# CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST® APPLICATION FORM

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Membership in TWS is required to apply for certification.
- 2. Application must be typed and submitted in English.
- 3. Applications must be filled out using Adobe Reader software.
- 4. Supplemental information may be submitted along with a completed application form, if needed.
- 5. Applicant is responsible for providing full documentation of educational and professional-level experience as a wildlife biologist.
- 6. Completed transcripts with evidence of conferral of degrees are required. <u>No application can be processed</u> until a complete application and all supporting materials have been received.
- 7. Submit completed application to certification@wildlife.org
- 8. Applicants should expect a decision to be made within 4-6 months.

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# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

FIRST NAME:	MIDDLE:		LAST:		
MAILING ADDRESS:					
THIS ADDRESS IS:	HOME	WORK			
DATE OF BIRTH:		EMAIL:			
HOME PHONE:		WORK PHONE:			
MY NAME SHOULD BE LETTERED ON THE CERTIFICATE AS FOLLOWS:					

Note: Certification policy does not allow the use of academic, honorary, or other titles or nicknames on the certificate

## **EDUCATION**

List all post-secondary school educational institutions attended.

List all degrees earned starting with the most recent, and submit transcripts showing conferral of each degree. Applicants must have at minimum completed a course of study in a college or university leading to a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, or equivalent.

INSTITUTION	DATES ATTENDED (MM/YY-MM/YY)	<b>DEGREE</b> (B.S., M.S., etc.)	DATE CONFERRED (MM/YYYY)	MAJOR
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#### **COMPLETED COURSES**

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full documentation of education. Each applicant must submit transcripts documenting completion of the educational requirements. Transfer credits shown on another university's transcripts will be accepted for use on the application if the course number, grade, and credit hours are present. If these three items are not present, the applicant must obtain an additional transcript from the institution where the transfer credits were taken. High School A.P. classes will be accepted provided the applicant validates the course either through college transcripts or A.P. test scores of 4 or 5.

All courses must be taken for credit and passed (i.e., D or better, "Pass" in the case of pass/fail, or "Satisfactory in the case of satisfactory/unsatisfactory). Course descriptions are required for all sections except Physical Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences. Professional Experience or Non-traditional Education" box of these sections if an explanation is helpful or necessary.

Course semester hours may be divided, but not duplicated, among two categories when a course covers material in more than one category. Applicants may split and distribute the semester hours of one course that covers multiple disciplines into no more than two categories; for example, 4 semester hours in general biology may be used to satisfy up to 2 semester hours in zoology courses and up to 2 semester hours in botany. Similarly, 4 semester hours in general genetics may be used to satisfy up to 2 semester hours in zoological courses and up to 2 semester hours in botany. The smallest unit of credit that may be distributed is one semester/quarter hour. A full course's semester hours cannot be listed or counted in more than one category.

Comparable experience may be substituted for educational experience, however, the applicant must have at least one college or university course in each category. For continuing education or professional experience to substitute for educational requirements, the applicant must have at least one college or university course (at least 3 semester hours) in that educational category. These comparable qualifications must be detailed in the application at the bottom of each educational category. Applicants should include the duration of time and an estimate of the number of semester hours that should be awarded for non-traditional or professional experience. Examples may include published papers or a completed thesis to meet course requirements in English composition or technical writing. When substituting professional experience, a letter of reference from a professional wildlife biologist that has worked with the applicant is recommended.

The educational requirements are expressed in semester hours. One semester hour usually reflects one lecture hour or 3 laboratory hours of instruction per week for a 16-week term. One quarter hour normally equals 0.67 semester hours. Applicants for certification who attended educational institutions that grant credits in different units must convert their credits to semester hours according to definitions above. For example, in many Canadian universities a one-credit course meets 3 hours per week for 2 terms and thus equals 6 semester hours. The Certification Review Board recognizes that the minimum number of credit hours may not be met exactly in some cases because of differing credits awarded to the same subject at different institutions and/or because of uneven conversions from quarter hours to semester hours.

College credits taken outside the United States often vary from the American system. When the educational program differs considerably from the American system, applicants must submit as an email attachment a detailed description of courses taken and the credits obtained.

Applicants who do not meet the specified minimum educational requirements, but have  $\geq 15$  years of professional wildlife biologist experience, should email certification@wildlife.org for more information.

## A. Wildlife Management and Biology, minimum 12 semester hours

Courses emphasizing the principles and practices of wildlife management and an understanding of the biology of wildlife species and their habitat relationships as the basis for management.

