

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH



CONSERVATION

Officer



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CONSERVATION OFFICER

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is looking for the next generation of Conservation Officers. Conservation Officers (Fish and Game Wardens) can be found patrolling the lands and waters of the state day and night.

The field of wildlife law enforcement demands a strong personal commitment and self-motivation. Officers are responsible for a variety of different tasks with little direct supervision.

An officer's normal work week is 40 hours and often includes irregular hours, overtime, travel overnight trips, working weekends, and holidays. The job requires working outdoors, often in inclement weather.

In addition to enforcement, the conservation officer educates the public about wildlife and wildlife management, conducts wildlife surveys, captures problem animals, investigates wildlife damage to crops and property, assists in wildlife relocations, and helps to develop new regulations.



QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY

Conservation officers must meet physical performance standards required by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy and pass the following:

- wildlife written exam
- physiological exam
- medical screening exam
- extensive background investigation

The educational requirement includes a Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university in biological sciences, police science or law enforcement, natural resources conservation, ecology, or related fields. Visit our website for a full list of degree options that are approved for the educational requirement.

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PAY & PROMOTIONS

Employees hired in this role will be placed at \$21.00 per hour (\$43,680 annually) for their first year of training. Upon completion of Recruit Training, officers will be placed in their district at a starting rate of \$25.53 per hour (\$53,102.40 annually).

Promotional opportunities include Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain Major, and Colonel.

With these leadership promotions also comes an increase in annual salary and district or area location assignment.

BENEFITS

New Mexico provides a Total Compensation benefit package that includes employer-paid medical insurance contributions, retirement contributions, paid vacation days, sick days, and holidays. Qualified family members may also be covered under certain benefit plans.

State retirement plans allow officers to retire at 25 years of service and provides a lifetime pension to the employee and/or beneficiary.



WHAT TRAINING WILL YOU RECEIVE?

- New Mexico Police Officer Certification
- Wildlife law and crime scene investigations
- Wilderness patrol and horse packing
- Wildlife restraint and immobilization
- Off-highway vehicle operations
- Advanced firearm training
- Tactical boat operations and officer water survival
- Aerial wildlife survey techniques

WHAT SKILL SETS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Interest in Wildlife Conservation
- Positive attitude & Strong work ethic
- Ability to work independently
- Service-minded to help others
- Physical and mental toughness
- Comfortable in extreme conditions
- Strength working in teams
- Willingness to learn new skills

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for recruits are only available once or twice a year due to the 11-month training program for new officers.

To apply for the next recruitment class, visit the NMDGF website for training materials, a hiring timeline, and access to the State Personnel Office application system at wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/career-advancement/ or scan the QR Code below.



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