Pathway to Careers in Biological Conservation & Policy

Examples: conservation scientist or manager, ecological consultant, science policymaker, science advisor, environmental lawyer. Biologists in these careers are interested in solving environmental problems, conserving the ecological and evolutionary processes that generate biodiversity, and educating the public and/or politicians about relevant and emerging biological issues. In addition to conducting research or ecological monitoring, they can serve as policy advocates for scientific organizations or non-profits, or as political advisors at the state or national levels. Science advisors work with lawmakers to create legislation on environmental protection (and other topics such as STEM education and biomedical research). Some careers require graduate (e.g., STEM policy or biological-research thesis based MS or PhD) or professional (JD) degrees or specialized training (e.g., science policy internships). These programs are competitive; grades, GRE or LSAT scores are important.

NOTE: If your career plan changes during your degree program (it happens!), the Biology degree, together with your experience & resume building activities, prepares you for many alternative careers.