



**YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAM.**

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**University of Idaho**  
College of Law





## **University of Idaho Natural Resource and Environmental Law Programs:**

- Natural Resources and Environmental Law JD emphasis
- Concurrent Degree Options
  - Bioregional Planning and Community Design JD/MS or JD/certificate
  - Environmental Science JD/MS
  - Professional Science Masters JD/MS
  - Water Resources JD/MS or JD/PhD

# Natural Resources and Environmental Law

## Concurrent Degree Options:

### BIOREGIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

The College of Law partners with the University of Idaho's interdisciplinary program in Bioregional Planning and Community Design to allow students to apply their legal education on the ground in western communities. Bioregional Planning students have updated and redesigned zoning and subdivision ordinances, designed housing developments for the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Housing Authority, and created a riverfront park for a former logging community; they are currently working on a large, interdisciplinary and inter-university project looking at the development of a biofuels industry in the Pacific Northwest. Additional information can be found at the Bioregional Planning Program website: [www.bioregionalplanning.uidaho.edu](http://www.bioregionalplanning.uidaho.edu).

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Rising interest in the connection between sustainable economic development and environmental protection has increased the demand for professionals with both legal and technical training. To meet this demand, the University of Idaho College of Law and the University of Idaho College of Graduate Studies Environmental Science Program offer a concurrent degree program. The concurrent program combines the study of scientific, social, philosophical and legal aspects of environmental issues. The program is designed to allow students to obtain both a J.D. from the College of Law as well as a M.S. Environmental Science from the College of Graduate Studies in as few as eight semesters. Additional information can be found at [www.uidaho.edu/cogs/envs/envsci](http://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/envs/envsci).

## Application to Concurrent Degree Programs

Students are required to apply separately to the College of Law and the specific program in the College of Graduate Studies, and on acceptance to each college, must apply to the concurrent degree program. Acceptance to both colleges does not have to occur simultaneously and students may apply after beginning their first year of law school. The GRE's are not required in addition to the LSAT. Information on application to the College of Graduate Studies is available at <http://www.uidaho.edu/graduateadmissions>



*NREL Student Dylan Hedden Nicely*



*Salmon River Environmental Law Society Trip*



*NREL Student Carmen Thomas Morse*



*NREL Faculty Jerrold Long*

### PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTERS

To meet the needs of students planning to practice law but seeking greater knowledge of the role of science in its application to the practice of law, the College of Law has partnered with the University of Idaho's interdisciplinary Professional Science Masters program. Unlike other concurrent degree options, this program combines two professional degrees and does not require a thesis. The PSM offers opportunities in six tracks:

1. environmental contamination;
2. sustainability science;
3. climate change;
4. water resources management;
5. management of regulated river systems; and
6. ecohydrological science and management.

Additional information can be found at the Professional Science Masters Program website: [www.uidaho.edu/cogs/psm](http://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/psm).

### WATER RESOURCES

Launched in 2006, the University of Idaho Waters of the West (WoW) – one of few such programs in the nation – draws on expertise of 56 faculty members in seven colleges to integrate aspects of law, aquatic, biology, hydrology, engineering, and political and social science. The unique program focuses on developing sophisticated strategies and solutions to the world's critical water shortage. The program offers a joint J.D./M.S. in Water Resources, which can be completed in as few as four years, and a joint J.D./Ph.D. in Water Resources which can be completed in as few as six years. M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Water Resources are offered in three tracks, and a degree in any track can be pursued concurrent with the J.D.:

1. Engineering and Science
2. Science and Management
3. Law, Management and Policy

Additional information is available at the water resources website: [www.uidaho.edu/cogs/envs/water-resources](http://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/envs/water-resources)

# The Idaho Difference

University of Idaho College of Law has made a substantial commitment to meeting the need for a new generation of graduates who understand not only the law, but the resources and the people who use it. With seven faculty and the synergies made possible through the outstanding graduate programs in other University Colleges, students will enter a rich environment for learning to solve some of the difficult problems society faces at the intersection of law and science and law and society.

## **The Natural Resources and Environmental Law Emphasis:**

The emphasis in Natural Resources and Environmental Law (NREL), allows students to earn a designation on their diploma upon completion of at least 18 hours of designated course work in the area and a major writing project. Obtaining the emphasis is the equivalent of options for a certificate or concentration elsewhere, and the Idaho program has among the more rigorous requirements in this area. The program was developed in response to the general fact that the practice of law is becoming more specialized and specifically that the practice of natural resources and environmental law has become highly technical and complex. The course of study is designed to give students broad expertise in Natural Resources and Environmental Law and an understanding of how to develop in-depth expertise in a specific topic while not sacrificing their broader legal education. The seven NREL faculty do research and teach courses in: environmental law, land use, urban planning, wildlife, public lands, water, international environmental law, Native American resources, administrative law, and law and science.

Students in the Emphasis or who are pursuing one of the concurrent degree programs have the opportunity to apply to participate in a 10-week summer externship program. Students work full-time for eight weeks at placements in Boise, Idaho, with the United States Attorney, the Idaho Attorney General, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, or private and nonprofit law firms working on conservation and/or environmental law projects. Students attend a weekly seminar taught by practitioners working in the environmental law field from the placement organizations.

## **Environmental and Natural Resources Courses**

- Administrative Law
- Environmental Law I
- Environmental Law II
- Federal Courts
- Interdisciplinary Methods in Water Resources
- International Environmental and Water Law
- Introduction to Natural Resource Law
- Land Use Law and Planning
- Law and Science Seminar
- Native American Law
- Native American Natural Resources Law
- Natural Resources Law and History
- Natural Resources Law and Policy
- Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Public Land Law
- Water Law I
- Water Law II
- Water and Energy Policy Seminar
- Wildlife Law
- Writing the Environment



# University of Idaho

College of Law

**For more information contact:**

Natural Resource and Environmental Law Programs  
University of Idaho College of Law  
875 Perimeter Dr., MS 2321  
Moscow, ID 83844-2321  
Phone: 208 885-4977  
email: [NREL@uidaho.edu](mailto:NREL@uidaho.edu)  
website: [www.uidaho.edu/env-resources-law](http://www.uidaho.edu/env-resources-law)