APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Forest Resources **Department:** Forestry

Contact Person: Courtney Siegert **Mail Stop:** 9681
E-mail: Courtney.Siegert@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 2/10/23 **Effective Date:** 8/15/23

Current Degree Program Name: Bachelor of Science

Major: NREC **Concentration:** Natural Resource Law and Administration, Natural Resource Technology, Resource Conservation Science

New Degree Program Name: No change

Major: No change **Concentration:** No change

Summary of Proposed Changes: The following degree modifications are proposed.

1. Minor corrective editorial changes were made to the degree description, concentration advisors, and footnote numbering.
2. In General Education – English, added “Or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I” as a substitute for EN 1103 English Composition I.
3. In General Education – Natural Sciences, removed GR 1114 Physical Geography, PSS 3303 Soils, and PSS 3301 Soils Lab from this section and moved to other categories. It is not necessary to list these three courses here because General Education science laboratory requirements are being met by BIO 1134 Biology I and BIO 1144 Biology II. To fulfill the Natural Science credit hour requirements, a new category, “Extra Science” is created and includes GR 1113. The now independent laboratory for GR 1111 is no longer required. This editorial change aligns with other curricula in the College of Forest Resources.
4. In General Education – Math, deleted 3 credits of math requirement listed under “See Concentration (3).” This section header was also renamed to “Quantitative Reasoning.” This reduction from 6 to 3 credits aligns with the new general education requirements for Quantitative Reasoning. These 3 credits are moved to the Concentration courses.
5. Under General Education – Natural Sciences, moved GR 1114, PSS 3303 and PSS 3301 out of this category since there only need to be 2 courses here with required lab. Subsequently moved GR 1113 Physical Geography to a new category, “Extra Science” and changed course

from 4 credits to 3 credits to reflect the separation of the lecture and lab which will occur in Fall 2023. NREC students will no longer be required to take the lab.

6. In General Education – Social/Behavioral Sciences, added EC 2113 Macroeconomics and EC 2123 Microeconomics accepted as substitutes to AEC 2713 Intro to Food and Resource Econ.
7. In General Education Subtotal, revised the subtotal number of credit hours from 43 to 35 to reflect the changes in #3-4.
8. In Major Core Courses, added NREC 1102 Survey of Natural Resource Management to replace FO 1101 Forest Resource Survey. NREC 1102 has been contingent passed and is moving through UCCC approval to be used an introductory course for the NREC major. The extra credit in NREC 1102 will be taken from the elimination of the GR 1114 lab.
9. In Major Core Courses, FO 3103 Computer Applications for Forest Resources was moved from the separate category of the Computer Literacy Requirement to the general list of Major Core Courses. The Computer Literacy Requirement is no longer required at the university-level, however a technical computer course is still needed to fulfill the major's accreditation through the Society of American Foresters.
10. In Major Core Courses, FO 3113 Forest Recreation Management was changed to the crosslisted NREC 3113 Forest Recreation Management.
11. In Major Core Courses, FO 4313 Spatial Technologies in Natural Resource Management was changed to the crosslisted NREC 4313 Spatial Technologies in Natural Resource Management.
12. In Major Core Courses, FO 4353 Natural Resource Law was changed to the crosslisted NREC 4353 Natural Resource Law.
13. In Major Core Courses, FO 4413 Natural Resource Policy was changed to the crosslisted NREC 4413 Natural Resource Policy.
14. In Major Core Courses, moved PSS 3303 Soils and PSS 3301 Soils Lab to be listed here.
15. In Major Core Courses, WFA 3133 Applied Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecology was changed to "Ecology Elective (3)." The Department of Forestry will maintain a list of approved electives that includes WFA 3133, FO 4123 Forest Ecology, and BIO 3104 Ecology.
16. In Major Core Courses, Changed "AELC 3203 Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences OR MGT 3213 Organizational Communication OR BIO 3013 Professional Writing for Biologists" to "Technical Writing Elective (3)" for writing requirement. The Department of Forestry will maintain a list of approved electives that currently includes AELC 3203, MGT 3213, BIO 3013, EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace, and EDF 3413 Writing for Thinking.
17. Under Major Core Courses, the subtotal was increased from 43 to 48 credits to reflect the addition of credits in #8 and 14.
18. In NRLA Concentration, added "Or CH 1213 Chemistry I" as a substitute to CH 1043. This will allow more seamless transitions for students bringing in credits from high school, from another university, or as a result of transferring between majors.
19. In NRLA Concentration, to account for the removal of three credits from the math requirement (#4), changed the number of Professional Electives from 20 to 21 credits so that the coursework is evenly divisible by three credits leaving Free Electives to be changed from six to eight credits, for a net addition of three credits in the concentration. The uneven number of

