Graduates work in a variety of federal, state, and local resource management agencies, nonprofit environmental conservation and education organizations, and private commercial recreation enterprises domestically and abroad. Competition can be intense for full time/permanent positions in highly attractive natural resource locations, although ample opportunities exist to gain experience through seasonal/temporary, and volunteer work.

Participation in a high quality, pre-approved internship is required for the degree. Additional cooperative education opportunities are highly recommended to enhance your practical training and development. Graduates who go on for advanced studies can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels.

*From the CSU University Catalog*
An internship gives students a taste of what a career in natural resource recreation and tourism 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.

The Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism degree requires an internship which allows you to apply what you have learned in 3-4 years of classroom study to an actual work setting. It also enables you to pursue experiential opportunities with an organization with which you might want a career.

Your internship should be a capstone learning experience which helps you to synthesize the mass of knowledge you have acquired from your course work. A very thoughtfully selected internship and a quality performance will open doors to starting your professional career. Your internship should be viewed as a ticket to your first professional experience.

While the NRRT major requires one internship, that shouldn’t stop you from pursuing additional internship or related summer job opportunities. Exploring a career field through multiple internship or summer experiences as an undergraduate will help you decide if that career is right for you. It will also give you time to look at other options!

### Importance of Internship Experience

- Communication Skills
- Honesty/Integrity
- Teamwork Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Motivation/Initiative
- Strong Work Ethic
- Analytical Skills
- Flexibility/Adaptability
- Computer Skills
- Organizational Skills

### Career Opportunities

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 an “assistant” to a “manager,” from a “coordinator” to a “director.” Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

### 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
- 7% employed in different field not 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/
- Student Conservation Association
  www.thesca.org/
- North American Association for Environmental Education, EE Linked
  eelinked.naee.net/index.aspx
- National Association for Interpretation
  www.interpnet.com/
- National Recreation and Parks Association
  www.nrpa.org/
- Cool Works
  www.coolworks.com/
- International Ecotourism Society
  www.ecotourism.org/
- National Tour Association
  www.ntaonline.com/
- Outdoor Education Jobs
  www.outdoored.com/jobs/
- US Park Ranger Lodge
  www.rangerfop.com/

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Importance of Internship Experience

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While the NRRT major requires one internship, that shouldn’t stop you from pursuing additional internship or related summer job opportunities. Exploring a career field through multiple internship or summer experiences as an undergraduate will help you decide if that career is right for you. It will also give you time to look at other options!

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

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 an “assistant” to a “manager”, from a “coordinator” to a “director”. Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

Business and Recreation Chief
Director of Education/Public Programs
Director of Member Services
Economic Development Specialist
Education Director
Environmental Scientist
Event Manager
Naturalist
Open Lands Manager
Park Ranger – Law Enforcement
Parks Planner
Program Manager
Public Lands Director
Recreation Planner
Recreation Staff Officer
Tourism Outfitter Owner
Senior Project Manager
Vice President of Operations

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.

Warner College of Natural Resources Liaison Office
Wendy Rose
970.491.2668
Wendy.Rose@colostate.edu
107C Natural Resources

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

career.colostate.edu