Major in Forestry

Forest landscapes are always changing, sometimes very slowly as a result of long-term processes, followed by rapid changes as a result of fires or harvesting. Sustaining forests in the modern world requires managers who understand these changes, and how forests connect to global, ecological, and social systems. The Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship provides forestry education that spans the entire range of experiences necessary to understand and manage forests. Curricula include a background in the biological, physical, social, and management sciences, followed by professional forestry courses. The degree is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. The curricula meet the Office of Personnel Management requirements for the forestry series (0460) and the forestry technician series (0462). The program includes a summer course at the CSU Mountain Campus for field studies in forest ecology, plant and animal identification, wildland fire measurements, forest mapping, and forest measurements. Forestry education is supported by departmental strengths in the full spectrum of land stewardship, including research, and application of knowledge to address real-world issues in forests and communities.

Four concentrations are available in the Forestry major—Forest Biology, Forest Fire Science, Forest Management, and Forestry Business.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

• Effectively communicate knowledge of forestry and natural resources, both verbally and in writing
• Demonstrate proficiency in subject areas outside their major study focus, including principles/issues in wildlife, water, recreation, wilderness, soil, range, and fishery resources
• Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of subject areas relevant to the major fields of study in forest sciences, including forest ecology and forest management, and apply this knowledge in a complex, problem-solving environment

Potential Occupations

Careers in forestry and natural resources are exceptionally varied, challenging, and personally satisfying. Opportunities are available in rural and urban settings worldwide. Participation in internships, volunteer activities, or cooperative education opportunities is highly recommended to enhance practical training and development. Positions are available in industry, education, consulting, public service, and government agencies. Graduates who go on for advanced studies can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels.

The demographics of an aging workforce in federal natural resource management agencies will be creating significant opportunities for graduates of this program over the next three to five years.

Some examples of career opportunities include, but are not limited to: forest manager, forest/park ranger, environmental policy and conservation consultant, fire fighter/manager, natural resource journalist, naturalist, land use planner, geospatial information systems specialist, forest products business person, researcher/professor.

Concentrations

• Forest Biology Concentration
• Forest Fire Science Concentration
• Forest Management Concentration
• Forestry-Business Concentration