Free electives can be used to allow greater use of courses from high school, transfer credits, or pre-requisite courses.

20. In NRLA Concentration, revised the subtotal number of credit hours from 38 to 41 and to reflect the changes in #19. There is no change to the curriculum total.
21. In NRT Concentration, added “Or CH 1213 Chemistry I” as a substitute to CH 1043. This will allow more seamless transitions for students bringing in credits from high school, from another university, or as a result of transferring between majors.
22. In NRT Concentration, FO 4471 GIS Nat Res Mgmt Lab and FO 4472 GIS Nat Res Mgmt Lab were combined and changed to crosslisted NREC GIS Nat Res Mgmt. This course had previously been approved for combination into FO/NREC 4473 previously and was incorrectly listed in the MSU Catalog. Additionally, the 3 credit hours were not listed for this course but were included in the subtotal.
23. In NRT Concentration, to account for the removal of 3 credits from the math requirement (#4), changed the number of Professional Electives from 20 to 21 credits so that the coursework is evenly divisible by 3 credits leaving Free Electives to be changed from six to five credits, for a net addition of three credits in the concentration. The uneven number of Free electives can be used to allow greater use of courses from high school, transfer credits, or pre-requisite courses.
24. In NRT Concentration, revised the subtotal number of credit hours from 38 to 41 to reflect the changes in #23.
25. In RCS Concentration, the calculus course options were switched from MA 1713 Calculus I OR MA 1613 Calc for Bus and Life Sci to MA 1613 OR MA 1713 to reflect the preferred course taken by our students.
26. In RCS Concentration, FO 4463 Forest Hydro & Watershed Mgmt was changed to the crosslisted NREC 4463 Forest Hydro & Watershed Mgmt.
27. In RCS Concentration, added FO 4483 Forest Soils as required course.
28. In RCS Concentration, combined Emphasis Elective credit hours into single group renamed Professional Electives to align with other Concentrations. Reduced number of credit hours from 21 to 18 to account for changes in #27.
29. In RCS Concentration, to account for the removal of 3 credits from the math requirement (#4), added 3 Free Elective credit hours.
30. In RCS Concentration, revised the subtotal number of credit hours from 38 to 41 to reflect the changes in #27-29.

Approved: **Date:**

Donald L. Grebner Digitally signed by Donald L. Grebner Date: 2023.04.10 11:23:07 -05'00'

Department Head

Leslie Burger Digitally signed by Leslie Burger Date: 2023.04.10 11:53:14 -05'00'

Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee

Dana Pomykel -Dir. Acad Qual 4/11/23

L Wes Burger Wes Burger 2023.04.17 09:02:04 -05'00'

Dean of College or School

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)

