

**Justification and Plans for
Transition of the
College of Forest Resources
into a School of Forest Resources
in the College of the Environment**

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**University of Washington
Office of the Provost**

Introduction

The faculties of several academic units across the University of Washington are proposing to reorganize their academic units so that they will be co-housed within the new College of the Environment (CoEnv). Specifically, the faculties of the College of Forest Resources, the Departments of Atmospheric Sciences and Earth and Space Sciences, the School of Marine Affairs, and the Program on the Environment have elected to move into the CoEnv as individual academic units with the intention of doing so by July 1, 2009. The justification described in this document is meant to accompany the comprehensive implementation plans for the College of the Environment (CoEnv) and focuses on the specific transition plans for the College of Forest Resources as one of the inaugural academic units within the new College. There are separate justifications and review processes for each of the academic units initiating the procedures for the Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs (RCEP) to move into the CoEnv.

Role of Forest Resources

The College of Forest Resources (CFR) is expected to be a key player in the implementation and evolution of the new College of the Environment. CFR has long been a leader in forestry and natural resource management and science. CFR's vision has been to provide world class, internationally recognized knowledge and leadership for environmental and natural resource issues. Fostering this vision and catalyzing strategic partnerships in the areas of education, research and service will be essential to the success of the College of the Environment.

CFR educates the next generation of leaders in natural resources and public and private land management throughout the state, the region, and the nation. The CFR degrees prepare students for careers in academia, public agencies, industry, the private sector, and non-profit organizations. Graduate training is available in many areas of basic and applied research.

CFR research programs focus on the integrating theme of sustainability in environments that include wilderness and park-like ecosystems, intensively managed planted forests, and urban environments. The sustainability of natural resources and environmental services will continue to be a predominant issue in the coming decades and Forest Resources will be expected to continue to play a leadership role in understanding and solving environmental challenges — conserving plant and animal species biodiversity, understanding the effects of global climate change on terrestrial ecosystems, developing non-fossil cellulosic biofuels as an alternative energy source, protecting forest health (including invasive species, fire, and insect invasions), analyzing global market pressures for natural resource commodities, sustaining natural resource-dependent communities, and helping preserve working forests at risk of land conversion.

CFR outreach and technical transfer provides knowledge and training in international trade in forest products, sustainable forestry, ecosystem science, wildlife conservation, bioresource science, public gardens, urban ecosystems, and environmental horticulture. Partnerships include formal interdisciplinary links across the UW as well as collaborations with academic institutions, public agencies, NGOs, corporations, and small forest landowners.

The reorganization of CFR into an independent unit within the new College of the Environment is an opportunity to increase research, teaching and service collaboration across many disciplines, and to better position CFR and the University of Washington to meet the contemporary and emerging needs of our state and the nation. Healthy forestry programs across the country have grown or adapted to meet the changing needs of the forests, the environment and society and this reorganization is expected to ensure a robust program of forest resources at the University of Washington for years to come.

Organization and Governance

The College of Forest Resources (CFR) is in a unique position with respect to transitioning into the CoEnv because it is the only academic unit proposed to transfer into the College that is currently designated as a College by the Faculty Code (Section 23-11). Upon transfer into the College of the Environment, CFR is proposed to become the School of Forest Resources (SFR). As a School in a departmentalized College, it would be the organizational peer of the academic units listed above that successfully transition into the CoEnv.

In order to be prepared to join the CoEnv as an inaugural school, the CFR Dean has initiated discussions within the CFR to determine the internal governance structure of the new School of Forest Resources. Under the Faculty Code, the School of Forest Resources would be considered a department, and as described in the Faculty Code, Section 23-45, the organization and rules of procedure of a department is determined by the department faculty.

An ad hoc committee in CFR has been established to identify alternative School organizational structures and to rank them in order of preference. The Forest Resources faculty will ultimately vote on the organizational structure they prefer, but the committee's work will inform this decision and provide a recommendation to the CFR and University administration. The committee's report is expected by mid-April to allow time for additional discussion and action.

Curriculum

A detailed description of the curriculum of the College of Forest Resources can be found in Section III of the CFR 2008-2009 Program Review. This curriculum, including all undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificate programs, will move with the College of Forest Resources when it transitions to the School of Forest Resources. Through the transition, particular attention will be paid to the two accredited degree programs currently offered by CFR to ensure they continue to meet accreditation requirements.

These include 1) the Paper Science and Engineering (PSE) program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET and 2) the professional Master of Forest Resources (MFR)-Forest Management Degree accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

Leadership transition

The term for the current Dean of the College of Forest Resources expires on June 30, 2009. Should the College of Forest Resources transition into the CoEnv on July 1, 2009, it will become the School of Forest Resources and an interim director from the UW faculty will be appointed. At the beginning of the spring 2009 quarter, an advisory group will be established to seek input of faculty, staff, students, alumni and affiliates, and to review and interview candidates for the next leader of the College/School of Forest Resources.

An open search for a permanent director will take place in the 2009-10 academic year following the procedures outlined in the Faculty Code, Section 12-28. Assuming a transition of CFR into the new college, an *ad hoc* search committee responsible for the SFR director will be appointed by the Interim CoEnv Dean. A majority of the committee will consist of faculty or administrators from related areas, who are not themselves directly involved in the affairs of SFR, but who are familiar with its responsibilities and needs. The other members will be SFR faculty, chosen to provide a perspective on the affairs of the entire School. At least one of these faculty members will be from amongst the members of the SFR's elected faculty council.

The duty of the search committee will be to search for suitable candidates, to study and determine their qualifications, and to obtain and evaluate all data. (Faculty Code, Section 24-52.B). Once they have been appointed the committee is responsible for establishing a procedure to identify the sequential steps, the milestones, and the methods to be taken for involving faculty, staff and students, as well as well as appropriate constituencies outside the University of Washington. It must engage in widespread consultation concerning suggested candidates with faculty, staff, representative students, and persons elsewhere, including alumni, knowledgeable about SFR.

Because there will be an open search for the permanent director, individual faculty members, representative students, and other pertinent representative persons will be invited to suggest names for consideration by the appointment committee. When specific candidates have been identified by the committee, significant numbers of faculty, staff and students will be provided the opportunity to meet the candidates and submit information regarding their impressions, either in writing or in person. The search committee is expected to give serious consideration to these reactions in making their recommendations to the Interim CoEnv Dean.

The Interim Dean will deal directly with the search committee in making a decision as to his recommendation for the appointment of a department chair. The department concerned will also be consulted in making the appointment (Faculty Code, Section 24-52.C.2).

Financial Resources

The details of the College of Forest Resources budgets can be found in Appendix B of the CFR 2008-2009 Program Review. These budgets, including State and local funds, grants and contracts, current use gift funds and endowments, will move with the College of Forest Resources when it transitions to the School of Forest Resources.