

Educating Students to Better Manage Our Natural Resources

Issue (Who cares and why?)

With over-development into natural habitats, land use changes, and protection of natural resources reaching a serious stage, there is a need for college graduates with interdisciplinary environmental studies backgrounds to solve current and future environmental problems.

What has been done?

Three departments—entomology and applied ecology, food and resource economics and plant and soil sciences—joined forces to offer a major in Natural Resources Management (NRM). The major offers hands-on training in the physical sciences coupled with an understanding of economics, ethics and public policy. This major produces graduates who have the skills to solve “real world” problems; have a sound knowledge of the world’s biodiversity; have a broad interdisciplinary education in the arts, humanities and social sciences; and have an awareness of the ethical issues in natural resource use and management.

Impact

Since 1997, 30 NRM graduates have found employment with environmental consulting firms, county and local governments and environmental engineering firms. Some NRM graduates also have pursued advanced degrees in resource economics, coastal zone management, natural resource planning, and environmental law and policy.

Funding

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