<u>Course descriptions are required.</u> At least one course (≥3 credits) must demonstrate training in understanding and manipulating wildlife habitat relationships and population dynamics in the context of objectives and influences established by human concerns and activities. Conservation biology courses are accepted if they contain a specific focus on wildlife management and decision making. One course (≥3 credits) must focus solely on the science of mammalogy, ornithology, or herpetology (this course must be taken at a college/university and cannot be substituted by experience). Courses that combine herpetology, mammalogy and/or ornithology will meet this requirement. Up to 3 credit hours of invertebrate biology courses can be counted as long as there is specific focus on natural resource management applications. Ichthyology, marine biology (except courses focusing on marine mammals, birds, or reptiles), microbiology, or related courses will not count in this category, but will qualify in the Zoology category.

COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTITUTION	COURSE NUMBER	LETTER GRADE	SEMESTER HOURS
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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND BIOLOGY, TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS (MIN. 12):

Certified Wildlife Biologist® Application

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В.	Eco	logy.	minimum	3	semester	hours

Courses in general plant or animal ecology (excludes human ecology).

<u>Course descriptions are required.</u> Examples of other acceptable courses include Ecosystem Ecology, Community Ecology, Environmental Ecology, Forest Ecology, Organismal Ecology, Population Ecology, and Natural Resource Ecology. Course descriptions, immediately following course listing, are required.

COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTITUTION	COURSE NUMBER	LETTER GRADE	SEMESTER HOURS
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## C. Zoology, minimum 9 semester hours

Courses in the taxonomy, biology, behavior, physiology, anatomy, and natural history of vertebrates and invertebrates.

<u>Course descriptions are required.</u> Courses in genetics, nutrition, physiology, disease, and other biology or general zoology courses are accepted. Credits in general genetics and general biology should be split evenly between the Zoology and Botany categories. Ichthyology or fisheries biology courses are accepted.

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## D. Botany, minimum 9 semester hours

Courses in general botany, plant anatomy, plant genetics, plant morphology, plant taxonomy, plant physiology, and other botany courses.

Course descriptions are required. Dendrology and silvics are accepted. Partial course credit may be allowed for silviculture if content related to dendrology and/or silvics is included. At least one course (≥2 semester hours) or the equivalent must be primarily concerned with plant taxonomy or identification. In cases where experience or non-traditional coursework is used to meet the plant taxonomy/identification requirement, the applicant must provide sufficient supporting documentation to demonstrate that the competency obtained is equivalent to a college/university course (e.g., exam score, certificate of completion, etc.). Credits in general genetics and general biology should be split evenly between the Zoology and Botany categories.

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## E. Physical Sciences, minimum 9 semester hours

Includes courses such as chemistry, physics, geology, or soils with at least two disciplines represented.

Course descriptions are NOT required. If applicants believe a course description would be helpful, additional information can be provided in the Professional Experience or Non-traditional Education Section.

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PHYSICAL SCIENCES, TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS (MIN. 9):

F.	Basic	Statistics.	minimum 3	Semester	hours
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Course(s) in basic statistics.

Course descriptions are required.

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## G. Quantitative Sciences, minimum 6 semester hours

Courses in calculus, biometry, college algebra, advanced algebra, trigonometry, systems analysis, mathematical modeling, sampling, computer science, or other quantitative science.

<u>Course descriptions are required.</u> Elementary algebra, remedial algebra, and introductory personal computing courses do not count in this category. Geographical Information Systems courses may count if they incorporate analytical components through data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

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# H. Humanities and Social Sciences, minimum 9 semester hours

Courses such as economics, sociology, psychology, political science, government, history, literature, or foreign language.

# Course descriptions NOT required.

COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTITUTION	COURSE NUMBER	LETTER GRADE	SEMESTER HOURS
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PLEASE FULLY DOCUMENT ANY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE OR NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR EDUCATIONAL DEFICIENCIES:
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS (MIN. 9):

#### I. Communications, minimum 12 semester hours

Courses designed to improve communication skills such as English composition, technical writing, journalism, public speaking, or use of mass media.

Course descriptions are required: A maximum of three semester hours each will be allowed for a completed Master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation. Courses in literature interpretation, foreign languages, and classes requiring a term paper, class projects, and seminars in non-communication courses generally will not count toward this category. However, non-communication courses designated by the college or university as communication-intensive (e.g., writing-intensive course) will be accepted in this category. The applicant must provide official university documentation describing how the course meets the communication-intensive requirement. Applicants may receive partial credit for non-communication courses that have a significant component dedicated to improving communication, such as senior thesis and other capstone courses, and natural resource-related seminars. A course syllabus or letter from an instructor describing the communication component of the course is required.

COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTITUTION	COURSE NUMBER	 SEMESTER HOURS
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** 

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	COMMUNICATIONS, TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS (MIN. 12):	

## J. Policy, Administration, and Law, minimum 6 hours

Courses that demonstrate significant content or focus on natural resource policy and/or administration, wildlife or environmental law, or natural resource/land use planning will apply in addition to courses that document contributions to the understanding of social, political, and ethical decisions for wildlife and natural resources management.