Chair, Deans Council

DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

All deleted courses and information are in *italics* and all new courses and information in **bold**.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Concentration: Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, Natural Resource Technology	Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Concentration: Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, Natural Resource Technology
Old degree description: The Objectives. The Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major objectives are to prepare its graduates for professional careers by: 1) providing the broader general education fundamentals of written and oral communication; mathematics; biological, social, and physical sciences; and humanities which are critical to the development and advancement of well-qualified professionals; 2) providing both the relevant domains of knowledge and their application to the solution of real-world problems and achievement of defined objectives, including in-depth coverage of ecology and biology; measurement and evaluation of natural resource environmental components, properties, and functioning; management of ecosystems; and legal, regulatory, policy, and economic aspects of ecosystem administration and management; 3) establishing awareness of historical and current issues and policies affecting ecosystem management and conservation; and 4) providing a variety of educational experiences including lectures, discussion, simulations, computer applications, individual and group projects in laboratories and field experiences, and a capstone course teaching students to conduct environmental impact assessments. The purpose of these experiences is to ensure that graduates of the program can knowledgeably develop, apply, facilitate, and/or execute natural resource and environmental management plans that adequately address matters of ownership/public goals and objectives, ecosystem health and sustainability, and the legal and regulatory environment. Accreditation. Educational programs in the Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, and Natural Resource Technology concentrations lead to a professional degree in *Forestry* at Mississippi State University and are accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The Major. The core curriculum of the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major is comprised of specifically selected and intentionally designed courses that provide students with a broad background in the science, technology, and social aspects of natural resource and environmental science. In addition to general education and major core requirements, students will complete one of three concentrations: Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, or Natural Resource Technology.	New degree description: The Objectives. The Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major objectives are to prepare its graduates for professional careers by: 1) providing the broader general education fundamentals of written and oral communication; mathematics; biological, social, and physical sciences; and humanities which are critical to the development and advancement of well-qualified professionals; 2) providing both the relevant domains of knowledge and their application to the solution of real-world problems and achievement of defined objectives, including in-depth coverage of ecology and biology; measurement and evaluation of natural resource environmental components, properties, and functioning; management of ecosystems; and legal, regulatory, policy, and economic aspects of ecosystem administration and management; 3) establishing awareness of historical and current issues and policies affecting ecosystem management and conservation; and 4) providing a variety of educational experiences including lectures, discussion, simulations, computer applications, individual and group projects in laboratories and field experiences, and a capstone course teaching students to conduct environmental impact assessments. The purpose of these experiences is to ensure that graduates of the program can knowledgeably develop, apply, facilitate, and/or execute natural resource and environmental management plans that adequately address matters of ownership/public goals and objectives, ecosystem health and sustainability, and the legal and regulatory environment. Accreditation. Educational programs in the Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, and Natural Resource Technology concentrations lead to a professional degree in **Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation** at Mississippi State University and are accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The Major. The core curriculum of the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major is comprised of specifically selected and intentionally designed courses that provide students with a broad background in the science, technology, and social aspects of natural resource and environmental science. In addition to general education and major core requirements, students will complete one of three concentrations: Natural Resource Law and Administration, Resource Conservation Science, or Natural Resource

