



HUMAN DIMENSIONS  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# MASTER OF CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMER 2023



LEAD. COLLABORATE.  
CREATE CHANGE.



# Program Description .....

The Master of Conservation Leadership program at Colorado State University is a master's degree which prepares leaders to address complex conservation issues at local, regional, and global scales. The program is built around the principles of experiential learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and applied approaches. Working closely with a network of practitioners and organizations, the Master's in Conservation Leadership is the option for individuals seeking to make a difference in the lives and ecosystems of our planet. Learn more about the program's innovative approach on our [About Us](#) webpage.




The program welcomes its 13th cohort in August 2023. Since the first cohort in 2010, **232 students** have participated in the program, completing Capstone Projects in **17 countries**:

- Belize
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Namibia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- United States

**CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP THROUGH LEARNING MASTERS PROGRAM**

LEAD. COLLABORATE. CREATE CHANGE.

*Offered by the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources*  
[leadershipthroughlearning.org](http://leadershipthroughlearning.org)

 **Colorado State University**  
WARNER COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Conservation Leadership Through Learning*

The graphic is a vertical banner. At the top, it has a green header with white text. Below this is a photograph of three men in hats and casual shirts, one sitting on a vehicle. A white box with black text is overlaid on the photo. Below the photo is a green section with white text. At the bottom is another photograph of people walking on a dirt path in a rural landscape. The bottom of the banner features the Colorado State University logo and name.



# Program Affiliations



In 2020, the Master of Conservation Leadership program became a part of the Western Regional Graduate Program partnership through WICHE. This program allows for applicants with residency in 16 western states and U.S. territories to qualify for resident tuition rate. For more information about this program and to see if a prospective applicant qualifies, please visit the [WICHE-WRGP webpage](#).



The program holds an agreement with the United States Peace Corps establishing the degree as a **Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Fellows Program**. To be eligible, a student must be a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and the opportunity offers a 33% discount on tuition for the fall and spring semesters, as well as an additional programmatic scholarship to allow fellows to develop new skills in conservation disciplines through instruction, field-work, and research which values cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives.



## AmeriCorps

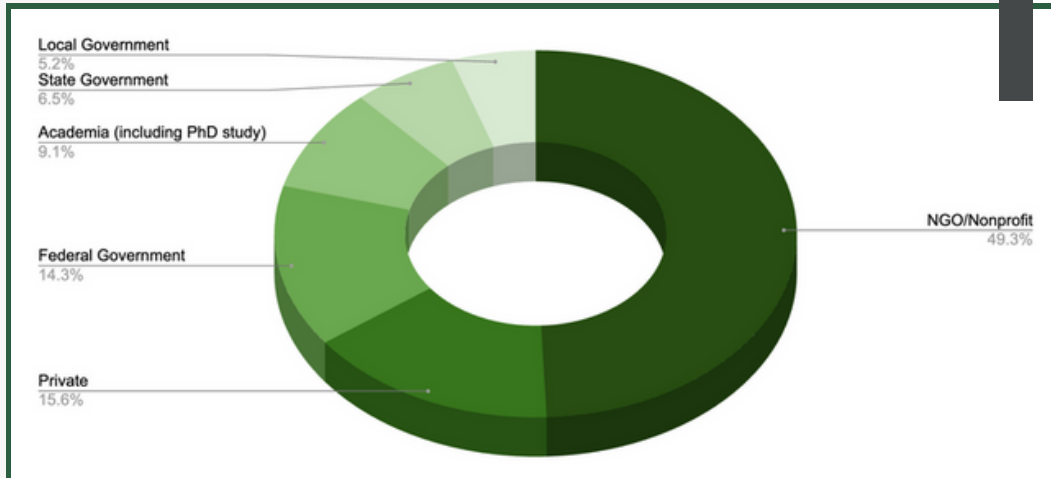
The program participates in the **AmeriCorps School of National Service initiative** allowing applicants that completed a period of service to qualify for an application fee waiver and a matching scholarship up to \$2,500. The program awards up to three AmeriCorps volunteers with this award per year.



