



# Wildlife on WiFi

*Wildlife Careers*

Weekly Lesson Plan





# About *Wildlife on WiFi*

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*Wildlife on WiFi* (“*WoW*”) seeks to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state’s wildlife from anywhere. To achieve this, *WoW* provides innovative online learning opportunities, virtual lessons and educational resources about wildlife and its conservation.

The *Wildlife on WiFi* online education hub features 50 lessons, activities, videos, story time readings, watchable wildlife livestreams, and more!

## To connect with *Wildlife on WiFi*

*Wildlife on WiFi* is available online at <http://bit.ly/PGCWildlifeOnWiFi>

For questions or to schedule a virtual lesson, please contact [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).





# *Wildlife on WiFi* Weekly Lesson Plans

## **About *Wildlife on WiFi* Weekly Lesson Plans**

*Wildlife on WiFi* weekly lesson plans provide day-by-day activities to keep children learning, thinking, and getting outside! Designed for grades 6-12, these plans can be adapted by educators to suit their needs and grade levels.

Educators and parents may find them ideal to support at home and virtual learning, but they may also be used during regular in-person or partial in-person teaching.

Live virtual lessons from a Game Commission educator are a great way to cap off a wildlife week. To inquire about a virtual lesson, please contact [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).





# Wildlife Careers Weekly Lesson Plan

**Overview:** A career in wildlife conservation is rewarding and challenging. Conservation professionals within the Game Commission dedicate their careers to managing and protecting wildlife for current and future generations, ensuring meaningful opportunities for outdoor recreation and the opportunity to connect to nature. At a state wildlife conservation agency like the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a career can take you down many exciting paths. Agency professionals are scientists, law enforcement officers, habitat managers, communicators, educators and more, and are united by a common conservation mission. Discover more about career areas, skills, education, and day-to-day life of a Game Commission employee by following the lesson plan below! Activities are generally suitable for grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> with teacher adaptations based on age and teaching objectives.

Day	Recommended Activities
Monday – Wildlife Science	Introduction to the Game Commission video; Elk Calf capture video; Turkey Egg Hunt video; Peregrine Falcon Tracking video; Black Bear cub video; Answer sheet; Mock job application
Tuesday – Land & Habitat Management	Pennsylvania State Game Lands - Hidden Habitats video; Healthy Habitat video; Wildlife Habitat activity
Wednesday – Law Enforcement	Pennsylvania Game Wardens Serving the Public Beyond the Season video; Wildlife Crime Forensics: Observation Lesson video; Wildlife Crime Forensics: Observation Activity video; Observation activity
Thursday – Marketing & Communications and GIS	Game Commission’s pinned Facebook video; Marketing and GIS activity
Friday – Outreach & Education	Hérons 101 video; Creating a Backyard Animal Track Trap video; Build Your Own Beaver Dam video; Create you own Lesson activity; OR virtual program with PGC employee



# Day 1: Introduction & Wildlife Science

## Day 1 Activities

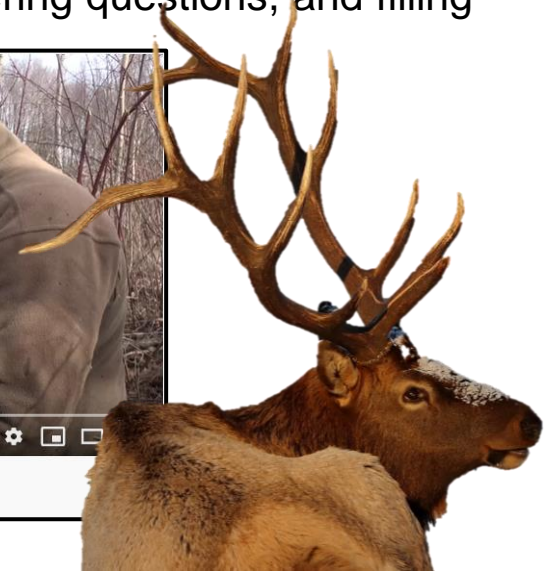
Among the agency's wildlife science professionals are biologists, expert in specific species, species diversity and genetics, and game and non-game species. They apply scientific principles to the hands-on study of wildlife. Wildlife technicians and disease specialists conduct field research to understand health of state wildlife populations. On any given day, a biologist may band a migrating Canada goose, take dental samples from a white-tailed deer, or crawl into a black bear's den!

Begin the week by having students watch [this video](#) regarding the history of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Students will then explore different wildlife science jobs within PGC by watching several wildlife videos, answering questions, and filling out a mock job application.

- [Elk Calf capture video](#) (7:07)
  - [Turkey Egg Hunt video](#) (1:54)
  - [Peregrine Falcon Tracking video](#) (2:29)
  - [Black Bear cub video](#) (2:48)
- [Wildlife Science Answer Sheet](#)
  - [Mock Job application activity](#)



#bear #conservation #education  
PGC Biologist Talks About Black Bear Cubs in Den



**Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.**



# Day 2: Land & Habitat Management

## Day 2 Activities

Wildlife need food, water, shelter, and space to thrive. Human development like agriculture, residential and commercial properties take up a lot of space. That's why the Game Commission owns and manages 1.5 million acres in Pennsylvania for wildlife. Land managers and foresters take an ecosystem view of these lands, ensuring vital habitat for wildlife is always available. Fire ecologists apply fire, once a natural feature on the landscape, in controlled fashion. Habitat crews, which includes game lands maintenance workers, put into action the habitat and ecosystem restoration plans created by managers and other experts. If you like being outside, working hard for wildlife, this is the career path for you!

