Overview
Add your name to our legacy of graduates who have become effective managers for some of the nation’s largest and most prominent natural resource management organizations, including the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and other state and federal agencies. Our Master of Natural Resource Stewardship (M.N.R.S.) was designed for professionals who are seeking the necessary skills and knowledge to advance in the field of natural resources. The program provides a broad natural resources education with specialized resource management expertise in rangeland ecosystem science or sustainable military lands management, depending on the focus area you choose.

You will finish this program as a well-rounded leader, equipped with an understanding of the interconnectedness of natural resource management systems and how that lends itself to solving real-world problems from a holistic viewpoint. The curriculum is immediately applicable to current issues within the industry today.

Coursework is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how multiple organizations and agencies fit into the broader natural resource management system, training individuals to think across disciplines. Within this broad-based approach, you have the opportunity to focus in one of the following areas:

• Rangeland Ecosystems
• Sustainable Military Lands Management

CSU’s Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship has a 110-year history and reputation of excellence in leading the conservation and sustainable stewardship of our natural resources to balance both societal and environmental needs. As we face new and more complex challenges, the need for well-trained natural resource managers is greater than ever.

Frederick “Skip” Smith
Professor/Department Head
Minimum Admission Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
- A 3.0 GPA on all undergraduate coursework. Exceptions to this are made on a case-by-case basis.
- No specific prior coursework is required. Coursework in biology, chemistry, and statistics is recommended. Applications are reviewed holistically.
- Some natural resource experience (no definitive amount) is required. All types of experiences (volunteer, paid, etc.) are considered.

Completion Requirements

- A minimum of 30 credits, including 14 credits of required core coursework, 9 credits in the area of focus (rangeland ecosystems), and 7 credits of electives
- Electives can be chosen from either of the specialization areas, or from other courses related to the degree and as approved by an academic advisor.

Curriculum

Required Courses

- NR 565 – Principles of Natural Resource Ecology (3 cr.)
- NR 566 – Natural Resources Inventory and Data Analysis (3 cr.)
- NR 567 – Analysis of Environmental Impact (3 cr.)
- NR 568 – Economics of Forests, Restoration and Fire Management (3 cr.)
- NR 693 – Natural Resources Stewardship Seminar (2 cr.)

Specializations

Customize your M.N.R.S. by choosing an area of specialization from two options: Rangeland Ecosystems or Sustainable Military Land Management. You must complete 9 credits in one of the two specializations.

Rangeland Ecosystems (Choose minimum of 9 credits to specialize in this area):
- RS 452 Rangeland Herbivore Ecology and Management (3 cr.)
- RS 500 – Advanced Rangeland Management (3 cr.)
- RS 630 Ecology of Grasslands and Shrublands (3 cr.)

Sustainable Military Land Management (Choose a minimum of 9 credits to specialize in this area):
- NR 550 Sustainable Military Lands Management (3 cr.)
- NR 551 Cultural Resource Management on Military Lands (3 cr.)
- NR 552 Ecology of Military Lands (3 cr.)
- NR 580A5 Sustainable Issues in the Department of Defense (3 cr.)
- RS 630 Ecology of Grasslands and Shrublands (3 cr.)

Electives (complete a minimum of 7 credits)

To further diversify your curriculum, choose a minimum of 7 elective credits. These courses can be from either of the specialization areas or from other credit courses that pertain to your professional and education goals. Electives must be above the 300 level and be approved by an academic advisor.

The following course is also available as an elective:
- NR 678 Advanced Ecological Restoration (4 cr.)