Natural resources include our soil, water, air, minerals, flora, fauna and people. Wise use or improvement of natural resources for the benefit of society is the goal of resource management. This important challenge recognizes the interdependence of people with their environment and requires an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to solve society’s resource challenges.

Population growth, rising incomes, life-style changes and urbanization lead to more intensive use of all natural resources. These trends present challenges to resource managers, who must be trained in the basic principles of several disciplines in order to apply sound management strategies to make wise use of our resources.

Career Opportunities
The breadth and complexity of resource management, along with the need to formulate public policy and to communicate resource information, afford a variety of career opportunities. Some graduates will work in remote areas in forest production, water quality monitoring or wildlife management. Others may be employed in public or business planning offices, working with engineers and planners in the development of residential, commercial and industrial complexes.

Research
The Department provides basic and applied information on soil science and management for optimum productivity with minimal impact on environmental degradation, has a progressive research and education program in non-agricultural use of soils, and maintains state-of-the-art chemical, physical, and biological analytical instrumentation, as well as computer technologies to facilitate research and education programs.

Course Work/Curriculum
The breadth and complexity of natural resource management requires the input of many disciplines. To accommodate this diversity this campus-wide program involves three colleges and four departments. Within CALS, three concentrations are available:

Economics and Management is designed to equip students with the skills to apply economics and business principles to natural resource use, preservation, and enhancement. In addition to economics courses, students will take business courses.

Soil Resources prepares students to understand the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils and to evaluate capabilities and limitations for a broad spectrum of land uses. The role of soil as a basis for all ecosystem understanding will be emphasized.

Soil and Water Systems provides students with a framework for understanding land management factors that will influence the quantity and quality of water that runs off the land and reaches surface waters or filters and becomes groundwater. Basic soil science courses and water management science courses provide the framework.

Graduate Study
Students completing the natural resources curriculum with a strong academic record would be very qualified to pursue a graduate study program. Both master of science and doctoral programs are available.

Co-Curricular Activities
A variety of campus clubs and organizations can provide social and leadership skills. The Agribusiness Club. Agronomy Club. Wildlife Club, Forestry Club, National Agricultural Marketing Association Club, are available on campus. Activities of these groups also extend to experience at regional and national levels.

Career Services
In addition to faculty advisers, CALS Career Services is available to provide information about career and employment opportunities. The office assists students and alumni with a variety of career needs such as choosing a major, resume tips, and job search strategies.

For more information:

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