Transfer students. Transfer students are encouraged to enter the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major at MSU in the Spring semester of their sophomore year to complete their academic programs in the normal four-year period of study. Transfer students should be aware that course work taken elsewhere may not be accepted toward the degree. Only course work that is determined by the Department of Forestry to be equivalent to required course work will be accepted. In addition, no course work will be considered for acceptance unless a grade of C or better has been earned. Degree Requirements. In addition to General Education and College requirements, students must attain a minimum grade of C on the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Major Core courses taught within the CFR.	Technology. Transfer students. Transfer students are encouraged to enter the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation major at MSU in the Spring semester of their sophomore year to complete their academic programs in the normal four-year period of study. Transfer students should be aware that course work taken elsewhere may not be accepted toward the degree. Only course work that is determined by the Department of Forestry to be equivalent to required course work will be accepted. In addition, no course work will be considered for acceptance unless a grade of C or better has been earned. Degree Requirements. In addition to General Education and College requirements, students must attain a minimum grade of C on the Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Major Core courses taught within the CFR.
Old concentration description: <u>Natural Resource Law and Administration (NREC/NRLA)</u> Advisor: Dr. Edwin Sun, Thompson Hall, room 317 There are numerous laws, regulations, and policies affecting natural resource administration and management that have created a need for professionals with an understanding of the complex interactions between the science of managing natural resources and laws, regulations, policies, and processes involved in their utilization and protection. This Concentration will provide students with a background in the science of natural resource management as well as a foundation in the legal, regulatory, and administrative environment in which this management occurs. Students completing this program will be prepared for post-graduate studies in law, public policy administration, and a wide range of natural resource disciplines, as well as employment with private and public organizations and agencies. <u>Resource Conservation Science (NREC/RCS)</u> Advisor: Dr. Courtney Siegert, Thompson Hall, room 347 There is a need for expertise in resource conservation that relies on a science-based education and an understanding of effective applications of this knowledge to solve problems in natural resource settings. This Concentration promotes learning and skill sets in resource conservation and science that will meet this objective. Universities and employers are looking for natural resource professionals who have the necessary tools to be able to attend graduate school or become employed by private organizations, private industry, and state and federal agencies whose primary mission is environmental protection and resource conservation. This is particularly important since these organizations and agencies are under	New concentration description: <u>Natural Resource Law and Administration (NREC/NRLA)</u> Advisor: Dr. Edwin Sun, Thompson Hall, room 317 There are numerous laws, regulations, and policies affecting natural resource administration and management that have created a need for professionals with an understanding of the complex interactions between the science of managing natural resources and laws, regulations, policies, and processes involved in their utilization and protection. This Concentration will provide students with a background in the science of natural resource management as well as a foundation in the legal, regulatory, and administrative environment in which this management occurs. Students completing this program will be prepared for post-graduate studies in law, public policy administration, and a wide range of natural resource disciplines, as well as employment with private and public organizations and agencies. <u>Resource Conservation Science (NREC/RCS)</u> Advisor: Dr. Courtney Siegert, Thompson Hall, room 347 There is a need for expertise in resource conservation that relies on a science-based education and an understanding of effective applications of this knowledge to solve problems in natural resource settings. This Concentration promotes learning and skill sets in resource conservation and science that will meet this objective. Universities and employers are looking for natural resource professionals who have the necessary tools to be able to attend graduate school or become employed by private organizations, private industry, and state and federal agencies whose primary mission is environmental protection and resource conservation. This is particularly important since these organizations and agencies are under increasing demands

increasing demands to document and verify their activities in both protecting natural resources (i.e., aquatic and terrestrial) and assessing impacts on human, floral, and faunal populations relying on these environments. Natural Resource Technology (NREC/NRT) *Advisor: Dr. Jia Yang, Thompson Hall, room 319* Modern protocols for natural resource monitoring and management are highly dependent on utilization of spatial technologies such as remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS). Spatial technologies and allied measurement and quantitative disciplines, combined with general knowledge needed for resource management, are essential in public- and private-sector natural resource professions. Students will also be amply prepared to continue with graduate studies in this area. This Concentration is specifically designed to provide students with the fundamental background to meet the rapidly growing need for professionals who can collect, manage, and manipulate complex geospatial and ancillary data used in natural resource management.	to document and verify their activities in both protecting natural resources (i.e., aquatic and terrestrial) and assessing impacts on human, floral, and faunal populations relying on these environments. Natural Resource Technology (NREC/NRT) **Advisor: Dr. Yun Yang, Thompson Hall, room 349** Modern protocols for natural resource monitoring and management are highly dependent on utilization of spatial technologies such as remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS). Spatial technologies and allied measurement and quantitative disciplines, combined with general knowledge needed for resource management, are essential in public- and private-sector natural resource professions. Students will also be amply prepared to continue with graduate studies in this area. This Concentration is specifically designed to provide students with the fundamental background to meet the rapidly growing need for professionals who can collect, manage, and manipulate complex geospatial and ancillary data used in natural resource management.

