Wilderness Management and Outdoor Recreation Planning Career Outlook 2014–2015

Wilderness Management Programs Available at Bemidji State University:
Major: Wilderness Management and Outdoor Recreation Planning, (B.A.S.)
Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/geography

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:
Wilderness management is the holistic, philosophical management and study of entire wilderness ecosystems and of human impacts within those systems. Wilderness management students must learn skills from many interrelated fields.
The program at Bemidji State University is a continuation of Vermilion Community College’s Wilderness Management Program. The first two years at Vermilion focus on courses leading to an associate in science degree. This program combines a liberal arts requirement, an overview of general natural resources management, and a wilderness management core of courses. The professional requirements of the degree will then be completed by transferring to the companion program at Bemidji State University. The coursework focuses heavily on geography, but pulls additional work from anthropology, biology, business administration, communications, economics, education, English, and sociology.

EMPLOYMENT AREAS:
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that conservation scientists and foresters held about 34,200 jobs in 2012. Conservation scientist jobs are heavily concentrated in government, where 69 percent are employed. The higher level and administration positions often require a bachelor’s degree in parks and recreation or a similar field. Most of the individuals employed in either forestry or recreation planning are employed by federal, state or local government.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING MAJORS IN MINNESOTA:
MnCareers reports that job outlook for forester is fair, there are 620 employed in the state, the median salary is $28.90 per hour. Environmental projects increase demand, but hiring is tied to government budgets.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING MAJORS NATIONWIDE:
Focus™2 reports that the nationwide demand for foresters is expected to grow slower than average through 2022, with people established in their career generally earning between $43,310 and $65,800 per year. Focus™2 reports that the nationwide demand for recreation leaders is expected to grow about as fast as average through 2022, with people established in their career generally earning between $18,130 and $29,060 per year.

PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING GRADUATES:
Since this is a continuation of the Wilderness Management A.S. degree from Vermilion Community College, there are a very small number of graduates from this program. Of the Bemidji State University 2012-2013 Wilderness Management graduates, 33.3% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.
LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)

Cass County Iowa
United States Forest Services
US Forest Service

GIS Coordinator
Forestry Technician
Forestry Aid
Forestry Technician
Atlantic, IA
Walker, MN
Duchesne, UT
Tofte, MN

Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
FOCUS II. Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2015)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in Sattgast 207 or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.

For more job listings please visit:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/