

New Mexico Conservation Officer Career

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Goals

- To educate and give more information about pursuing a career as a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Conservation Officer.

Objectives

- To outline the duties of a conservation officer and the requirements applicants must fulfill to become one.
- To encourage those going through the presentation to start a simple workout regiment to get ready to pass the entrance physical assessment test.



NMDGF Mission Statement



To conserve, regulate, propagate and protect the wildlife and fish within the state of New Mexico using a flexible management system that ensures sustainable use for public food supply, recreation and safety; and to provide for off-highway motor vehicle recreation that recognizes cultural, historic and resource values while ensuring public safety.

Our Locations & More

Offices

- Santa Fe (Main Office)
- Albuquerque (NW)
- Raton (NE)
- Roswell (SE)
- Las Cruces (SW)

Field Operations Division

- 60 District Officers
- 16 Corporals/FTOs
- 16 Sergeants
- 1 Lieutenant
- 5 Captains
- 2 Majors
- 1 Colonel

Fish Hatcheries

- Glenwood
- Lisboa Springs (Pecos)
- Los Ojos
- Red River
- Rock Lake (Santa Rosa)
- Seven Springs (Jemez Springs)

State Game Commission

- Consists of 7 individuals appointed by the Governor

WMAs

- NW (16)
- NE (12)
- SW (10)
- SE (3)

Other Divisions

- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Information & Education
- Administrative Services
- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Ecological & Environmental Planning

Wildlife Management Area (WMA): Properties owned or managed by and under the control of the State Game Commission that provide public access for hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation.

What does a Conservation Officer do?

- Enforce Game and Fish Rules and Regulations
- Enforce Chapter 17 law with some Traffic (specifically Off-highway Vehicle) and Criminal Statutes (e.g. Criminal Trespass, Negligent Use of a deadly weapon)
- Assist with fish and wildlife surveys
- Work wildlife complaints
- Work public outreach within community (e.g. teach Hunter Education classes, talking to schools and organizations)
- Work Department functions across the state (e.g. Outdoor Adventure Show, NASP Tournament, youth camps & hunts)
- Assist regular law enforcement



Photo credit: Logan Vanlandingham

Getting started...

- Do you have an interest in hunting, fishing, trapping, camping and other outdoor activities?
- Your education starts now in school and in life.
 - Focus on Math, Science Reading and Writing



Photo credit: Ben Byrd



Need your bachelor's degree

- A Bachelors Degree in one of the following fields: Biology, Fisheries Science/Management, Wildlife Science/Management, Animal Science, Forestry, Forestry Management, Range Science/Management, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Wildlife Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Ecology, Natural Resource Management or Zoology.





Photo credit: Matt Ordonez



Tips from a conservation officer

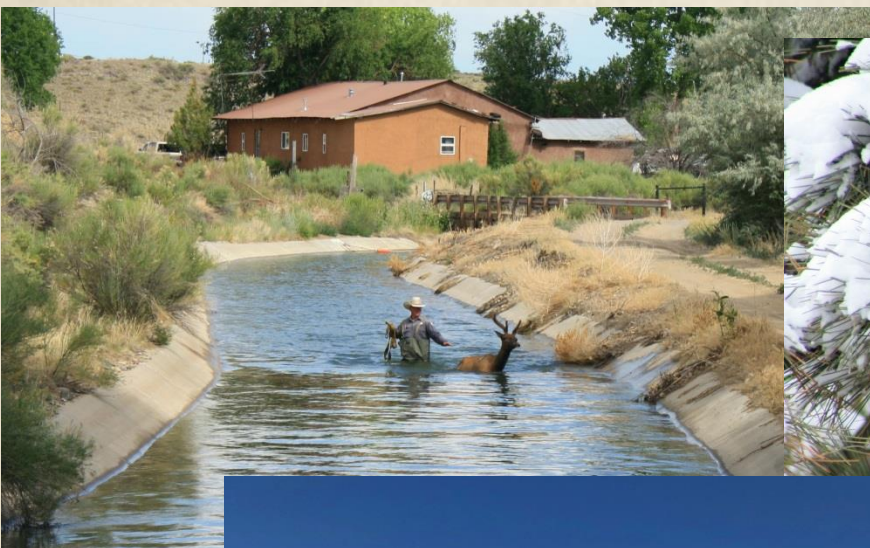
- Do well in school!
- Get involved with the wildlife club or society at your university.
- When in college, or even high school, try to find volunteer opportunities with Game and Fish, Forest Service, BLM, etc. Look for internships as well within wildlife and land management fields to get experience.
- Take the time to educate yourself about wildlife and fish of New Mexico and read the Hunting and Fishing Rules and Information Booklets.
- Don't get into trouble and have a clean background.
- Get in shape for the physical assessment test.
- Try to do a ride along or two with officers including regular law enforcement.
- Prepare for written entrance exam by studying Hunting and Fishing Rules, looking over a Hunter Education Manual and studying up on N.M. wildlife and lands