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English: EN 1103 English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II Or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	6	English: EN 1103 English Composition I **Or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I** EN 1113 English Composition II Or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	6
Fine Arts (General Education): LA 1803 Landscape Architecture	3	Fine Arts (General Education): LA 1803 Landscape Architecture	3
Natural Sciences (2 labs required from Gen Ed): BIO 1134 Biology I BIO 1144 Biology II *GR 1114 Physical Geography* *PSS 3303 Soils* *PSS 3301 Soils Lab*	*16*	Natural Sciences (2 labs required from Gen Ed): BIO 1134 Biology I BIO 1144 Biology II	**8**
		Extra Science: **GR 1113 Physical Geography**	**3**
Math (General Education): *MA 1313 College Algebra* ST 2113 Intro to Statistics or ST 3123 Intro to Statistical Inference	*6*	**Quantitative Reasoning (General Education):** ST 2113 Intro to Statistics or ST 3123 Intro to Statistical Inference	**3**
Humanities (General Education): PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics	6	Humanities (General Education): PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics	6

Any General Education Humanities course (3)		Any General Education Humanities course (3)	
Social/Behavioral Sciences (Gen Ed): *AEC 2713 Intro to Food and Resource Econ OR* *EC 2123 Principles of Microeconomics* SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology	6	Social/Behavioral Sciences (Gen Ed): **AEC 2713 Intro to Food and Resource Econ** **Or EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics** **Or EC 2123 Principles of Microeconomics** SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology	6
Subtotal	*43*	Subtotal	**35**
Major Core Courses:		Major Core Courses:	
Chemistry-See Concentrations for requirements		Chemistry-See Concentrations for requirements	
FO 1101 Forest Resource Survey	*1*	**NREC 1102 Survey of Natural Resource Management**	**2**
FO 2113 Dendrology	3	FO 2113 Dendrology	3
		FO 3103 Computer Applications for Forest Resources	**3**
FO 3113 Forest Rec Mgmt	3	**NREC 3113 Forest Rec Mgmt**	3
FO 4213 Forest Biometrics	3	FO 4213 Forest Biometrics	3
FO 4313 Spatial Tech. in Nat. Res.	3	**NREC 4313 Spatial Tech. in Nat. Res.**	3
FO 4343 For Admin and Organization	3	FO 4343 For Admin and Organization	3
FO 4353 Natural Resource Law	3	**NREC 4353 Natural Resource Law**	3
FO 4413 Natural Resource Policy	3	**NREC 4413 Natural Resource Policy**	3
GR 2313 Maps and Remote Sensing	3	GR 2313 Maps and Remote Sensing	3
NREC 3213 Environmental Measurements	3	NREC 3213 Environmental Measurements	3
NREC 4423 Environmental Assessments	3	NREC 4423 Environmental Assessments	3
		PSS 3303 Soils	**3**
		PSS 3301 Soils Lab	**1**
WFA 3133 Applied Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecology	3	**Ecology Elective (3)[1]**	3
Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fund. Of Public Speaking OR CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	3	Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fund. of Public Speaking OR CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	3
Computer Literacy Requirement *FO 3103 Computer Applications for Forest Resources*	*3*		
Writing Requirement: *AELC 3203 Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences OR* *MGT 3213 Organizational Communication OR*	3	Writing Requirement: **Technical Writing Elective (3)[1]**	3

