Careers in forestry are exceptionally varied, challenging, and personally satisfying. Opportunities are available in rural and urban settings worldwide. With the many facets of forestry today, jobs are myriad—forest science, urban forestry, forest conservation, forest ecology, forest biology, forest fire science are a few options available. Foresters and natural resource professionals are everywhere — enjoying the outdoors, working in a lab or classroom, using technology, talking with local communities and landowners, and speaking in public. The exciting profession of forestry means you have many career paths in natural resources. There are not called “foresters.” They have titles like forest pathologist, soil scientist, forestry consultant, recreation coordinator, forest supervisor, wood chemist, wilderness and trails specialist, wildlife biologist and habitat specialist, education specialist, and timberland investor.

Additional examples of career opportunities include, but are not limited to: forest manager, forest/park ranger, environmental policy and naturalist, land use planner, geospatial information systems specialist, forest products business person, researcher/professor.

For more info:
The Career Center
career.colostate.edu

Career Center Liaison for the Warner College of Natural Resources
warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/

Conduct informational interviews to see what people are doing. Let the Career Center assist you.

Contact the Career Center at 491-5707 to schedule an appointment with your Career Counselor, Wendy Rose.

### Actual Job Titles of Graduates

- Consulting Utility Forester
- Forester
- Forestry Technician
- Forestry Technician—Wildfire
- GIS Technician
- Natural Resources Educator
- Small Sales Forester
- Timber Sales Administrator
- Volunteer Project Coordinator
- Wildland Firefighter

### Actual Employers of Graduates

- AECOM Environmental
- Bureau of Land Management
- City of Boulder Forestry Dept
- Colorado State Forest Service
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Western ECI

*From the CSU University Catalog*
In the Fall of 2008, WCNR surveyed alumni from 1987—2007 to find out where they are now. Of those who responded to the survey, here are some highlights.

**5 Years Out Highlights:**
- 98% employed or not seeking employment
- 65% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 26% employed in different field by choice
- 77% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 77% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $48,300

**10 Years Out Highlights:**
- 67% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 26% employed in different field by choice
- 90% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 90% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $52,400

**20 Years Out Highlights:**
- 100% employed or not seeking employment
- 80% employed in the same or related field to their degree
- 9% employed in different field by choice
- 86% are very or moderately satisfied with their job
- 88% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job
- Salaries average approximately $66,500

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**Check out these websites:**
- **The Career Center**
  www.career.colostate.edu
- **WCNR Career Page**
  warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/
- **Society of American Foresters**
  www.safnet.org/
- **National Association of State Foresters**
  www.stateforesters.org/jobs.html
- **Forest Products Society**
  www.forestprod.org/
- **Dept of the Interior Fire Jobs**
  www.firejobs.doi.gov/
- **National Interagency Fire Center**
  www.nifc.gov/jobs.html
- **The Ecological Society of America**
  www.esa.org/careers_certification/employment.php
- **Land Trust Alliance**
  www.landtrustalliance.org/about/jobs
Participating in seasonal and voluntary work, internships, and cooperative education opportunities will enhance your chances for permanent full-time employment. Pre-graduation experience gives students a taste of what a career in forestry would be like and an edge in applying for jobs and graduate schools. But the edge isn’t what it used to be—many employers and graduate schools have come to expect it.

Additionally, while four weeks at Pingree Park and a week of Forestry Field Measurements is a great base of field skills, having work experience that demonstrates you can deal with the realities of field work—varying weather conditions, rustic living conditions, hiking long miles over rough terrain, and operating a variety of vehicles or heavy equipment—is important. Many undergraduates will do field research or internships for college credit or volunteer with a professor or graduate student to gain experience.

The best way to find a relevant position on campus is to network with your professors—don’t send a mass email to all faculty members. Read about the work they are doing and contact those that interest you. You may need a little persistence and patience to get a position. Exploring a career through an internship, volunteer or summer field experience as an undergraduate will help you decide if forestry is right for you.

With more Education or Experience...

The career opportunities on the first page are what you might expect from your first job. However, as you gain more experience and/or education, there are a number of other opportunities that may open up to you.

For example, as you progress in your career, you may move from “Forestry Technician” to a “Forester” to a “Supervisory Forester”. Perhaps you may become a “specialist” or a “manager.” Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

**Importance of Experience**

**10 Things employers want**

1. Communication Skills
2. Honesty/Integrity
3. Teamwork Skills
4. Interpersonal Skills
5. Motivation/Initiative
6. Strong Work Ethic
7. Analytical Skills
8. Flexibility/Adaptability
9. Computer Skills
10. Organizational Skills

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**Director of Landscape Science**
**District Fire Management Officer**
**District Forester**
**Community Forester**
**Environmental Permitting Coordinator**
**Environmental Scientist**

**Fire Communication Specialist**
**Fire GIS Specialist**
**Fuels Forester**
**GIS Analyst**
**Natural Resource Specialist**
**Open Lands Manager**

**Parks Planner**
**Public Lands Director**
**Senior Project Manager**
**Silviculturist**
**Smokejumper**
**Supervisory Forester**

[warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/]
Graduate School Checklist:

- Determine which degree will be most beneficial to you in your career growth, M.S., Ph.D., J.D.
- Develop a list of schools that offer programs in areas that interest you; warnercnr.colostate.edu/apply-to-graduate-school/
- Obtain information about the research professors are conducting at the schools.
- Gather information about the programs and rate them.
- Gain experience in the field you want to pursue in graduate school.
- Ensure that you have met all undergraduate prerequisites for the graduate school program(s) you apply for.
- Develop a plan to pay for graduate school.

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LSC West
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