



# WARNER COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### OUR HISTORY

Warner College of Natural Resources was established as the University’s Division of Forestry in 1904. It has always been an exemplar of experiential education with an emphasis on applied sciences, beginning with helping professionalize the field of forestry and going on to establish CSU’s Mountain Campus as a field school and research site in 1914. Formerly known as the “Ranger Factory,” the College pioneered recreation and wildlife management, expanding to disciplines across all environmental and natural resources areas and leveraging physical, social, and biological sciences throughout its curricula.

**YEAR FOUNDED**  
**1904**

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS**  
**2,482**

Fall Census 2024

**SPONSORED PROJECT EXPENDITURES**  
**\$181,947,602**

Fiscal Year 2025

**5**  
**DEPARTMENTS**

**11**  
**RESEARCH CENTERS AND AGENCIES**

**78%**  
**INTERNSHIP PARTICIPATION**  
among Warner College students

**9/10**  
**EXCELLENCE RATING**  
of the Warner College experience

**89%**  
**JOB OFFER RATES**  
among Warner College graduates

### WHAT WE’RE KNOWN FOR

**Comprehensive natural resources education:** Warner College integrates all aspects of natural resources and environmental sciences across physical, social, and biological sciences.

**Experiential learning approach:** Warner College is known for a longstanding commitment to experiential education to train students through practical application to solve natural resource and environmental challenges.

**Worldwide research:** Warner College scientists make impacts in over 80 countries around the world.

*Warner College is a tight-knit community of people passionate about the planet and all it offers to sustain a healthy, thriving society.*

### AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

- Climate science and sustainability
- Fish and wildlife management and conservation
- Habitat conservation and biodiversity
- Natural hazards, such as wildfires and floods
- Water resources
- One Health



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### ACCOLADES AND RANKINGS

**Top tier research among national peers:** According to Academic Analytics, Warner College’s Scholarly Research Index puts the college in the top three natural resources programs in the United States.

**Nobel Prize work:** Members of the Natural Resource Ecology Lab shared the 2001 Nobel Prize extended to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for their work with that group.

**Distinguished programs and faculty:** The college is home to five endowed research programs, one National Academy of Sciences member, and two distinguished university professors.

### KEY INITIATIVES

- **Enhancing experiential education** by increasing internship opportunities and new field and lab courses, workshops, and short courses.
- **Fostering transdisciplinary research** to enhance scientific collaboration and incorporate all perspectives needed to address wicked environmental problems.
- Exploring an intra-university B.S. in Climate Change Studies to **meet industry demands** for climate savvy professionals in many fields.
- **Expanding statewide engagement** through the Colorado State Forest Service Seedling Tree Nursery with capacity to produce over 2 million trees per year.

### RECENT HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

**Elephant communication:** Wildlife researchers used machine learning to identify elephants using distinctive names for one another, leading to the identification of this trait in a few other species.

**Climate solutions:** The goo and gunk in home appliances may hold solutions for climate adaptation. Warner College microbiologists are engaging people to collect microbial samples with the hope of identifying new microbes to employ in solutions for climate-related challenges.

**Forest tracking and wildfire mitigation:** CSU launched ForestTracker – a comprehensive public database for tracking forest management and wildfire mitigation across the state.

**Carbon cycle:** A new study led by CSU found that agriculture is the primary cause of seasonal carbon cycle swings, the difference between the highest and lowest amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year. This discovery adds to scientific understanding of the carbon cycle and could help inform climate change mitigation strategies.

**Earthquake frequency:** A recent CSU study demonstrates that climate change can affect the frequency of earthquakes, adding to a small but growing body of evidence showing that climate can alter the seismic cycle.