BIO 3013 Professional Writing for Biologists			
Subtotal	*43*	Subtotal **[1]Electives are selected from the list of electives approved by the Department of Forestry faculty.**	**48**
Concentration Courses: Courses to be taken in addition to NREC major core curriculum include:		Concentration Courses: Courses to be taken in addition to NREC major core curriculum include:	
Natural Resource Law and Administration (NREC/NRLA) Advisor: Dr. Edwin Sun, Thompson Hall, room 317		Natural Resource Law and Administration (NREC/NRLA) Advisor: Dr. Edwin Sun, Thompson Hall, room 317	
CH 1043 Survey of Chemistry I	3	CH 1043 Survey of Chemistry I **Or CH 1213 Chemistry I**	3
PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic	3	PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic	3
BL 2413 Legal Environment of Business	3	BL 2413 Legal Environment of Business	3
PS 3063 Constitutional Powers	3	PS 3063 Constitutional Powers	3
Professional Electives -See Department Advisor for list of approved electives	*20*	**Professional Electives[1]**	**21**
Free Electives	*6*	**Free Electives**	**8**
Subtotal Curriculum Total	*38* 124	Subtotal Curriculum Total **[1]Electives are selected from the list of electives approved by the Department of Forestry faculty.**	**41** 124
Natural Resource Technology (NREC/NRT) *Advisor: Dr. Jia Yang, Thompson Hall, room 319*		Natural Resource Technology (NREC/NRT) **Advisor: Dr. Yun Yang, Thompson Hall, room 349**	
MA 1323 Trigonometry	3	MA 1323 Trigonometry	3
CH 1043 Survey of Chemistry I	3	CH 1043 Survey of Chemistry I **Or CH 1213 Chemistry I**	3
FO 2213 Forest Measurements	3	FO 2213 Forest Measurements	3
FO 4453 Remote Sensing Applications	3	FO 4453 Remote Sensing Applications	3
FO 4471 GIS Nat Res Mgmt Lab *FO 4472 GIS Nat Res Mgmt Lab*		**NREC 4473 GIS Nat Res Mgmt**	**3**

Professional Electives -See Department Advisor for list of approved electives	*20*	**Professional Electives[1]**	**21**
Free Electives	*3*	Free Electives	**5**
Subtotal Curriculum Total	*38* 124	Subtotal Curriculum Total **[1]Electives are selected from the list of electives approved by the Department of Forestry faculty.**	**41** 124
Resource Conservation Science (NREC/RCS) Advisor: Dr. Courtney Siegert, Thompson Hall, room 347		Resource Conservation Science (NREC/RCS) Advisor: Dr. Courtney Siegert, Thompson Hall, room 347	
MA 1713 Calculus I OR *MA 1613 Calc for Bus and Life Sci*	3	**MA 1613 Calc for Bus and Life Sci OR** **MA 1713 Calculus I**	3
CH 1211 Investigations in Chemistry I	1	CH 1211 Investigations in Chemistry I	1
CH 1213 Chemistry I	3	CH 1213 Chemistry I	3
CH 1221 Investigations in Chemistry II	1	CH 1221 Investigations in Chemistry II	1
CH 1223 Chemistry II	3	CH 1223 Chemistry II	3
FO 4463 Forest Hydro & Watershed Mgt OR *FO 4483 Forest Soils*	3	**NREC 4463 Forest Hydro & Watershed Mgmt**	3
		FO 4483 Forest Soils	**3**
Emphasis Electives – Choose Terrestrial or Aquatic – See advisor for list of approved electives	*15*	**Professional Electives[1]**	**18**
Professional Electives – See Department Advisor for list of approved electives	*6*		
Free Electives	*3*	Free Electives	**6**
Subtotal Curriculum Total	*38* 124	Subtotal Curriculum Total **[1]Electives are selected from the list of electives approved by the Department of Forestry faculty.**	**41** 124

JUSTIFICATION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

There is currently higher demand for natural resource professionals than there are graduates from natural resource management programs. As such, building a strong program that is focused on natural resource management, including the biophysical, socio-political, and technological interdisciplinary components, will set us apart from peer institutions. Many of the changes in our proposed curriculum reflect a reorganization of our core and elective options to support easier navigation of courses that are available to complete a degree in Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation. A new introductory course for the major is included (NREC 1102) which will provide a broad introduction to natural resources and the specific management-related issues for each resource. All first year NREC majors and transfer students will be required to take the course as part of their curriculum. Currently, NREC majors are required to take FO 1101 Forest Resource Survey which is designed explicitly for Forestry majors. As

such, the NREC majors are not exposed to the main topics and objectives of their discipline, nor do they get the appropriate foundational information on professional development and career pathways for their major.

