



# Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

*Promoting forest health, productivity, and sustainability*

1607 S. Oaks Wardsville, MO 65101 573-230-6248

[www.mofrac.org](http://www.mofrac.org)

January 13, 2016

Dr. Joshua Millspaugh  
Interim Director, School of Natural Resources  
University of Missouri – Columbia  
302 Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building  
Columbia, MO 65211

Dear Dr. Millspaugh,

Thank you for meeting with representatives of the Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC, or the Council) last August. The dedication of faculty and staff to the forestry profession and the education of young men and women was evident. The meeting was informative and helped us understand the current challenges facing natural resources higher education.

MoFRAC was established to facilitate communication among all who are interested in Missouri's forests to assure long-term forest health, productivity, and sustainability. Within this core purpose, MoFRAC serves as a sounding board or in an advisory capacity to agencies and organizations regarding forestry issues. Currently, more than thirty agencies and organizations are represented on the council, including the School of Natural Resources.

Missouri's 15.5 million acres of forestland support an \$8 billion timber industry in the state, providing nearly 43,000 jobs. Key among these jobs are professional foresters, who are responsible for forest management across public and private ownerships to provide economic benefits while supporting diverse wildlife habitat, healthy rivers, and recreational opportunities. Professional foresters are the face of forest management in the state, serving as the point of contact between landowners, timber harvesters, industry, and the public. While this requires a diverse set of skills, the foundational element is a robust forestry education.

MoFRAC understands there are significant challenges facing the School of Natural Resources and Forestry program. Among these is the capacity to maintain accreditation through the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The Council understands the School is considering a change in accreditation from the General Accreditation to the Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management program. The Council reviewed the standards for each accreditation path and believes the General Accreditation path gives graduates the strongest background and educational core needed to become competent forestry professionals. Unlike the Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management path, the General Accreditation ensures the essential forestry skills are included in the degree program. SAF accreditation is critical for graduates

*Disclaimer: This correspondence represents a majority view that may not be held by each member*

from the School of Natural Resources Forestry program to compete in today's market for forestry professionals, and to maintain the University's reputation as a leader in forestry and related fields. Many employers either require or prefer an education from an SAF-accredited program. We hope you and the faculty will give strong consideration for maintaining the SAF General Accreditation.

One suggestion offered by MoFRAC members to help maintain the robust forestry education is to temporarily fulfill teaching needs not currently supported by full-time positions with forestry professionals. MoFRAC would like to emphasize the importance of filling full-time faculty vacancies, and offer this suggestion as an interim measure to maintain the continuity and rigor of the Forestry degree program while the School develops a long-term solution. We understand this is currently done on a limited basis, and would like to further discuss how to best meet the needs of students and the forestry profession under today's challenging circumstances.

Dr. Hank Stelzer represents the School of Natural Resources on MoFRAC and we look forward to receiving his updates on the accreditation process. To further discuss the School's status, the Council would welcome your attendance at any of our meetings, or we would be happy to meet with you on campus. MoFRAC looks forward to a response to this letter and we hope you take us up on our offer to meet with you.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Landewe, Chair

Cc: Hank Stelzer

Enclosed: MoFRAC Brochure

## About Us

The Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC) facilitates communication among all who are interested in Missouri's forests to assure long term forest health, productivity, and sustainability.

### **MoFRAC...**

- Serves as a sounding board for more than 35 agencies and organizations regarding planning, operations, programs, policies, or legislation affecting forestry
- Supports meetings, workshops, field days, and conferences to promote the importance of Missouri's forests and awareness of forestry issues
- Supports science-based research and surveys to gather information and opinions related to forestry issues in Missouri



## 2016 Officers

**Rebecca Landewe, Chair**  
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**Hank Stelzer, Vice Chair**  
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**John Tuttle, Vice Chair**  
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### **2016 Meetings**

*All meetings will be held at  
Farm Bureau Headquarters in  
Jefferson City, MO*

March 2, 2016

June 8, 2016

September 7, 2016

December 7, 2016

## Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council



*Promoting forest health, productivity,  
and sustainability for  
Missouri's forests*

## Check Us Out Online!

Go to [www.mofrac.org](http://www.mofrac.org) to learn more about the Council and its events, activities, etc.

*Woody Biomass Conference  
October, 2010*



## Current Organizations

- ◆ Association of Consulting Foresters of America
- ◆ Conservation Federation of Missouri
- ◆ Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council
- ◆ Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri
- ◆ Mark Twain National Forest
- ◆ Missouri Center for Agroforestry
- ◆ Missouri Chapter Sierra Club
- ◆ Missouri Chapter Walnut Council
- ◆ Missouri Community Forestry Council
- ◆ Missouri Consulting Foresters Association
- ◆ Missouri Department of Agriculture
- ◆ Missouri Department of Conservation
- ◆ Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Missouri Farm Bureau
- ◆ Missouri Forest Products Association
- ◆ Missouri Landscape & Nursery Association
- ◆ Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Missouri Nut Growers Association
- ◆ Missouri Society of American Foresters
- ◆ Missouri Tree Farm Committee
- ◆ National Wild Turkey Federation
- ◆ Pioneer Forest, LLC
- ◆ Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ U.S. Army – Fort Leonard Wood
- ◆ University of Missouri
- ◆ USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Health, Protection, & Quarantine
- ◆ USDA Farm Services Agency
- ◆ USFS Northern Research Center