Have students watch [this video](#) for an overview of Pennsylvania's State Game Lands, and [this video](#) for a closer look at the Game Commission's Land and Habitat Management initiative to create younger forest habitats for wildlife. Finish the class period by completing the [Wildlife Habitat](#) activity.



**Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.**



# Day 3: Law Enforcement

## Day 3 Activity

Poaching, illegally selling species across state lines, hunting without a license. These are just a few of the wildlife crimes state game wardens are responsible for monitoring. They enforce wildlife law and regulations, respond to nuisance wildlife calls, educate the public about wildlife issues, and may even go undercover to penetrate illegal wildlife smuggling rings! Game wardens protect and speak for wildlife because animals cannot speak for themselves. They are state law enforcement officers that have enforcement authority throughout the commonwealth.

Have students watch [this video](#) highlighting the several different duties of a Pennsylvania State Game Warden. Next, watch the Wildlife Crime Forensics: Observation Lesson [video](#) for an inside look at items Game Wardens use to help solve wildlife crimes. Next, watch the Wildlife Crime Forensics: Observation Activity [video](#) to learn about the power of observation in the law enforcement field. Finally, complete [this activity](#) to test your own powers of observation. Do you think you have what it takes to be a state Game Warden?



**Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.**



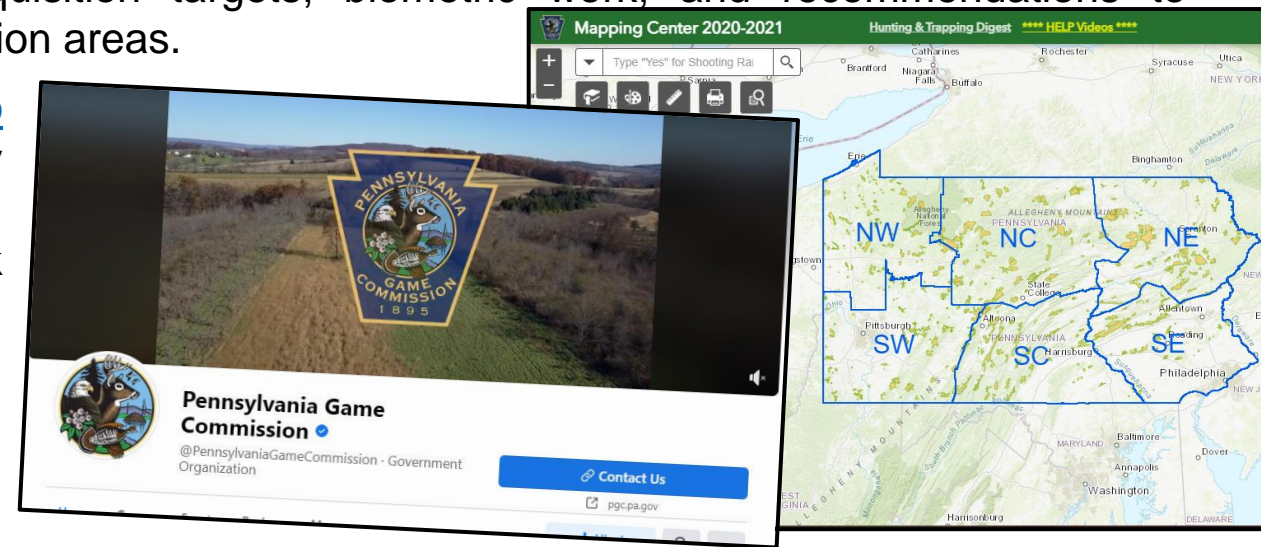
# Day 4: Marketing & Communications and GIS

## Day 4 Activities

A primary funding source for wildlife conservation is the sale of hunting licenses. Without a robust, engaged hunting population, funding for habitat management, ecosystem restoration, and endangered species protection would be limited. Marketing professionals inform the public about hunting and trapping opportunities while communication professionals like videographers, public relations experts, and social/digital media managers ensure clear communication to the public. Both marketing and communication professionals help connect the public to all wildlife in Pennsylvania. Similarly, are you a big picture person? Geographic Information Systems and other technologies enable the agency to make informed decisions about ecosystems and habitat. This includes land acquisition targets, biometric work, and recommendations to policymakers for new state game lands and other conservation areas.

Have students begin the day's lesson by watching [this video](#) on installing a bald eagle nest cam. Note the videography skills and techniques displayed while filming. Next, watch the [pinned video](#) on the Game Commission's Facebook page, and answer the corresponding questions [here](#).

**Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.**







# Day 5: Outreach & Education

## Day 5 Activities

Future generations cannot carry on the tradition of conserving wildlife without education today. That is why every employee at the Game Commission is an educator, working to share the work and principles that underpin our state's shared conservation heritage. Dedicated education and outreach professionals may guide school groups, as well as the public, through wildlife lessons and activities. Specific programs like R3 (Recruit, Retention, Reactivation) are intended to reach out to new or lapsed recreationists, providing them a bridge back to hunting and trapping.

End the week by having students watch three videos hosted by PGC educators: [Herons 101](#), [Creating a Backyard Animal Track Trap](#), and [Build Your Own Beaver Dam](#). This will give student's an inside look at what its like to be an educator with the Game Commission. Have students complete the [Create your own Lesson](#) activity. An [example](#) has also been provided.

**Alternatively:** Schedule a virtual lesson with a PGC employee from the profession of your choice to further students' understanding of Wildlife Conservation careers.

***Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.***





# Thank You!

Questions or Comments?

Let us know at [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).