

**College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
Michigan Technological University**

Proposal for shelving the Master of Science in Forestry (Senate Procedure 414.1.1)

Proposal 8-24

Developed by: CFRES Graduate Studies Committee

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According to senate procedures 414.1.1, the following proposal for shelving the Master's of Science in Forestry has to be submitted to the Provost's office by October 31st 2023, to coincide with the deadline for the curriculum review process. If approved, the shelving will take effect June 30 of the following year.

Full name of the program to be shelved: "Master of Science in Forestry" (MS in Forestry) at the College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (CFRES).

Final term program will be open for new admits: Last semester that enrollment was open was Summer 2023 (though we did not have any applicants). According to the CFRES website, "The MS in Forestry program has been shelved and is no longer accepting applications. The College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (CFRES) offers many graduate degrees, including a Master of Forestry professional degree and an MS in Forest Ecology and Management."

Plan to complete all enrolled students and any returning students: There are no students who are currently pursuing an MS in Forestry.

Reason for shelving: MS in Forestry (FFR) is redundant with our MS in Forest Ecology and Management (FFEM), and too similar in name to our coursework-only Master of Forestry (FMF) program. This causes confusion for prospective students, and we are working to streamline our programs. We have no current FFR students in our program, as all the most recent MS students have either selected FFEM or FMF. The MS in Forest Ecology and Management degree more accurately reflects the evolving landscape of our academic program and the forestry industry at large. The term 'Forestry' has traditionally been associated primarily with forest management practices. While management remains a critical component, our program has expanded to embrace a broader range of studies that include the intricate ecological dynamics of forested systems, conservation efforts, and climate change adaptation strategies. An MS in Forest Ecology and Management (which we already have) encapsulates the multi-disciplinary nature of the field, thereby attracting a more diverse student body interested in various facets of forest ecology alongside traditional forest management. By doing so, we can prepare graduates who are not only adept at sustainable management practices but also equipped with the ecological understanding required to adapt to an increasingly complex environmental landscape. This shelving is a strategic realignment and streamlining that reflects both current realities and future directions in forest science and sustainability.

M.S. in Forestry - shelved

Financial impact (if any) to the department and university: We do not anticipate a net financial impact for either CFRES or the university.