

White-tailed Deer Biologist Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the white-tailed deer biologist group. With so many states experiencing exploding numbers of white-tailed deer, you stand a good chance of getting a job.

However, you face some unique challenges and rewards with this career. As you'll discover with your online research, deer are a "keystone species" that often affect an entire ecosystem. They are also one of the prime big game species that are managed for maximum hunting-harvest opportunities. So your research should include what biologists face in trying to balance the "biological carrying capacity" of an ecosystem and the "cultural carrying capacity" of society (deer eat most crops and ornamental plants, plus cause many car-deer collisions).

Your goal is to research what it takes to become a deer 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 white-tailed deer biologist.

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

- Why are white-tailed deer biologists so important in the overall North American Model of Wildlife conservation today, and how has that changed in the past 100 years?
- How do deer biologists balance the needs of agriculture, and society while satisfying the 7% of humans who hunt deer and fund deer management programs?
- What are the personal characteristics and rewards of someone who chooses to become a deer biologist?
- What high school and college courses would be part of a career path in becoming a white-tailed deer biologist?
- What personal experience would help in this career path?