



FOREST AND RANGELAND STEWARDSHIP

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2023 Newsletter

Message From Our Interim Department Head



The department has been very busy this past semester, and some of the exciting activities are highlighted in this newsletter. I will also update you on a few other items.

We are in the final stages of hiring two new individuals in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship: a new department head and a new biometrist, who will teach those fundamental skills of quantifying ecosystem structure. So, please consider following FRS (via Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) for announcements about these individuals that will be coming soon.

I also have some good news about NR 220 ([Natural Resource Ecology and Measurements](#)) taught at the Mountain Campus. Many of you are aware that NR 220 has not been fully offered for several years, but individuals from the college and FRS have worked hard this year to offer sessions of NR 220 every month this summer to give everyone who wants it an opportunity to spend time at

Hello, FRS Family and Friends,

Greetings from Fort Collins, where we have just completed another academic year and sent a great group of graduates out to continue stewarding our natural resources.

This spring, 55 undergraduate and 49 graduate students graduated from our department to pursue their passions. The graduation ceremonies were presided over, for the first time, by new Dean Alonso Aguirre and new Colorado State University President Amy Parsons.

Before graduation, I spent some time chatting with the seniors about their time at Colorado State University and was so impressed by their passion for natural resource management and their desire to continue learning from individuals already working in the field. So, if you are a forest and rangeland stewardship alum, please keep an eye out for these graduates and help them in any way you can to help build our CSU and FRS community.

the campus. I'm getting ready, myself, to head up to the campus to teach for a couple of weeks, and I'm excited to interact with the students and get rejuvenated by their excitement and enthusiasm for natural resource management.

In this issue of the FRS newsletter, prepared by Katy Stites (our departmental communications coordinator), we share some of the great research our faculty and staff are working on, highlight some of our many fantastic graduates, and reflect on some of the individuals who have worked and trained at FRS in the past. I hope you enjoy catching up on the news from FRS. Take care, and have a great summer!

Troy Ocheltree
Professor and Interim Department Head

Announcements

- Finalists for the department head position visited campus, and we are in the process of selecting a new department head for the upcoming school year.
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- [Two recently graduated FRS master's students - Camden Baker and Anna Wright - were selected as finalists in the Presidential Management Fellows Program.](#) The program is a leadership initiative that serves as the federal government's premier pipeline for moving advanced degree graduates into government leadership positions.
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Congratulations to all recent graduates of the class of 2023. We celebrated numerous undergraduate and graduate school graduates during spring commencement. [View the FRS graduation album on Flickr.](#)



FRS students and colleagues celebrated one another at an awards ceremony this spring. [FRS students, faculty, and staff took home awards.](#)

FRS News



Confronting the climate crisis

Courtney Schultz, professor of forest and fire policy, wrote an article on CSU's response to climate change for CSU *Research* magazine. She and other CSU experts are working on the interrelated challenges of climate change mitigation. Schultz is also director of the Public Lands Policy Group and director of the Climate Adaptation Partnership.

[Read more](#)



New Tools to Fight Fires, Protect People

A multistate effort joins science and stakeholders to help communities cope with fire. The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute applies innovative research to identify risks, prevent harm, and find ways to bounce back after a fire disaster. Tony Cheng, director of CFRI, shares how the group increases wildfire resilience and democratizes science for community benefits.

[Read more](#)



New CSU Mountain Campus's Harbison Building

The Donald and Esther Harbison Research and Education Building will be the first new academic facility built at the Mountain Campus in several decades. The building features flexible classroom and lab space, offices for faculty and instructors, student gathering spaces, and a wraparound deck with picturesque views of Mummy Range. The new building will allow the Mountain Campus to enhance its programming, reach more students, and offer up-to-date technologies for researchers.

[Read more](#)



Q&A with fire ecologist

Camille Stevens-Rumann is an assistant professor in FRS and assistant director of the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute. Her research focuses on post-disturbance recovery and challenges facing disturbed lands, whether that is understanding species and ecosystem responses to disturbances or applications for improving future ecosystem management.

