



# Basic Qualification Requirements

## for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Careers

*Please note that this list is not inclusive of all Service career qualification requirements. For more detailed information, please visit the Office of Personnel Management's website at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.asp>*

### **FISH & WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (401)**

Positions that involve professional work in biology, agriculture, or related natural resource management.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree, which includes a major field (24 semester hours) of study in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to this position or an appropriate combination in education and experience.

### **WILDLIFE REFUGE MANAGEMENT (485)**

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the management, administration, and scientific operation of public lands and waters designated as national wildlife refuges. The work involves a variety of land and water-based activities including: water and habitat management; land planning; resources identification and allocation; administration; public relations; supervision; and other activities involving wildlife resource utilization, protection, inventory, and evaluation, and maintenance of grasslands, marshes and soils.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree or higher in zoology, wildlife management or an appropriate field of biology which includes at least nine semester hours in zoology; six semester hours in such wildlife courses as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, or wildlife management; and three semester hours in botany, and three semester hours of conservation biology or an appropriate combination of education and experience.

### **FISHERY BIOLOGIST (482)**

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the science of fishery biology to perform work including: developing, conserving, managing, and administering fishery resources; and evaluating the impact of construction projects and other socioeconomic activities that present potential or actual adverse effects on fishery resources and their habitat.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree with a major in biological science which includes at least six semester hours in aquatic subjects such as limnology, ichthyology, fishery biology, aquatic botany, aquatic fauna, oceanography, fish culture, or related courses in the field of fishery biology; 12 semester hours in animal science in such subjects as general zoology, vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, entomology, parasitology, ecology, cellular biology, and genetics, or research in these fields. Excess coursework in aquatic subjects may be used to meet this requirement when appropriate or an appropriate combination of education and experience.

### **WILDLIFE INSPECTOR (1801)**

Positions are located in the Office of Senior Resident Agent at Ports of Entry. Positions perform the full range of inspection and compliance duties involving the enforcement and administration of laws and regulations governing the importation, exportation, and interstate commerce of wildlife and wildlife products.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Successful completion of a full four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree or three years general experience, one of which demonstrates an ability

to analyze problems, plan and organize work, and communicate effectively orally and in writing.

### **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR (1811)**

Positions focus on potentially devastating threats to wildlife resources including illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. Incumbents investigate wildlife crimes, regulate wildlife trade, help Americans understand and comply with wildlife protection laws, and team with international, Federal, State, and tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources. Specific examples of work include: Breaking up international and domestic smuggling rings that target imperiled species; preventing the unlawful commercial exploitation of U.S. resources; protecting wildlife from environmental hazards and safeguarding wildlife habitat; enforcing Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations and working with States to protect other game species; and preserving legitimate hunting opportunities. Incumbents also work with international counterparts to combat illegal trafficking in protected species; train other Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers; use forensic science to analyze evidence and solve wildlife crimes; and conduct outreach to increase compliance with wildlife protection laws.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

Successful completion of a master's or equivalent graduate degree or 2 full years of progressively higher-level graduate education leading to a degree that demonstrates the knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position or one year of specialized experience. Examples of specialized experience include: conducting routine investigations for developmental purposes, or as part of a team or task force; serving subpoenas; participating in the execution of search warrants; seizing evidence; conducting interviews and/or interrogations; taking affidavits from suspects and witnesses; conducting routine surveillance; testifying in court as a witness to events or to explain basic procedures; preparing reports of routine investigations; and assisting in arrests.

### **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (486)**

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the science of wildlife biology to perform work involving: the conservation, propagation, management, protection,

and administration of wildlife species; or the determination, establishment, and application of biological facts, principles, methods, techniques, and procedures necessary for the conservation and management of wildlife resources and habitats.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree in biological science which includes at least 12 semester hours in subjects such as general zoology, invertebrate or vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, genetics, ecology, cellular biology, parasitology, entomology, or research courses in such subjects. Excess coursework in wildlife biology may be used to meet the zoology requirements where appropriate. Additionally, the position requires nine semester hours in wildlife courses such as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, and wildlife management or research courses in the field of wildlife biology; and nine semester hours in botany or the related plant disciplines, or an appropriate combination of education and experience.

### **OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER (023)**

Positions whose primary concerns are planning; advising; and coordinating the use of land, water, and related resources to provide opportunities for the creative use of leisure time outdoors, with due regard to protecting and enhancing the quality of the outdoor environment for the enjoyment of people. The work requires applied knowledge of the practices of natural resource conservation involved in developing and coordinating programs to provide recreational resources and the techniques of area planning.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Successful completion of a full four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree. Major areas of study include outdoor recreation planning or a related field such as sociology, forestry, landscape architecture, economics, biological sciences, natural resource management and conservation, civil engineering, urban planning, or recreation. Applicants who qualify on the basis of graduate work in related disciplines must have one or more courses in outdoor recreation or three years general experience, one of which demonstrates the ability to analyze problems, plan and organize work, and communicate effectively orally and in writing. This general experience

must also provide knowledge of the requirements and practices of outdoor recreation, planning, or natural resource utilization and conservation.

### **PARK RANGER (025)**

Positions that require knowledge of the principles and techniques of biology, forestry, conservation, environment, and natural resource management, in order to effectively convey biological subject matter to the public. Positions with law enforcement duties also require knowledge of applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulation governing the use of refuge lands, facilities, and resources to determine violations.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Successful completion of a full four-year course of study with 24 semester hours of related course work in the field of natural resource management, natural sciences, earth sciences, history, archeology, anthropology, park and recreation management, law enforcement/police science, social sciences, museum science, business administration, public administration, behavioral sciences, sociology or other closely related subjects pertinent to the management and protection of natural and cultural resources or one year of specialized experience that demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties. Experience may have been gained as a park guide or tour leader, in law enforcement or investigative work, in archeological or historical preservation work, in forestry or fire management work, or in work involving developing and implementing policy related to protection conservation, or management of park areas or similar operations.

### **REALITY SPECIALIST (1170)**

Negotiates agreements with private landowners or government agencies for the purchase, lease, transfer, or exchange of lands needed for the establishment or operation of the physical installations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Successful completion of a full four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree or three years of general experience, one of which demonstrates the ability to analyze problems, plan and organize work, and communicate effectively orally and in writing.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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