

Wildfires: Follow-up activities and job profiles

- a) **Decide on a way to raise awareness of wild fires on moorland – you may produce a Poster, PowerPoint, a short film and audio diary or a written report**
- b) **Further career research**

All the work you have done over the last three lessons is actually done by real people working in Moorland areas. The decisions you made used and developed your functional skills. These are key skills in any workplace.

Read the profiles of three of the people involved in Moorland Management.

1) Put together a letter of application outlining your present skills and achievements and show the steps that you will need to take to qualify for this role in the future. Have a look at sections on the Moors of the Future and National Parks websites referring to volunteering. If you are interested then this is a very good way to start gaining experience. You'll see that is how Sheila started. There are new entry routes now – e.g. Diplomas in Environmental and Land Based Studies and Apprenticeships, including Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care. These can lead into jobs or on to Higher Education. Find out more about these and what they involve. Your local online 14-19 Prospectus (http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoltOnline/DoltOnlineByCategory/DG_170372) is a good place to start to find what's on offer near you

- 2) Who might you need to contact now to gain more information and advice? What will you ask them?
- 3) There are a number of other careers identified on the cards such as the fire service. Are there any other careers you may like to explore as a result of these lessons?

Job profiles follow...

Research Assistant

Rachael Maskill

I work for: Research Team at Moors for the Future Partnership

My role is: As a Research Assistant I assist with the collation, presentation and dissemination of existing and new data. I help set up monitoring projects for moorland restoration work.

Important skills for my job are:

- Understanding of GIS
- Ecological and environmental knowledge
- Good time management and organisational skills

My career path was:

- A-Levels = Biology, Chemistry, History
- BSc Zoology with Industrial Placement
- MRes Ecology with Environmental Management
- Several temp jobs filled in time between courses
- Ecological consultancy
- Moors for the Future

About my job and what I would like to do in the future:

I love variety in my work, so I like a mix of office and outdoor work. I like solving problems and finding patterns, hence why I enjoy research. In the future I would like to continue working in conservation, and to work to slow the loss of biodiversity and protect our threatened plant and animal species.

If someone wanted a job like mine, one bit of advice would be:

University and a degree in an environmental subject is the best way to get into research. Try and get relevant work experience and learn what you can about nature and the outdoors. There are lots of ways outside of school to learn about plants and animals – lots of natural history societies and animal groups. Just do what you enjoy doing and do it with enthusiasm.

Follow up for students -

What links this career to geography and why?

You can find out more information and how to get involved as a volunteer at www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

What other routes could you take to this career?

Projects Manager

Patricia Rice

I work for:

The National Trust – High Peak & Longshaw Estate – Projects Team

My role is: To plan, co-ordinate and deliver a programme of project work and to lead and manage the Project Team. In particular it is my job to develop and manage the delivery of Conservation Plans that enable us to carry out moorland restoration work and get grant funding for it.

Important skills for my job are:

- Project planning and management
- Budget control
- Good knowledge of conservation and land management in the uplands and moorland restoration techniques
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Good influencing and negotiating skills
- Good IT skills

My career path was:

- I did a Joint BSc Hons Degree in Geography & Biology (called Earth & Life Studies).
- My first graduate job was as an ecologist for a Water Engineering Consultancy (carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment and landscaping work).
- Then I became a Lecturer in Geography at The University of Derby where I taught Biogeography, Conservation and Landscape Ecology for 11 years. At the same time I completed a PhD in the field of landscape ecology, GIS & Remote Sensing.
- After this I joined English Nature (The Government's Nature Conservation Agency) and became a Conservation Officer responsible for part of The Dark Peak SSSI including the upland area owned by the National Trust. English Nature became Natural England in 2006 and I still have the same role within that organisation.
- I am currently seconded to the National Trust for a year in the role described above.

A comment about your job or what you would like to do in the future:

I particularly enjoy my current role within The National Trust because I feel like I am actually getting something done for the conservation and restoration of the moorlands of The Peak District – the work is very hands on. I also enjoy working with different Teams within The Trust.

If someone wanted a job like mine, one bit of advice would be:

Develop a range of transferable skills (e.g. project management, IT, dealing with people) and be interested in the organisation you want to work for and/or area of expertise (e.g. uplands) through voluntary work.

Follow up for students:

What links this career to geography and why?

You can find out more information at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-trust/w-volunteering.htm

What other routes could you take to this career?

Peak District National Park Area Ranger

Sheila McHale

I work for: The Peak District National Park Authority, Field Services

My role is: Full time Area Ranger based at Edale. I cover Hope, Edale, Kinder Scout (Dark Peak), Castleton and Peak Forest, (White Peak). As part of my job I have to look after my Ranger Base at Fieldhead, a 4 wheel drive vehicle, fire fighting equipment, power tools and workshop.

I manage 14 volunteer patrol rangers who help me patrol my areas talking to people and reporting work which needs doing. I work with local schools on environmental education, Parish Councils, landowners, tenants, gamekeepers, visitors, and lots of organisations with in the park. I also have to do paperwork such as writing Fire Plans for my area and risk assessments. A big part of my job is running guided walk programmes and events for visitors and local people.

Important ranger work includes: planning and taking part in conservation projects, implementing Rights of Way work, enforcing By Laws on Access Land, monitoring shoots, training new rangers and liaising with all departments of the Authority to maintain the Park, including clearing litter.

Important skills for my job are:

- Communication skills
- Practical skills
- Conservation skills

My career path was:

I did some very different things before becoming a ranger such as, MA in Victorian Studies, Youth and Community Worker, Research Assistant for Museum Service. I'm also a single parent. When I decided to try and change career I volunteered at the National Park to gain experience. I then moved on to supervise volunteers, worked as a patrol ranger and then the Pennine Way Maintenance Team. I decided to get an MSC in Environmental Protection/Countryside Management.

A comment about your job or what you would like to do in the future:

I really enjoy the variety of work you get being a ranger. Every day is different, meeting different people using different skills, solving problems. It's very rewarding helping to look after the environment and I get to work in a lovely place. In the future I think I might like to move into being an environmental consultant.

If someone wanted a job like mine, one bit of advice would be:

Determination, commitment, qualifications or experience, practical skills, a genuine desire to work in the environment with people.

Follow up for students -

What links this career to geography and why?

You can find out more information at: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk or jobs.derbyshire.gov.uk/peakdistrict/

What other routes could you take to this career?