1. Will this program change meet local, state, regional, and national educational and cultural goals? **This program change is in line with SAF accreditation standards for Natural Resource Management accreditation, under which the NREC program is currently accredited. Several of the proposed changes represent an updating of course codes to reflect the cross-listing (NREC/FO) of the course as NREC. This is beneficial to NREC students as they will have more courses listed on their transcripts under their specific degree code.**
2. Will this program change result in duplication in the System? **This program change will not result in a duplication of the system. The new introductory course, NREC 1102, which has been submitted for UCCC approval, is specifically created for NREC majors.**
3. Will this program change/advance student diversity within the discipline? **No, not directly. However, expanding the course offerings in the NREC major, which was established in 2014, will garner broader appeal to prospective students. This will be leveraged with two new staff hires in the CFR whose positions are aimed at increasing diversity and enhancing student success. We envision these staff positions to help us successfully recruit diverse students into the NREC degree program.**
4. Will this program change result in an increase in the potential placement of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the US? **It is anticipated that this change will make our graduates more prepared to enter professional natural resource management careers with a stronger foundation in core natural resource management issues. Additionally, our graduates' transcripts will more accurately reflect their coursework in NREC.**
5. Will this program change result in an increase in the potential salaries of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the US? **For the reasons stated above in #4, it is anticipated that our students will be more qualified in their professional fields of natural resource management and therefore garner higher starting salaries.**

EFFECTIVE DATE
8/15/2023

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
P. O. Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2949
cfr.msstate.edu

MEMO TO: Dr. Andy Perkins, Chair
University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC)

FROM: Dr. Courtney Siegert, Chair, Department of Forestry Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC)

DATE: March 29, 2023

SUBJECT: NREC Special Topic Course Proposals

As per UCCC policy, I am providing documentation that the Department of Forestry's UGCC has reviewed and approved the following items:

1. Degree Modification Proposal – Forestry Major
2. Degree Modification Proposal – NREC Major

The UGCC members have indicated below their approval (or disapproval) of these modifications and course proposals. All Committee members approved the documents that were developed and submitted. The faculty also voted in support of these changes.

	Approve	Disapprove	Signature
Stephen Grado	✔		Dr. Stephen C. Grado — Digitally signed by Dr. Stephen C. Grado DN: cn=Dr. Stephen C. Grado, o=MSU, ou=CFR/FWRC, email=scg4@msstate.edu, c=US Date: 2023.04.10 10:04:51 -05'00'
Robert Grala	✔		Dr. Robert K. Grala — Digitally signed by Dr. Robert K. Grala Date: 2023.04.05 09:08:15 -05'00'
Joshua Granger	✔		Joshua J. Granger — Digitally signed by Joshua J. Granger Date: 2023.04.06 20:20:08 -05'00'
Austin Himes	✔		Austin Himes — Digitally signed by Austin Himes Date: 2023.03.29 13:55:55 -05'00'
Krishna Poudel	✔		Krishna P. Poudel — Digitally signed by Krishna P. Poudel Date: 2023.03.29 14:09:41 -05'00'
Heidi Renninger	✔		Heidi Renninger — Digitally signed by Heidi Renninger Date: 2023.03.29 14:06:15 -05'00'
Courtney Siegert	✔		Courtney Siegert — Digitally signed by Courtney Siegert Date: 2023.04.07 06:31:45 -05'00'
Changyou Sun	✔		Digitally signed by Changyou Sun Date: 2023.04.04 11:13:23 -05'00'
Yun Yang	✔		Yun Yang — Digitally signed by Yun Yang Date: 2023.04.04 09:07:45 -05'00'