



# KENTON LOHRAFF

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Manages the natural and cultural resources on Fort Leonard Wood, including archaeological sites, fish, wildlife, plants, fungi, invertebrates and their habitats, such as forests, caves, grasslands, glades and riparian areas

## Why did you choose a career as a DA Civilian?

The Army owns a lot of real estate on many installations, which require sustainable resource management, so **there are many opportunities within my profession.** I conducted my biology master's thesis studying birds at Robinson Maneuver Training Center and Little Rock Air Force Base. I documented initial bird lists for their Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans, and that experience was a fabulous initiation into the distinctive niche of the military natural resources management world.

## What do you like most about your job/career as a DA Civilian?

I enjoy conducting conservation science on such a diverse landscape and sharing conservation interests with a wide variety of professionals within the Army system. **The opportunity to accomplish impactful ecosystem management and protection for the Army community is particularly rewarding for me.** Educating others about the importance of cultural and environmental protection, compliance, and supporting those habitats that sustain training has been personally gratifying. **I get much satisfaction in explaining what we do and how it supports the Army mission by maintaining healthy Army lands.**

## What are the benefits of working as a DA Civilian?

You get to do fantastic resource management - or whatever career profession you do - while serving and supporting service members. **There are tremendous cultural and natural resources within**



**the Army system** and opportunities to work on vital resource conservation and management with professionals from other installations, agencies and universities who all work to protect irreplaceable cultural and biological sites by sustainable management of training lands long-term.

## What is your most memorable experience as a DA Civilian?

**My most memorable experience is conservation of the endangered Eastern Hellbender.** I have partnered with state and federal agencies on innovative management techniques such as captive rearing and release, habitat augmentation and intensive monitoring of this unique endangered amphibian. **I enjoy sharing information about the benefits of protecting hellbenders** as they are sensitive to environmental pollution and environmental changes so **they are good bioindicators of the health of their aquatic**

**habitats within our Ozark streams.**

## What advice would you give to others who might be looking at becoming a DA Civilian?

**Consider the Army system no matter what your specialization or career interests,** but especially biologists, foresters, ecologists and archaeologists because there are tremendous natural and cultural resources and opportunities here. In fact, Army installations hold many rare species because they are a last refuge in many cases as urban sprawl and development destroy dwindling habitats outside the gates. **Working for the Army as a civilian has unique challenges, but also offers many one-of-a-kind opportunities and the chance to have a real impact on sustainable resource management.**

