

Predator Biologist Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the predator biologist group. With more states wanting to reintroduce certain predators back into the wild, plus the dangers that some predators present, 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, predators present some delicate issues in their interactions with humans, pets and livestock. In many regions, it's difficult to balance managing for the biological carrying capacity of large predators such as wolves and grizzly bears and for the cultural carrying capacity of communities and landowners. Predators are both majestic and potentially dangerous. But they still deserve the right to inhabit their historic ranges. So your research should include what predator biologists face in trying to balance the "biological carrying capacity" along with the "cultural carrying capacity" of society plus the desires of hunters and anti-hunters.

Your goal is to research what it takes to become a predator 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 a predator biologist.

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

- Why have predator biologists become so important in many western and some eastern states over the past 40 years?
- How do predator biologists balance the voices of ranchers, communities, public safety and hunters when developing predator management programs?
- What are the personal characteristics, dangers and rewards of someone becoming a predator biologist?
- What high school and college courses would be part of a career path in becoming a predator biologist?
- What personal experience would help in this career path?