

Natural Resource Fields Fact Sheets

Facilitator Summary and Activity Options

SUMMARY: Because there are so many different types of careers in natural resources, the Natural Resources Career Guide organizes them into a series of fact sheets grouped by resource including land, water, wildlife, forests, geoscience, and the human use of natural resources through parks and recreation. For each of these resource fields, a variety of non-scientific positions that complement the scientific work are needed. These non-scientific positions are outlined in a separate fact sheet. For each group of careers, the fact sheet provides a brief overview of the career field, what employees in that profession do, a list of example careers that range from entry-level to management, what education and training is needed for careers at each level, opportunities to gain experience, and where to look for a job. Instead of providing one activity that highlights these fact sheets, we have listed several ways in which you could incorporate them as part of your training.

ACTIVITY GOAL: Depending on the activity, participants will be able to identify 10 new natural resource job titles that they were not familiar with before. Participants who research jobs through the Job Research Jumpstart and Job Interest Interview activities will be able to provide a 5-minute summary of one natural resource job.

TIME: Activity time varies (see below).

AUDIENCE: This activity can be done with any audience size and is most appropriate for ages 13 and older.

MATERIALS: Natural Resource Fields Fact Sheets, computers (for some activities), paper

ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- **Fact Sheet Reflection (15 minutes):** Pass out one natural resources field fact sheet to each participant or group of 2-4 participants. Give participants 5 minutes to review the fact sheet they have. Gather the group back together and spend 10 minutes discussing jobs on the fact sheets, unfamiliar terms, what some of the careers do, what education/training is needed, etc.
- **Job Research Jumpstart (1 hour):** Distribute the natural resource field fact sheets one per table around the room. Ask each participant to go to the table with the field that interests them most. Have each participant or group of participants select a job from the field fact sheet. Give participants 30 minutes to research that job on a computer either during the training or later at home. A good place to start is the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>. Have participants share what they learned about the job they selected with the rest of the group.

- Career Path (20 minutes): Distribute the natural resource field fact sheets on tables around the room. Have each participant go to the table with the field that interests them most. Have each participant create their ideal job path, selecting one job from each of the categories – entry-level, technician, professional and management. Have them create a plan for how they will get experience, education and training to begin their career path.
- Job Interest Interview (30 minutes of class time; 1-2 hours outside of class time): Have participants look over each of the natural resource field fact sheets and select one job that most interests them. Give them out-of-classroom time to locate an individual with that job title/in that field and interview him/her about his/her career path. Have students brainstorm interview questions as a group or review their questions individually with the instructor before the formal interview. Ask participants to give a short report about the person they interviewed.