<u>Course descriptions are required</u>: Up to three semester hours in classes dealing with human dimension issues may count in this category, depending on course content. Conservation Biology courses that effectively integrate legal and policy aspects of conservation planning will count toward this category. Courses that are tools supporting professional practice, e.g., Landsat, introductory GIS techniques, or more general courses such as environmental science, resource management, law enforcement, criminology, political science, and introductory survey courses in conservation will not apply.

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POLICY, ADMINISTRATION, AND LAW, TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS (MIN. 6):

# THESIS AND/OR DISSERTATION(S)

Submit copies of abstracts or research summaries of thesis and/or dissertation(s) along with this application so the Certification Review Board may determine if the work is relevant to the wildlife profession. Failure to provide this information will result in no experience credit being granted for advanced degrees.

TITLE:	DEGREE:
	(e.g. M.S., Ph.D)
INSTITUTION:	YEAR:
TITLE:	DEGREE: (e.g. M.S., Ph.D)
INSTITUTION:	YEAR:
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	(e.g. M.S., Ph.D)
INSTITUTION:	YEAR:
TITLE:	DEGREE:
	(e.g. M.S., Ph.D)
INSTITUTION:	YEAR:

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A minimum of five years of full-time professional wildlife biologist experience, obtained within the last 10 years, is required. List professional experience starting with the most recent.

Professional experience must demonstrate the application of current biological knowledge to problems and programs dealing directly with the wildlife resource (administration, education, research, or management) as a significant portion of job responsibilities. **Professional experience provides demonstrated expertise in making decisions in the application of ecology to stewardship and management of the wildlife resource and its environment**.

Technician-level work, such as data collection, surveys, and habitat manipulation conducted under existing protocol or under the specific direction of another, is <u>not</u> considered professional wildlife biologist experience. Identification of professional wildlife biologist experience will require careful evaluation of each application. Therefore, it is the applicant's responsibility to fully document the percentage of time devoted specifically to activities of a professional wildlife biologist.

Time spent obtaining advanced academic degrees can apply toward professional experience if the area of study is deemed relevant to the wildlife profession. An abstract or research summary for each advanced degree must accompany the application so the CRB may determine the nature of professional wildlife work. A maximum of one year of professional experience will be granted for a Master's degree, a maximum of two years for a Ph.D., and a maximum of three years for a Master's and a Ph.D.

When time intervals for education and employment overlap, a detailed explanation must be provided. Professional experience credit can simultaneously be granted for a job and advanced degree provided the job is independent of the degree.

Forty (40) hours per week is considered the norm, but full-time positions are defined by the CRB as at least 30 hours/week. Exceptions may be granted in specific cases where an applicant is unable to meet the 30 hour/week minimum due to documented situations such as caregiving, parenting, or health challenges. Applicants who report more than 40 hours/week are required to submit a letter from a supervisor to confirm that the additional hours are compensated work hours. Applicants will not receive work experience credit for more than 50 hours/week.

Partial credit may be granted for experience gained in positions peripheral to wildlife such as forester, range conservationist, soil conservationist, naturalist, environmental specialist, and consultant when a significant portion of the job responsibilities are those expected of a professional wildlife biologist. Experience credit will not be granted for positions such as high school biology teachers, park managers, fisheries biologists, or field or laboratory technicians. Experience credit also will not be granted for wetland delineation work unless it specifically addresses wildlife management.

Up to 12 months of volunteer experience will be credited toward the 5 year experience requirement provided that the position constitutes professional wildlife duties described in this section and is supported by a letter from the supervisor.

#### 1. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POSITION TITLE/WORKING TITLE, e.g. Senior Scientist, Wildlife Resource Specialist

START: END: TOTAL MONTHS (MM/YYYY) IN POSITION:

If present, write current month/year

How many hours per week were you employed in this position?

What percent of your duties were devoted specifically to professional-level wildlife work?

Hours of professional-level wildlife work completed per week in this position (autocalculates).

\* 0/0 =

Full-time, professional-level wildlife work completed, in months (autocalculates)

Hours of wildlife work per week / 40 hours \* months in position

DOES THIS POSITION REQUIRE A B.A./B.S. OR HIGHER DEGREE IN A WILDLIFE SCIENCE?

YES NO

**EMPLOYER INFORMATION** 

NAME OF EMPLOYER EMPLOYER ADDRESS

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION, OR PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERFORMANCE

NAME POSITION

EMAIL PHONE

# 1. DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Describe in detail what you specifically do/did as a wildlife biologist. Provide a percentage estimate of time you devote to each major job duty. Do not provide a general job description or a bulleted list.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DUTY** 

PERCENT OF TIME

#### 2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POSITION TITLE/WORKING TITLE, e.g. Senior Scientist, Wildlife Resource Specialist

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START: END: TOTAL MONTHS (MM/YYYY) IN POSITION:

How many hours per week were you employed in this position?

