Opportunities are available with a wide array of local, national, and international organizations and institutions involved in natural resource management. Graduates apply their education in science, technology, social science, and policy to solving today’s critical natural resource and environmental problems. Positions are found with federal, state, and local government agencies, industry, and education and advocacy organizations. Some natural resource professionals are employed in environmental consulting firms and corporate environmental departments. The nonprofit sector provides a variety of environmentally-related jobs, ranging from science application to policy development, education, and collaborative conservation. In general, competition is quite intense while some positions require a graduate degree.

Examples of available career choices include, but are not limited to: natural resource manager; professional forester; land use planner; geographic information system (GIS) or remote sensing specialist; fisheries/wildlife manager; environmental policy analyst; environmental advocate; environmental consultant; fire management specialist; resources/environmental lawyer; youth agency administrator; natural resource communications specialist; law enforcement officer; natural resources/environmental educator; restoration specialist; multiple resource use planner; regulatory compliance enforcement officer.

*From the CSU University Catalog

Sample careers for N.R.M. majors

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,

Actual Job Titles of Graduates
- Arborist
- Biological Science Technician
- Conservation Crew Leader
- District Wildlife Manager
- Data Analyst
- Field Technician
- Forestry Technician
- GIS Technician
- Guest Services Assistant
- Invasive Species Technician
- Lab Technician
- Mountain Concierge
- Range Technician
- Recreation Planner
- Visitor Services Assistant
- Watershed Restoration Technician
- Wilderness Ranger
- Wildland Firefighter

Actual Employers of Graduates
- AECOM Environmental
- Beaver Creek Resort
- Boulder County Parks & Open Space
- Bureau of Land Management
- City of Fort Collins
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Larimer Dept of Natural Resources
- Legacy Land Trust
- Mountain Whitewater Descents
- National Park Service
- New Hampshire Conservation Corps
- Rocky Mountain Adventures
- Society of American Foresters
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- Vail Resorts
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:**
- 100% employed
- 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/
- The Ecological Society of America
  www.esa.org/careers_certification/employment.php
- Land Trust Alliance
  www.landtrustalliance.org/about/jobs
- Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates
  www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
- Conservation Job Board
  www.conservationjobboard.com/
- Society of American Foresters
  www.safnet.org/
- Texas A & M Wildlife & Fisheries Job Board
  wfsc.tamu.edu/jobboard/
- Student Conservation Association
  www.thesca.org/
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 natural resources management 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 is a great base of field skills, having work or volunteer 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 natural resources management is right for you.

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 “Technician” to a “Natural Resources Specialist”. Perhaps you may become a “manager.” Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

**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
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/](http://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.

Warner College of Natural Resources Liaison Office

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Wendy.Rose@colostate.edu
107C Natural Resources

Drop In Office:
LSC West (Adjacent to the Rec Center)
970.491.5707

career.colostate.edu