

## **Forestry and Natural Resources Career Snapshot**

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**Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR)** focuses on the conservation and restoration of the earth's natural resources through hands-on study of the ecology, stewardship, and management of forest, woodland, and grassland ecosystems. The program offers concentrations in natural sciences or in human dimensions of natural resources, and if the student chooses, can qualify the student for taking the Registered Professional Forester's licensing exam in California. The topics studied include wildlife and conservation biology, ecosystem restoration, rangeland management, water policy, fire science, environmental justice, and rural sociology. Majors participate in an 8-week summer field program in the Sierra Nevada. Offered by the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (ESPM): <http://espm.berkeley.edu>

### **Key Skills**

- Complete your lower division requirements as soon as you can to take advantage of advanced courses.
- Learn how to use technical systems well, namely Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
- Acquire broad knowledge in areas including fire ecology and management, California land use and history, Native American land use and history, and natural resources policy.
- Strengthen your ability to manage datasets accurately.
- Seek out undergraduate research opportunities in labs or out in the field to gain hands-on experience.
- Develop your public speaking and technical writing skills, as good communication with the public, other scientists, specialists, and managers is important. Learning to interact collaboratively and to communicate clearly is also valuable because working in interdisciplinary teams is a crucial aspect of natural resource management.

### **Career Pathways**

The degree provides specific analytical tools needed for graduate school or virtually any type of career in natural resources. Graduates can pursue careers in environmental consulting, public agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, private companies, professional forestry, wildlife biology, and range management. Some may tackle the planning and implementation of forest management projects, including fuel reduction, timber harvest, reforestation, urban forestry, and prescribed burning. Others focus their professional work in areas such as wildfire, fire, water, wetlands, restoration, vegetation management, soil/erosion, cultural resources, policy, and the human aspects of natural resources. Much of natural resource management today is about working with, communicating with, and engaging the public and landowners. The program itself has a longstanding history, so our graduates often find themselves sought after for employment by alumni established in both the public and private sectors.

### **Public and Non-Profit Sector Jobs**

- **U.S. Forest Service or California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection:** Due to the high retirement rates in government agencies such as these, younger employees are being heavily recruited to work in the area of grassland and woodland management, fire hazard reduction and other fire related issues, assessment of stand conditions for treatments such as hazard tree reduction, or restoration and management of a particular tree species or habitat type. Social science expertise is needed for developing participatory projects, researching public needs, and assessing the social and economic factors contributing to project successes and shortfalls.
- **Other federal and state government agencies:** Many agencies hire well-trained forestry and natural resource professionals to work as research assistants or associates to study topics such as basic forest ecology, wildlife conservation and ecology, the effects of different treatments on tree growth, mortality, and seedling recruitment, or the effects of management strategies for goals like fuel reduction. Land use planning, development of habitat conservation plans, and compliance with environmental regulations are crucial to agency activities.

- **Non-profit firms and organizations, local governments:** Administer conservation or natural resource programs, conduct research, and carry out land management activities and monitoring. Assist landowners in managing their properties, and work with groups of stakeholders on environmental management projects. Work on land conservation, management, and restoration projects for land trusts, parks, and reserves, including the development and monitoring of conservation easements.

### Private Sector Jobs

- **Environmental consulting firms:** Offer environmental consulting and management services to assist in urban forestry or forest management, ranching, hunting or wildlife conservation, management of homeowner association properties, and land use planning. Provide assistance in management and conservation of resources found on Native American lands and public lands.
- **Business and economics:** Prepare timber harvest plans for private timber companies or other purchasing/supply firms. Manage power line vegetation and other kinds of environmental risks or hazards. Work in real estate and appraisal services, agricultural businesses, or market analysis firms.

### Recent Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Courtesy of the UC Berkeley Career Center: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/major.stm>

Bayer, Production Technician  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire  
 Protection, Forestry Aide  
 Center for Tropical Research, Research Assistant  
 Environmental Stewardship and Planning, Associate  
 KPMG, Auditor  
 Moritz Arboricultural Consulting, Urban Forester  
 Associate  
 National Park Service, Park Ranger  
 Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Associate Rates  
 Analyst

Sierra Pacific Industries, Botany Survey  
 Technician  
 Statewide Database, Senior Clerk  
 Sustainable Food Import Business, Owner  
 Tetra Tech EM Inc, Environmental Scientist  
 University of California, Berkeley, Senior  
 Agricultural Technician/Intern Forester  
 Environmental Sciences, Masters, University of  
 California, Santa Barbara  
 Forestry and Related Sciences, Masters,  
 University of Washington

### Internship & Career Resources

- **CNR Newslines:** The College of Natural Resources Newslines is a moderated listserv that will keep you in the loop about research opportunities, internships, job opportunities, and more. To subscribe to *CNR Newslines*, send an email from your primary email account to **majordomo@listlink.berkeley.edu**. Leave the subject heading blank. In the body of the message, type the following command: **subscribe cnr\_newsline**
- **CareerMail:** These Career Center mailing lists target specific career fields and topics, so you can choose whichever ones are ideal for you.  
<http://career.berkeley.edu/MailList/MailList.asp>
- **What Can I Do With a Major In...Forestry and Natural Resources?**  
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/Forestry.stm> (now the Forestry and Natural Resources major)  
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/ResMan.stm> (now the Forestry and Natural Resources major)
- **CalJobs:** Search this comprehensive database for full-time, part-time, internship, and summer jobs, both on and off campus.  
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Jobs/CalJobs.stm>
- **UC Berkeley Career Center**  
<http://career.berkeley.edu>