What percent of your duties were devoted specifically to professional-level wildlife work?

Hours of professional-level wildlife work completed per week in this position (autocalculates).

Full-time, professional-level wildlife work completed, in months (autocalculates)

Hours of wildlife work per week / 40 hours \* months in position

DOES THIS POSITION REQUIRE A B.A./B.S. OR HIGHER DEGREE IN A WILDLIFE SCIENCE?

YES NO

**EMPLOYER INFORMATION** 

NAME OF EMPLOYER EMPLOYER ADDRESS

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NAME POSITION

EMAIL PHONE

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Describe in detail what you specifically do/did as a wildlife biologist. Provide a percentage estimate of time you devote to each major job duty. Do not provide a general job description or a bulleted list.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DUTY** 

PERCENT OF TIME

POSITION TITLE/WORKING TITLE, e.g. Senior Scientist, Wildlife Resource Specialist

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\* 0/0 =

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Hours of wildlife work per week / 40 hours \* months in position

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DUTY** 

POSITION TITLE/WORKING TITLE, e.g. Senior Scientist, Wildlife Resource Specialist

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START: END: TOTAL MONTHS (MM/YYYY) IN POSITION:

How many hours per week were you employed in this position?

What percent of your duties were devoted specifically to professional-level wildlife work?

Hours of professional-level wildlife work completed per week in this position (autocalculates).

\* 0/0 =

Full-time, professional-level wildlife work completed, in months (autocalculates)

Hours of wildlife work per week / 40 hours \* months in position

DOES THIS POSITION REQUIRE A B.A./B.S. OR HIGHER DEGREE IN A WILDLIFE SCIENCE?

YES NO

**EMPLOYER INFORMATION** 

NAME OF EMPLOYER EMPLOYER ADDRESS

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION, OR PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERFORMANCE

NAME POSITION

Describe in detail what you specifically do/did as a wildlife biologist. Provide a percentage estimate of time you devote to each major job duty. Do not provide a general job description or a bulleted list.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DUTY** 

# SELECTED PUBLICATION CITATIONS

<u>Not</u>	<u>required</u>	, but enco	uraged as	supporting	g material.	Additiona	al citations	may be sen	t along wit	h application
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
5.										
6.										
7.										
8.										
9.										

## OTHER INVOLVEMENTS AS A PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

**Optional.** Provide information that supports your application, such as memberships, offices held, duties performed, etc.

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Provide information for three wildlife professionals who have agreed to provide references on your behalf, if requested to do so by the Certification Review Board. They should know your present and past experiences as a practicing wildlife biologist. At least one reference must be a Certified Wildlife Biologists. At least one reference must be from a professional employed outside your own organization. Do not list personnel that you supervise or immediate family members.

1. REFERENCE NAME:	CURRENT POSITION TITLE:
EMPLOYER:	ADDRESS:
EMAIL:	PHONE:
IS THIS REFERENCE A CWB®?	YES NO
2. REFERENCE NAME:	CURRENT POSITION TITLE:
EMPLOYER:	ADDRESS:
EMAIL:	PHONE:
IS THIS REFERENCE A CWB®?	YES NO
3. REFERENCE NAME:	CURRENT POSITION TITLE:
EMPLOYER:	ADDRESS:
EMAIL:	PHONE:
IS THIS REFERENCE A CWB®?	YES NO

## **SUMMARY**

Please ensure that all the fields are filled, and that you have met the qualifications for certification. If you find that you are deficient, consider including professional experience that may qualify as a substitution, if you have not done so already. If deficiencies exist, ensure proper documentation has been provided to express how you meet qualifications.

A. Wildlife Management and Biology	F. Basic Statistics
Min: 12	Min: 3
B. Ecology	G. Quantitative Sciences
Min: 3	Min: 6
C. Zoology	H. Humanities and Social Sciences
Min: 9	Min: 9
D. Botany	I. Communications
Min: 9	Min: 12
E. Physical Sciences	J. Policy, Administration, and Law
Min: 9	Min: 6

#### Total professional-level wildlife work completed, in months (autocalculates):

I have included complete information for three professional references.

I have my transcripts ready to send along with this application.

I have my thesis/dissertation abstracts ready to send along with this application (if applicable).

## **FEES**

The fee for processing a CWB® application is \$155. This certification is valid for five years before a renewal application is required. Once your application materials are received via email, you will receive instructions on how to submit online payment.

## **DECLARATION**

Have you in your past activities complied with the *Code of Ethics and the Standards for Professional Conduct* of The Wildlife Society?

(If "NO", please explain in an attached letter.)

YES NO

In applying for certification as a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, I have reviewed and pledge to adhere to the Code of Ethics and the Standard for Professional Conduct of The Wildlife Society.

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE:** 

**DATE SUBMITTED:**