Training Wildlife Biologists for Work on Private Lands

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Private Lands are Important for Conservation

Conservation on Private Lands is Challenging 1.

Conservation on Private Lands is Challenging 2.
Conservation on Private Lands is Challenging 3.

Wildlife Damage

Conservation Status

Results

Curricula Assessment

- University ‘Wildlife Management’ programs
  - Legislation & policy
  - Human dimensions
  - Economics
  - Work placement
  - Focused communication

- Core textbooks
  - Human dimensions
  - Economics
  - Legislation & policy
  - Focused private lands section

Example: University of NE-Lincoln
Human Dimensions

University Courses
- Landowner values, attitudes and behaviors
- Guest lectures
- Challenging role plays

Internship Programs
- On-the-ground training
- Agencies/NGOs
- Wide range of landowners

Job Training
- Be familiar with new surroundings... even if experienced!

Economics

University Courses
- Landscape economics
- Private lands business models
- ‘Real-life case studies’

Internship Programs
- On-the-ground training
- Agencies/NGOs
- Wide range of landowners

Job Training
- Awareness of economic climate
- Land use & commodity values

Policy

University Courses
- Farm Bill
- Tax Incentives
- Mitigation techniques
- Conservation tools

Internship Programs
- On-the-ground training
- Agencies/NGOs
- Wide range of conservation tools

Job Training
- Changing policies
- Continued education credits

Communication

University Courses
- Conservation focused communication class
- Challenging role plays

Internship Programs
- On-the-ground training
- Agencies/NGOs
- Communicate with wide range of landowners

Job Training
- New communication techniques
Conclusions

- Private lands conservation is challenging
- Wildlife biologists are seldom prepared
- Our training programs need to be modified
- Textbooks with focused private lands sections
- Learning must continue throughout career

Private lands conservation is not easy, but it can be accomplished!