

## Vision Statement

The vision for the School of Natural Resources (SNR) is to be an international leader in natural resources education, research and outreach, and to be the primary provider of natural resources information and service to the citizens and stakeholders of Nebraska.

## From the Director

The School has identified five current and emerging issues in natural resources and environmental science that are critical for our state, region, nation and world: climate variability and change, water quantity and quality, ecological challenges, human-environment interactions, and natural resources education. We are focusing our research, teaching and outreach on these areas.



Photo: NU/IANR

Over the past year, SNR faculty and staff have been enormously successful in attracting external funding — \$6 million in 2008, and an anticipated \$14 million in 2009.

## 2009-2010 Highlights

*Master Naturalist Program:* The Nebraska Environmental Trust has provided funding for a state-wide Master Naturalist Program based in SNR and coordinated by Scott Hygnstrom and Annabel Major. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program will equip participants with life-enhancing scientific knowledge and hands-on skills training that will make them ideal volunteers for organizations and agencies focused on habitat conservation, environmental education, citizen science, outdoor skills and ecotourism.

*Summer Institute on Climate Change:* SNR is presenting the Summer Institute on Climate Change (SICC) in May 2010 to share the science of climate change, potential impacts in Nebraska, mitigation measures, and policy implications with extension agents, natural resource managers and others. Faculty from SNR and other departments within UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources are collaborating to develop the SICC, led by Shashi Verma, leader of SNR's Applied Climate Science faculty area.

*United Nations Workshop on Drought Early Warning Systems:* SNR and the National Drought Mitigation Center will host a December 2009 workshop on improving drought monitoring and early warning systems around the world. All continents will be represented at this workshop, which is sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization and the U.N.'s Commission to Combat Desertification.

*Healthy Farm Index:* Jim Brandle of SNR's Applied Ecology faculty area is the lead principal investigator on this project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Healthy Farm Index will measure and optimize multiple ecosystem services, communicate their value, and ensure that ecosystem services remain a consideration in the decision-making process of farmers, agency personnel and other stakeholders. An integral part of UNL's organic farming project, the tool will help farmers and landowners measure their farm's ecological health and maintain or improve crop productivity. Ecosystem services include all the benefits people receive from nature, including clean water, air and soil.



Photo: Liz Sarno, Extension Educator and Organic Project Coordinator  
An organic farmer near Abie, Nebraska, swathing oats in a diverse cropping system that supports food production, species diversity and ecosystem services.

*Building Sustainable Partnerships Forum, Part II:* In February 2009 SNR hosted the first Forum to connect agencies and private organizations engaged in all aspects of the environmental movement in Lincoln and surrounding areas. SNR co-sponsored this event with the Lincoln Mayor's Environmental Task Force. On October 30, 2009, SNR will host the second Forum in coordination with the Task Force and the Nebraska Rural Initiative.

# The School of Natural Resources by the Numbers

## The Big Picture

Faculty: 89  
Staff: 85  
Undergraduate Students: 344  
Graduate Students: 146  
*Natural Resource majors: 96*  
*Other majors advised by SNR faculty: 16*  
*Geography majors: 34*  
State Support, 2009-2010: \$7.8 million  
External Support Awarded, 2008-2009: \$9.8 million  
Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded: \$24,402

## Undergraduate Majors: 9

Environmental Restoration Science  
Environmental Studies  
Fisheries and Wildlife  
Geography  
Grassland Ecology and Management  
Integrated Studies in Natural Resources  
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics  
Pre-Forestry  
Water Science

## Degrees Offered: 2

Natural Resources  
Geography

## Master's Degree Specializations (optional): 14

Agroforestry  
Aquatic Ecology  
Bio-Atmospheric Interactions  
Climate Assessment and Impacts  
Environmental Studies  
Environmental Geography  
Geographic Information Systems  
GIS, Cartography and Remote Sensing  
Great Plains Studies  
Human Dimensions  
Hydrologic Sciences  
Remote Sensing  
Soil Science  
Wildlife Ecology

## Master's Degree Minors: 2

Water Resource Planning and Management  
Natural Resource Sciences

## Ph.D. Specializations (optional): 10

Applied Ecology  
Bio-Atmospheric Interactions  
Community and Regional Planning  
Climate Assessment and Impacts  
Environmental Geography  
Environmental Studies  
GIS, Cartography, and Remote Sensing  
Human Dimensions

Hydrologic Sciences  
Soil Science

## Faculty Areas: 6

Applied Climate Science  
Applied Ecology  
Geology and Soils  
Geography and GIScience  
Human Dimensions  
Water

## Specialized Centers and Units: 6

Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies  
Great Plains Regional Center for Global Environmental Change  
High Plains Regional Climate Center  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit  
Water Center

## SNR Facilities:

175,000 square feet of offices, laboratories and classrooms, in 10 different buildings

## Contact Us

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