

Citrus College

Wildland Resources and Forestry

Advisory Committee – Minutes

2017-2018 Academic Year

Forestry advisory committee participants:

1. Eugene Suk – Hillside Wilderness Park Supervisor, Monrovia Canyon Park
2. Marlene Jimenez – Recreation Coordinator, Monrovia Canyon Park
3. David Gabaldon – Fuels Technician, US Forest Service
4. Denise Pogroszewski - MA Ed, Biology & Earth Space teacher, Crescenta Valley HS
5. Marian Coengen – Habitat Restoration Associate, Amigos de los Rios
6. Keith Condon –Deputy Forester, Forestry Division, County of LA Fire

Citrus College participants:

1. Robert Goodman – Wildland Resources and Forestry Instructor (WRF)

Meeting Specifics: Where: Site visits and interviews by R. Goodman

Date: 12 and 14 April, 2018

Topics Covered:

1. **Associate of Science in Wildland Resources and Forestry**
 2. Student enrollment and outreach to high school students/teachers
 3. Student employment opportunities
 4. Internships, volunteerism, and cooperative education from WRF could provide to your agency
 5. Teacher outreach
-

Eugene Suk and Marlene Jimenez (Monrovia Canyon Park – former WRF students):

Happy that the AS in WRF is moving forward.

Monrovia Canyon Park benefits from the Wildland Resources and Forestry program. Several current and former students are current employees.

MCP provides a great learning ground to practice techniques and practices learned in the Wildland Resources and Forestry Program.

Future employment opportunities at the park with internships and ranger positions opening in the future.

Were very pleased with the spring 2017 and fall 2017 WRF 698A Co-ops giving 13 students intern opportunities, but were disappointed when the Co-ops were not allowed during Spring 2018 semester. We are looking forward to future Co-op education.

David Gabaldon (Fuels Technician, US Forest Service – former WRF student):

Glad to hear that the Associates of Science in Wildland Resources and Forestry will be available in the future. I wish there was an AS in WRF when I did the certificate program in the early 2,000's.

Wanted to thank you and Citrus College, from September 21, 2017 until November 27, 2017, several 698A Co-op interns assisted me in implementing a Vegetation Management Project within the community of Mt. Baldy.

Even though spring 2018 Co-ops were not available, we look forward to the return of the Co-ops.

The partnership that was developed between the school and the Forest Service was one that will benefit both our agency and the school in the future.

Being an alumni to that department and working with the Forest Service for the past 20 years, I feel that what the students are learning in the classroom at Citrus College coupled with their exposure to a real working environment will help them in their development and ultimate goal of serving their communities in the field of Forestry.

Denise Pogroszewski (Crescenta Valley High School – former WRF student):

Outreach to local teachers in light of teachers needing earth space kinds of classes (which are included in the Wildland Resources and Forestry program). Teachers will be incorporating earth space into chemistry, physics, and biology in NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). Most teachers do not hold that credential and will need additional information/classes. Teachers can take forestry classes as part of additional units to move on the pay scale.

As part of NGSS for each content area, we need real life, local phenomena to draw from. The Wildland Fire Management coursework talks about and makes those local connections. Plant Identification class is local and can be used in classrooms. Each of the WRF classes have some component for teachers to draw from.

As part of the Outdoor Recreation class students have to design a campground. Multiple facets of NGSS incorporate similar concepts in the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs). Students are asked to define problem, develop a model, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, design a solution and communicate information to an audience. Designing a campground is good practice for teachers to use these SEPs and then transfer those skills to their classrooms.

Teachers are also being asked to teach environmental literacy. This sounds simple, but in reality is asking a lot of teachers. Wildland Resource and Forestry classes will help teachers implement the Environmental Principles and Concepts. These state, "...that people, as well as their cultures and societies, depend on Earth's natural systems. The underlying goal of this work was to help students understand the connections between people and the natural world so that they can better assess the consequences of human activity. Every Californian needs to be ready to address the environmental challenges of today and the future, and act in a responsible and sustainable manner. As a result, the EP&Cs have become an important piece of the curricular expectations for all California students in science and other content areas." California Science Framework 2016 Chapter 1 pages 52-53. Pieces of each of the FWR classes help teachers and students meet this goal that was set forth back in 2004.

A task force for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction wrote a report in 2015, "A Blueprint for Environmental Literacy: Education Every Student in, about, and for the Environment. Strongly reinforcing the goal of environmental literacy for all kindergarten through grade twelve students, the blueprint also advocates that all teachers have the opportunity to use the environment as a relevant and engaging context for teaching their core subjects, especially in science and history-social science." WRF program will do just that for teachers as well as carry on the Superintendent's vision post K-12.

I am excited to hear that Forestry will have an AS option.

Marian Coensgen (Amigos de los Rios – former WRF student):

The relationship between Amigos de los Rios and Citrus College Student Co-op Interns from the Wildland Resources and Forestry program has been mutually beneficial.

Their work was a great asset to our program. We look forward to continuing to train and mentor additional Interns from Citrus College.

We are disappointed with no Co-op interns for this semester, but are looking forward when the Co-ops will be reinstated.

One of our mandates associated with the work we do is the education of the next generation of environmental stewards.

The Wildland Resources and Forestry students who come to us learn about the practical application of the theories they learn in classes such as Intro to Outdoor Recreation, Principles of Wildlife Management and Ecology, Intro to GIS, Intro to Forestry and Plant Identification. Their presence benefits Amigos de los Rios as they apply the skills they learn to real life situations that help us fulfill our grants.

In addition to the interns, we frequently host volunteers from the Wildland Resources and Forestry program who come to volunteer at our Saturday Emerald Necklace Stewardship Events. At these events students help plant native trees and shrubs as well as learn about ‘green infrastructure’ and the benefits of urban greening. Without our Saturday volunteers we could not do this work.

I personally completed the Wildland Resources and Forestry certificate program in December of 2015. This program was pivotal in my transition from a long career as a Laboratory Research Specialist to a career in Urban Forestry and Environmental Education.

The WRF classes are practical and expose the students to many different potential areas of employment. In my current position I use the skills I learned in Intro to Outdoor Education, Plant Identification, Intro to GIS and Principles of Wildlife Management and Ecology almost every day.

During my time as a student, I did wish for a ‘laboratory’ type class to get more hands on experience. I think that opportunity is provided to current students through the internship program. I love my new career and am grateful to this program for providing me with an avenue through which to pursue it.

Keith Condon (L.A. County – Forestry Division):

Glad to see that a Wildland Resources and Forestry A.S. has been submitted.

L.A. County forest technician requirements have been recently changed. Currently, in order to be hired as a forest technician requires a minimum of an Associates of Arts or Science.