research or study conservation management practices to provide sustained production of forage, livestock, and wildlife
- Develop technical standards and specifications used to manage, protect and improve the natural resources of conservation
- Maintain soil stability and vegetation for non-grazing uses, such as wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation
- Manage forage resources through fire, herbicide use, or re-vegetation to maintain a sustainable yield from the land
- Plan and direct construction and maintenance of conservation improvements such as water shed research and soil-erosion control structures
- Study forage plants and their growth requirements to determine varieties best suited to particular area
- Utilization of equipment for monitoring conservation structure and navigation
- Develop new and improved instruments and techniques for activities such as reseeding
- Measure and assess vegetation resources for biological assessment companies, environmental impact statements, and conservation monitoring programs
- Offer advice regarding water management, forage production methods and control of brush



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

Bachelor's or advanced degree in natural resources; crop, soil or environmental science; biology; horticulture; plant physiology

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, earth science, chemistry, biology, botany (plant science), mathematics

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Research firms, governmental organizations, environmental organizations or conservation organizations, and colleges or universities

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Society for Range Management
- World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
- Soil Science Society of America

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$53,000