[Read more](#)



FRS grads selected as finalists for PMF program

FRS master's graduates Camden Baker and Anna Wright were selected as finalists in the Presidential Management Fellows Program. The leadership program serves as the federal government's premier pipeline for moving advanced degree graduates into government leadership positions.

[Read more](#)



Ecology M.S. student advancing education with interpersonal to institutional change

The CSU Graduate School awarded Tamara Layden the 2022-2023 Advancing Education Scholarship in honor of the legacy and memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Layden is in the Indigenous Land and Data Stewards Lab Resource Hub housed in FRS.

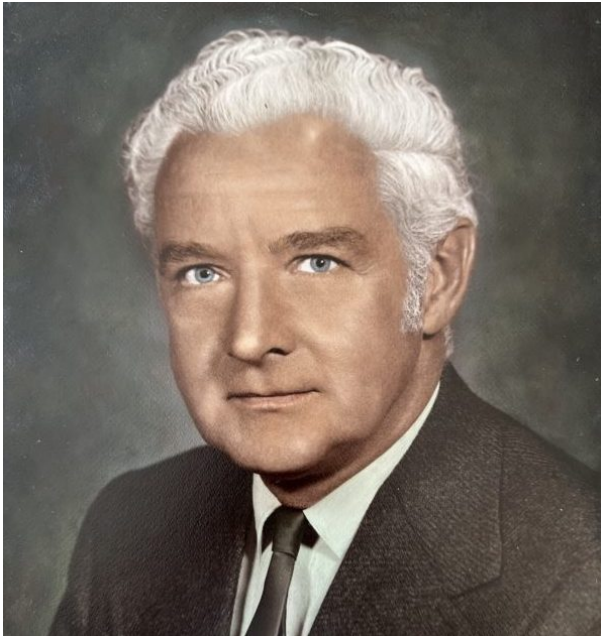
[Read more](#)



Childhood passion to the Department of Defense: A natural resources expert shares CSU career progression

Chris Herron received a B.S. in rangeland ecology, rangeland and forest management, then a master's in rangeland ecosystem science, restoration ecology at CSU. Herron is now a principal investigator with CSU's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, where he oversees large-scale environmental projects for the DoD in Louisiana, Nevada, California, and elsewhere.

[Read more](#)



In memoriam: Professor Emeritus Gilbert Fechner

Professor Emeritus Gilbert H. Fechner, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, passed away peacefully in his sleep Dec. 16, 2022, just four days before his 100th birthday.

Fechner was known as an innovative teacher and a dedicated adviser, always celebrating students' successes and giving them the advice to "keep their options open."

[Read more](#)


JOIN US

FRS SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

Sustaining Socio-Ecological systems into the Future:
Adapting our Natural Resource Management to a
Changing Climate



WEDNESDAYS 4:00 - 5:00 PM | IN-PERSON & ZOOM

The 2023 spring seminar series features talks from distinguished professionals in the fields of forest and rangeland stewardship, ecology, ecosystem science, and sustainability. Seminars are open to visitors.



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View joint spring seminar talks

Each spring, FRS hosts a course featuring compelling interdisciplinary research presentations, in coordination with the Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability and the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology. The 2023 theme was "Sustaining Socio-Ecological systems into the Future: Adapting our Natural Resource Management to a Changing Climate."

[Watch the talks](#)

Student and Alumni Success



Outstanding class of 2023 graduates highlighted

Recent graduates Angelika Helmer and Esme Wissinger are featured on our website. Wissinger received their B.S. in forest and rangeland stewardship with a concentration in forest management. Helmer graduated with a B.S. in FRS focused on forest management and natural resources management and a minor in ecological restoration.

[Read more](#)



Hear from Master of Natural Resources Management alumni

View Q&A highlights of recent MNRS alumni who are working in a variety of environmental fields.

[Read more](#)

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Forest and Rangeland
Stewardship Website



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