Taking the classroom outside

Outdoor classrooms give students the chance to complete hands-on projects working with real land and resources and are an irreplaceable part of a curriculum designed to prepare students for nature-based careers. Alabama’s diverse landscapes and the properties managed by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences give our students unparalleled opportunities for real-world experience that can help prepare them for further study or careers.

Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center
• 5,300 acres of forest land for SFWS educational use

Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve
• 120 acres of forest land donated for educational facility
• Student volunteers lead hikes, assist with nature education programs, or learn other aspects of park operations
• Student projects: create GIS maps, interpretive signs for park use, wetland ecology research

Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest
• 400 acres, near Auburn, designated for natural resources education
• Student projects: develop recreation or education management plan; fire behavior project

SFWS-managed land on campus
• More than 30 acres of SFWS outdoor classroom space within walking distance of SFWS building
• Student projects: identify invasive species; create educational signage; urban interface planning

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Where will your degree take you?
The Natural Resources Management (NRM) major is your path to a variety of careers working with nature, conservation, and the outdoors. The curriculum is designed around developing an interdisciplinary understanding of social, economic, and ecosystem sciences critical to solving today’s natural resource issues and designing a sustainable future.

Tailor your degree with one of these minors
- Natural Resources Ecology: Natural resources ecology is a broad and rapidly evolving field that includes landscape, plant, animal, and abiotic systems.
- Nature-Based Recreation: Students in this minor will learn about all aspects of nature-based recreation and conservation, including business, communication, and natural resource management skills.
- Urban Environmental Management: This minor will prepare students to help cities meet the special challenges of managing natural resources in an urban environment.
- Watershed Sciences: Watershed science and management is an expanding field that involves maintaining the availability, quantity, and quality of water.

The NRM degree can also be creatively paired with any minor on campus. For example, select a communications minor as preparation for a career in science writing. Students have also found that minors in fisheries, business, sustainability, rural sociology, or a foreign language can reveal paths you never imagined in a growing field.

Where can you go with a Natural Resources Management degree?
- Conservation Biologist
- Ecotourism Operator/Coordinator
- Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Planner
- Extension Professional
- Forest Protection Officer
- Graduate School
- International Conservation Specialist
- Interpretive Ranger
- Land Trust Manager
- Municipal Water Planner
- Natural Resource Educator
- Natural Resource Manager
- Natural Resource Technician
- Non-Profit Director
- Park Ranger
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Recreation Director
- Tourism Consultant
- Urban and Regional Planner
- Urban Natural Resources Specialist
- Water Quality Regulator
- Watershed Scientist
- Wetland Ecologist

Who hires NRM majors?
Government agencies, consulting firms, international development and resource management agencies, non-profit organizations, and private industry.

This is Natural Resources Management.
Natural Resources Management is the management of people and the environment in an effort to achieve society’s goals and sustain natural systems.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts excellent growth over the next 10 years in job markets relating to both natural resources and recreation. Work in research, management, planning, compliance, or consulting – find the career that is right for you.

The Auburn experience
Making it personal
At the SFWS, your advisor knows your name. Faculty and staff provide support and guidance as you make choices that will affect the rest of your life.

Financial Aid
In addition to university-wide financial aid sources, the SFWS has several competitive scholarships available.

About Auburn University
Located in Auburn, Ala., Auburn University offers not just a valuable degree, but a community. There’s a reason why our alumni proudly call themselves members of the Auburn Family long after their time in the classroom is over. Auburn University is a Kiplinger's “Best Value” institution, and also offers a broad spectrum of opportunities for leadership and involvement at the campus, community, or national level.

Mignon Denton
Presidential Scholar
Dauphin Island, Ala.
“ I chose the Natural Resources Management degree program because of the variety of choices it offers. It allows students to choose any minor and provided enough flexibility for me to shape a major that fit my interests.”

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