

# Advanced Careers in Conservation

FIW 6004 \* 1 credit seminar

Tuesdays 3-4pm (with 4 additional 2-3pm presentations during semester)

Instructor: Dr. Ashley Dayer

CRN 90926 \* Cap: 15 students \* graduate standing required



## Graduate students:

Not sure what career path is the right fit for you?

Interested in non-academic jobs but don't know where to start?

Heard that networking is important to finding your dream job but don't have the skills?

This is your class!

**Purpose:** To introduce graduate students to the diversity of conservation career options available, enhance awareness of how to be competitive for those positions, and build their skills in exploring careers and networking.

**Description:** This course will provide graduate students with the opportunity to explore career options in conservation for those with MS and PhD degrees. Through presentations and discussion with guest speakers (remote and in-person), students will be exposed to a variety of careers in fisheries, wildlife, land, and water conservation, held by those with natural sciences and social sciences MS and PhD degrees. The course will explicitly consider the various sectors of academia (research, teaching), non-governmental organizations, state agencies, and federal agencies. We will explore science and applied (e.g., management, outreach) positions. We will begin with reflections on students' current career goals, awareness of options, and the current job market trends in our field. This will be followed by learning how to effectively conduct informational interviews to learn more about career options and build one's network. The bulk of the course will be learning about career fields and necessary preparation through the stories and experiences of individuals in those positions. You will build your network as you interact with speakers. As the culminating project, each student will conduct three informational interviews in a career field they are considering and then present a speed presentation on what they learned. Additionally, students will develop the skill of hosting an on-campus visitor, working in teams to plan the visit of one of our speakers.

## Learning Outcomes:

- 1 Students will explore career options in research and application of fish, wildlife, land, & water conservation careers within public and private sectors.
- 2 Students will build skills in conducting informational interviews and hosting guest speakers on campus to learn about career paths and network with potential future employers or contacts.
- 3 Students will learn more about career path they have been considering, how to prepare, and career prospects.
- 4 Students will reflect on their changes in perceptions and awareness of their career path goals and necessary next steps to ensure they are ready to hit the job market when they graduate.