

Elk Biologist Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the elk biologist group. With more states wanting to reintroduce elk back into their forest lands, and elk populations booming in the west, you stand a reasonable chance of getting a job.

However, you face some unique challenges and rewards with this career. As you'll discover with your online research, elk present some issues in their interactions with humans. In some regions of the west, it's difficult to balance managing for the biological carrying capacity of the land and cultural carrying capacity of landowners. Elk are one of the biggest bodied game species that are managed for hunting-harvest opportunities. So your research should include what elk biologists face in trying to balance the "biological carrying capacity" along with the "cultural carrying capacity" of society plus the desires of hunters.

Your goal is to research what it takes to become an elk biologist, consider the personal rewards of this work, then develop a **Wildlife Biologist Career Path Plan** that will offer a logical pathway in education and experience to becoming an elk biologist.

On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, develop your elk biologist career path plan that should include:

- Why have elk biologists become so important in many western and some eastern states over the past 60 years?
- How do elk biologists balance the voices of agriculture, communities, ecosystems and elk hunters when developing an elk management program?
- What are the personal characteristics, dangers and rewards of someone becoming an elk biologist?
- What high school and college courses would be part of a career path in becoming an elk biologist?
- What personal experience would help in this career path?