Cal Poly’s Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences Department prepares passionate leaders who drive change in sustainability and stewardship of the environment and restoration of land resources related to soil, water, forests, range and wildlife.

MAJORS

ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH AND SOIL SCIENCES
- GEOLOGY
- HYDROLOGY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION
- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND HYDROLOGY
- WILDLIFE BIOLOGY

FOREST AND FIRE SCIENCE
- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND HYDROLOGY
- WILDLAND FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT
- WILDLIFE BIOLOGY

MINORS

- GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- INDIGENOUS STUDIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- LAND REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION ECOLOGY
- RANGELAND RESOURCES
- WATER SCIENCE
- ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL SCIENCE

GRADUATE PROGRAM

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
- GEOLOGY

During the summer of 2019, I participated in the college’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program doing GIS work. During this academic year, I worked with an on-campus group to create algae biofuel. Both of these opportunities enhanced my learning experience and gave me so much insight into what I want to do after I graduate.”

SOPHIE MOSER, fourth-year environmental management and protection student
Three undergraduate degree programs provide students with a broad understanding of and the ability to manage the natural environment; improve the utilization and stewardship of land, water and atmospheric resources; and protect and manage forests and natural resources. Students have the unique opportunity to live and learn at the 3,200-acre forest at Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County. This distinctive living laboratory provides students with Learn by Doing opportunities that are second-to-none. Working hand-in-hand with expert faculty, students study the methods of resource conservation applied through sustainable management techniques.

Faculty-led field trips provide another avenue to innovatively teach students. Students taking silviculture, seismology, geomorphology, applied geophysics, watershed management and structural geology have traveled to the Santa Ynez Mountains, Sierra Nevada, San Andreas fault zone, Transverse Ranges, the Carrizo Plain, Pallett Creek in the San Gabriel Mountains, San Emigdio Mountains, Elkhorn Plain and Lake Isabella.

THE URBAN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS INSTITUTE

This program addresses the increasing need for improved management of the urban forests in California. The institute features online resources for tree selection, identification and care; tree health; urban wood use; and urban forest management.

SWANTON PACIFIC RANCH

The 3,200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch is composed of majestic redwood and Douglas fir forests, lush riverine ecosystems, and expansive coastal grassland overlooking Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Students live and learn on this working range, developing career skills, learning current technologies and conducting diverse research projects.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ON THE JOB CAREERS

Environmental consultant
Environmental policy analyst
Forester
Natural resource manager

TOP EMPLOYERS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Environmental Science Associates
Insignia Environmental
Tetra Tech: Consulting and Engineering Firm
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

STUDENT CLUBS

Association of Environmental Professionals
Environmental Sciences Club
Logging Team
Society of American Foresters
Soil Judging Team
Student Association for Fire Ecology
Xi Sigma Pi