

October 28, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

The School of Forest Resources (SFR) is pleased to announce a new summer camp program. This course, officially known as SFR 300 Field Practice in Forest Resources, is one of the most important courses offered in SFR. This is an intensive three-week course that provides field experience in multiple forest resources disciplines and develops skills necessary for professional careers in forest resource management. It will also provide students with excellent field and analytical skills to enable them to be productive summer interns. Over the last three years, the School of Forest Resources has made substantial changes to our three undergraduate programs – Forestry (FTY); Forest Operations, Bioproducts and Bioenergy (FBB); and Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT). The last phase of this effort was to revise the summer camp program.

In an effort to keep you informed of what goes on inside the walls of Nutting Hall, here are just a few of the highlights from the new plan:

- The camp is designed to reinforce, integrate, and evaluate skills developed during the first two years of study as well as introduce concepts of forest resource management that will be studied further during the final two years of the programs.
- Students from all three majors will attend the camp at the end of their sophomore year.
- Students will strengthen relationships with faculty and staff as they gain field experience, demonstrate professional skills, and prepare reports and presentations. Eleven faculty members have agreed to develop and deliver a wide range of activities during the three week program.
- The first and third weeks will be held at Camp Roosevelt in Eddington. During the second week FTY and FBB students will spend a week in the North Maine Woods developing harvest plans under the direction of professional foresters. At the same time PRT students will be on the coast at the Schoodic Education and Research Institute developing a recreation management plan for a new initiative in that region.
- Students will also develop new skills such as chainsaw safety, lumber grading, and log quality assessment.

Clearly we have a lot of work to do to implement the new plan, but we are confident that our changes will better prepare our students for their future careers. If you have any questions regarding the changes, or if you would like more details, please contact me by phone (581-2727) or email (jeffrey.g.benjamin@maine.edu).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Benjamin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Forest Operations

