

# Do You Have What It Takes To Protect America's Natural Resources?

## To become an FWO you must Successfully:

- Apply through USAJobs.gov or other hiring programs (1801 Job Series)
- Complete a comprehensive screening process
- Complete an arduous 17-week course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA
- Complete three weeks of advanced officer training at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV
- Complete 10 weeks of field training and evaluation
- Complete a one-year probation period

## Benefits:

- Higher paying, law enforcement pay-scale, starting at GL-05 (\$33,829) with a non-competitive promotion increase to GL-09 (\$61,031)
- Opportunities to work in locations all across the U.S. including Pacific & U.S. Virgin Islands
- Low-cost health and life insurance, annual and sick leave, paid Federal holidays
- Opportunities for advancement: Supervisory Federal Wildlife Officer, Zone Officer, Regional Chief, Branch Chief, and Division Chief
- Specialized positions as Academy Instructor, Federal Wildlife Canine Handler, Special Operations, Diver, or Pilot
- Potential advancement from GL-05 to GS-15



*Horse patrol*



*Assisting visitors*



*Checking bag limits.*



*Honor Guard*



*Conducting a compliance check*



**For more information:**  
[www.fws.gov/refuges/lawenforcement](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/lawenforcement)

**1/800-344 WILD (9453)**

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*All photos: USFWS*

# Federal Wildlife Officer

*Protection, Conservation, and Service*

*...Since 1903*



## National Wildlife Refuge System(NWRS)

### Law Enforcement

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement program is: "Through Education and enforcement we protect our employees, volunteers, and visitors; safeguard the public's investment in facilities and equipment; and protect the integrity of the habitat and the wildlife resources of the National trust resource which is the 150 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System."



### What is a Federal Wildlife Officer (FWO)?

Federal Wildlife Officers are Land Management Law Enforcement Officers whose priority enforcement activities are focused on NWRS lands. They are charged with duties related to the mission and objectives of the Refuge System.



*Patrolling the shoreline of a refuge*

### Federal Wildlife Officers:

- Perform the full range of law enforcement duties, including patrols, surveillance, investigations, apprehensions, participation in raids, detentions, seizures and arrests, and interaction with the judicial system.
- Regularly conduct enforcement operations off of refuge lands and must coordinate their activities with other Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction within or adjacent to NWRS lands.
- Have cooperative work relationships with other law enforcement agencies.
- Provide an immediately accessible point of public contact to aid and educate visitors about NWRS lands, programs, and resources. For



*Talking with visitors*

some refuge visitors FWO's are often the only Service employee they contact, and the public relies on them to provide a visible and vigilant deterrent to crime.



*Checking fishing licenses*

### Where do Federal Wildlife Officers work?

Officers may work in any one of the nine Refuge System regions in the U.S., which includes over 550 refuges and 38 wetland management areas that make up the NWRS. Wildlife refuges are found in every one of the 50 states and over a dozen U.S. territories. The terrain ranges from beaches and deserts, to mountains and plains.

