

## **SERVICE TO SOCIETY IN NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **NC State College of Natural Resources**

#### **– Dean’s Statement on Extension, Engagement and Economic Development**

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The NC State College of Natural Resources is composed of three departments, Forestry and Environmental Resources; Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management; and Wood and Paper Science. These departments have a long and dedicated history of extension and engagement activity – public service. Each department has a formal Cooperative Extension component, and each has active formal and informal engagement efforts, ranging from educational outreach, to industrial testing and service, to community planning with local and state agencies. Some of the College programs in this regard are: The American Home, Forestry Educational Outreach Program, Forest Industry Cooperatives, Recreation Resources Service, Center for Earth Observation, Community for Diversity in Natural Resources, Distance Education in Paper Science, among others.

The College of Natural Resources remains committed to advancing the public service mission of the University, both in terms of effectiveness and efficiency, and to promoting scholarship in these activities. The College vision is to more fully integrate the teaching, research and service missions of NC State, to continue and enhance the programs with positive impact for the people, communities, workplaces and landscapes of NC, to foster economic development, and to develop new programming to meet emerging needs. The College works in all regions on NC, and beyond.

The College of Natural Resources is currently undergoing a strategic assessment and planning effort for its extension and engagement efforts. This exercise will lead to a renewal of existing programs as well as to new focus areas for public service growth. One outcome will be to find more ways for teaching and research faculty to participate in the service enterprise, and for the extension and engagement faculty to more effectively contribute to teaching and research missions. The College administration recognizes the many push-pull aspects of faculty commitments, and will work with individual faculty and faculty groups to facilitate the interactive growth that is required. Another outcome will be to maintain our intense commitment to Cooperative Extension and to participate in new-related initiatives like the Gateway project efforts. It is imperative that the College build new bridges and partnerships in its service efforts, foremost with other NC State colleges, and also with other outreach components of NC State, such as the Solar Center, Industrial Extension Service, Natural Resources Leadership Institute, and state and federal land management agencies, among many.

Extension and engagement in the College of Natural Resources is focused on the core values of our disciplines. These include,

- \* Conservation and land stewardship
- \* Maintaining a clean environment
- \* Healthy lifestyles
- \* Vitality of forest land ownership
- \* Sustainability of landscape use
- \* Forest productivity and ecological sustainability
- \* Restoration-remediation of the environment
- \* Sustainable rural economies
- \* Deployment of advanced science and technology
- \* Water quality and watershed management

- \* Renewable energy development
- \* Sustainable tourism development
- \* Vital use/enjoyment of forest and freshwater resources by people
- \* Provision of quality of life amenities through recreation and leisure activities at the community level and in urban and rural environments
- \* Vital industrial sector for traditional and nontraditional forest products
- \* Advancing engineering and technology for the wood using and biotechnological sectors
- \* Economic development for small landowners and natural resource based manufacturers
- \* Conservation and management of wildlife & fish
- \* Collaborative environmental problem solving
- \* Support for limited-resource landowners

The College of Natural Resources recognizes that its evolving mission must address the changing demographic and environmental realities across NC, the nation and the world. In an increasingly urban and populated world, with ever increasing globalization of trade and land use pressures, we must be prepared to adapt and innovate in every aspect of the work we do. Our extension and engagement efforts are an integral and interactive part of this work.