What to expect once hired

- Must attend New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy (approximately 16 weeks).
- Must attend Department recruit school (approx. 4 weeks).
- Must complete firearms training (approx. 2 weeks).
- Must complete training with Field Training Officer (FTO) (14+ weeks).
- Must attend divisional training.
- Once released from field training officer, you will choose and be placed in open and available district.
- Start off making approximately \$18.34 an hour (during training) and once in district start making approximately \$20.71.

Note: Feel free to contact Field Operations Division for any information on becoming a Conservation Officer. DGF-FieldOps@state.nm.us



Sergeant Ben Otero



Photo credit: Ben Otero

“Every day is a new adventure being a New Mexico Game Warden with no two days the same. My passion for wildlife conservation continually grows, which enhances my love for my career.”

Sergeant Ben Otero

Sergeant Tyson Sanders



"This job gives me an opportunity to serve the public in a way that helps promote conservation. In an ever changing world, it gives me the chance to fight for a more traditional way for people to source their food and recreation, while promoting healthy and sustainable wildlife populations."

Sergeant Tyson Sanders

Officer Ariel Perraglio



Photo credit: Ariel Perraglio

“Working as a conservation officer for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has allowed me to live a life-long dream of working with, and protecting, wildlife. I take pride in enforcing laws put in place to protect our resources so they can be utilized and enjoyed for generations to come. I truly am able to take a hands on approach in the conservation efforts of New Mexico’s wildlife, alongside many amazing officers and biologists employed by the Department.”

Officer Ariel Perraglio

Corporal Matt Ordonez

“Wildlife can’t speak or don’t have a voice in society and I am able to be that voice for them when they become a victim of a crime.”

Corporal Matt Ordonez



Photo credit: Matt Ordonez

NMDGF Video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9gHiyxMdgs>

Video by Martin Perea

Family Activity with the kids to stay fit!

Make sure you are healthy enough to begin. Feel free to get advice from a physical trainer and even a physician as you begin a work out regiment.

- Stretch out first and then jog in place for about a minute or two to warm up.
- How many push-ups can you do in a minute? Can you do 15 in under a minute?
- How many sit-ups can you do in a minute? Can you do 27 in under a minute?
- If you able to take a hike or jog, get some fresh air while getting some exercise, or do some jumping jacks or jog in place for some cardio. Your goal should be to run 1.5 miles in under 15 minutes and 54 seconds. Also, try to run 300 meters in under 71 seconds.

If you could not reach the minimums, don't worry and keep working hard. Try to increase the amount you do a little at a time. Try to stay active for at least 30 minutes a day and let's get ready to pass our entrance physical assessment test to become a conservation officer!

Good Luck!



Introduce someone new to hunting or fishing in the future! Enjoy the great outdoors!

Reference Material

- Conservation Officer Job Description and How to Apply (updated 9/5/19).
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/enforcement/career/Conservation-Officer-Job-Description-and-Application-Information-September-2019.pdf>
- Conservation Officer Physical Fitness Standards.
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/enforcement/career/Conservation-Officer-Physical-Fitness-Standards-2015.pdf>
- Department Public Webpage for Careers as a Conservation Officer.
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/career-advancement/>
- Department Hunting Rules & Information Booklet.
http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/publications/rib/2020/hunting/2020_2021-New-Mexico-Hunting-Rules-and-Info.pdf
- Department Fishing Rules & Information Booklet.
http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/publications/rib/2020/fishing/2020_21-New-Mexico-Fishing-Rules-and-Info.pdf