



## Environmental Studies

### An Overview

Environmental scientists conduct research to identify and abate or eliminate sources of pollutants that affect people, wildlife, and their environments. These workers analyze and report measurements and observations of air, water, soil, and other sources and make recommendations on how best to clean and preserve the environment. Understanding the issues involved in protecting the environment—degradation, conservation, recycling, and replenishment—is central to the work of environmental scientists, who often use their skills and knowledge to design and monitor waste disposal sites, preserve water supplies, and reclaim contaminated land and water to comply with federal environmental regulations. Many environmental scientists do work and have training that is similar to other physical or life scientists, but is applied to environmental areas. Many specialize in some specific area, such as environmental ecology and conservation, environmental chemistry, environmental biology, or fisheries science.

### Job Opportunities

Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Wildlife Ranger  
Fishery and Wildlife Management  
Land and Water Conservation  
Environmental Education  
Environmental Communications  
Water Quality Management  
Air Quality Engineers/Inspectors

Scientists  
Solid Waste Management  
Recycling Coordinator  
University Instruction  
Government Research  
Project Planning  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Public Policy and Planning

### Job Outlook

Overall employment of geoscientists is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through 2012. As the population increases and moves to more environmentally sensitive locations, environmental scientists and hydrologists will be needed to assess building sites for potential geologic hazards, to mitigate the effects of natural hazards such as floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes, and to address issues related to pollution control and waste disposal. Hydrologists and environmental scientists also will be needed to conduct research on hazardous-waste sites in order to determine the impact of hazardous pollutants on soil and ground water so that engineers can design remediation systems. Demand is growing for environmental scientists who understand both the science and engineering aspects of waste remediation.

### Wages and Salaries

According to May 2010 Bureau of Labor Statistics, median annual earnings of environmental scientists were \$65,280. Salaries for related occupations are as follows:

Environmental Protection Officer	\$61,010
Fish and Game Warden	\$48,800
Conservation Scientist	\$60,160
Forestry Management	\$53,840
Wildlife Biologist	\$56,500
Park Naturalist	\$60,160

### Additional Resources

Cyber-Sierra Natural Resources Job Search - <http://www.cyber-sierra.com/nrjobs/read.html>  
Desert Research Institute (DRI) Job Announcements - <http://jobs.dri.edu/>  
The Ecological Society of America - <http://www.esa.org/>  
EnviroLink - <http://envirolink.org>

Environment Web Directory - <http://www.webdirectory.com/employment/>  
Environmental Career Center - <http://www.environmentalcareer.com/>  
Environmental Career Opportunities - <http://www.ecojobs.com/>  
Environmental Careers Resource Guide - <http://www.epa.gov/students/careers.html>  
Environmental Education Directory - <http://www.enviroeducation.com/careers-jobs/>  
Environmental Jobs & Careers - <http://www.ecoemploy.com>  
Green Dream Jobs - <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/jobs/index.cfm>  
Idealist.org - <http://www.idealist.org/>  
Mining Careers - <http://infomine.com/>  
National Association of Environmental Professionals - <http://www.naep.org>  
National Council for Science and the Environment - <http://ncseonline.org/01about/cms.cfm?id=1144>  
Rocky Mountain Assoc. of Environmental Professionals - <http://www.rmaep.org/>  
Student Conservation Association - <http://www.thesca.org>  
Sustainable Business.com - <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/>  
US Fish & Wildlife Reserve Jobs - <http://www.fws.gov/>  
Environmental Studies - [http://envs.colorado.edu/undergrad\\_program/C34/Career%20Resources/](http://envs.colorado.edu/undergrad_program/C34/Career%20Resources/)  
CU Boulder Environmental Center - <http://ecenter.colorado.edu/>

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Additional guides available at: <http://careerservices.colorado.edu/students/MajorCareerInfo.aspx>