# Alumni Data

## Employment of Alumni by Sector

Based on an evaluation survey conducted earlier this year with alumni from our 12 prior cohorts, the distribution by sector of our alumni working in conservation showed the following:

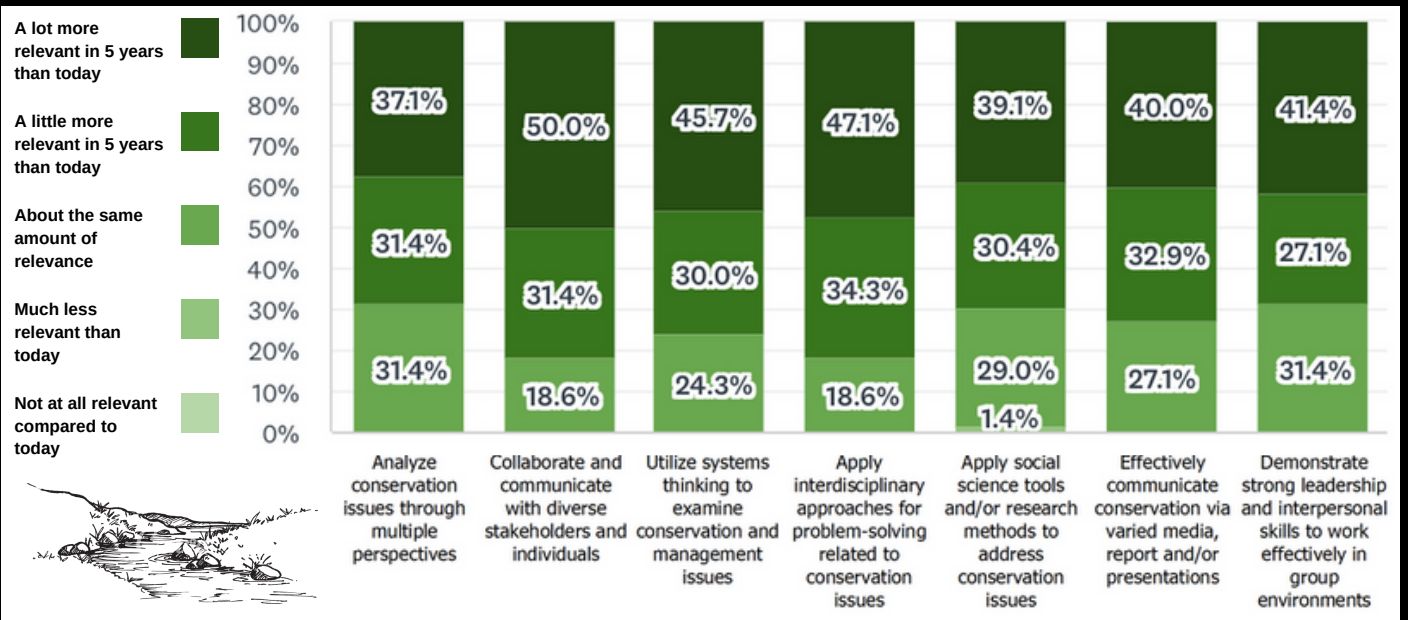


## Examples of Alumni Careers

- **Indigenous People, Local Communities Partnerships Manager**  
*Environmental Defense Fund*
- **Science and Innovation Programs Specialist**  
*National Geographic Society*
- **Public Lands Advocacy Coordinator**  
*The Conservation Alliance*
- **Corporate Sustainability Manager**  
*World Wildlife Fund*
- **Wildfire Resilience Coordinator**  
*Colorado State Forest Service*
- **Conservation Social Scientist**  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

\*Check out the [Alumni Careers webpage](#) on the program's website for more examples of employment positions by our alumni.

## Relevance of the Program's Core Objectives for the Future of Conservation



We also asked alumni to assess the relevance of the program's core objectives to their conservation workplace. Overall, alumni expressed that we are teaching the right content to prepare students for conservation work!

# Program Spotlights



AUDREY  
MORENG  
CLTL COHORT 12 MEMBER  
COVERDELL FELLOW

Audrey is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and Coverdell Fellow in Cohort 12. In the Peace Corps, she served as a Youth Development volunteer in Fiji and co-established a women's cooperative to catalyze income-earning opportunities for its participants. Audrey is working with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition for her capstone project, focusing on how the organization can more effectively connect historically marginalized groups in southern Colorado with the organization's activities in the region related to outdoor recreation, restoration, and trail-related economic development.

Astghik is a Fulbright Scholar from Armenia that has worked as a biologist for the German Nature Protection Union, as well as a research intern for the World Wildlife Fund in Armenia. She currently interns as a biodiversity analyst with The Wilderness Society while working on her capstone with Rocky Mountain Wild. Along with a peer from her cohort, they are examining opportunities and challenges associated with potential wolverine reintroduction in Colorado.



ASTGHIK  
MARKOSYAN  
CLTL COHORT 12 MEMBER  
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR



COHORT 11  
CAPSTONE  
NORTHERN COLORADO  
FOODSHED

Evan Briscoe, Gwenaelle d'Aumale, and Jeremiah Gorske from Cohort 11 worked with the Northern Colorado Foodshed Project for their capstone. The project consisted of creating a GIS Mapping Tool that would support the organization's goal of building a vibrant, resilient, and equitable foodshed for the region. The GIS dashboard will be used by the organization to promote protection of agricultural lands and strategically serve communities that have been historically excluded by the regional food system.

Audrey Clavijo, Elan Seideman, and Martha Walker from Cohort 11 traveled to Costa Rica to work with Asociación Mar a Mar as their capstone. The project examined the viability of regional collaboration as a tool to promote rural ecotourism business development on a coast-to-coast trail, the El Camino de Costa Rica. Their work involved community discussions and interviews, as well as local and regional-scale collaborative meetings to better inform the creation of a formal community-based ecotourism collaborative.



COHORT 11  
CAPSTONE  
ASOCIACION  
MAR A MAR



COHORT 12 FIELD  
EXPERIENCE  
COLORADO NATURAL  
HERITAGE PROGRAM

Cohort 12 took part in a field experience with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as a part of their *Spatial Applications for Conservation* course. During the field experience, cohort members collected ecological data on beaver habitat in Fort Collins Natural Areas. This data was then used to create an ArcGIS webmap and story map as a tool for communicating the contributions of beavers to ecological systems and conservation. Ultimately, the data collected will help inform CNHP's strategic planning on beaver conservation in Northern Colorado.



# Thank you to our 2022 Capstone Partners!

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## Domestic Partners:

- Big Thompson Watershed Coalition | Colorado
- Denver Zoo | Colorado
- Eagle Valley Land Trust | Colorado
- Lacy Consulting Services | Colorado
- Mountain Area Land Trust | Colorado
- National Park Service | Colorado
- Northern Colorado Foodshed Project | Colorado
- Rocky Mountain Wild | Colorado
- The Juniper Project | Colorado
- The Nature Conservancy | Colorado

## International Partners:

- Asociación Mar a Mar | Costa Rica
- Gorilla Guardians Village | Rwanda
- Isla and Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation | Bulgaria
- Snares to Wares | Uganda



\*If your organization is interested in proposing a capstone project, please visit the [Partnering Information webpage](#).

A world map with a green watercolor texture, showing the continents. The map is centered and occupies the lower half of the page.

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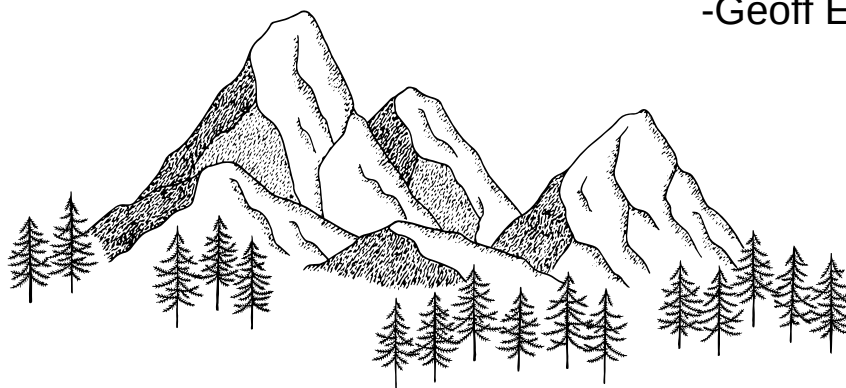
***Inspiring and  
training the  
next  
generation of  
conservation  
leaders.***

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*"CLTL completely reworked how I understand innovation, collaboration, and program success. The program's interdisciplinary approach forced me to approach conservation from a multifaceted lens to address problems and implement programs that better tackle complex concerns. The program has completely changed my life, the way I approach my career, and the programs I help implement."*

**-Geoff Elliot, Cohort 6**



Discover more by scanning the QR code or by emailing the program at  
**[CLTL@mail.colostate.edu](mailto:CLTL@mail.colostate.edu)**.

This program is a part of the Warner College of Natural Resources.

