Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research

CFEOR

www.sfrc.ufl.edu/cfeor

Mission
To develop and disseminate knowledge needed to conserve and manage Florida’s forests as healthy, working ecosystems that provide social, ecological and economic benefits on a sustainable basis.

Research/Outreach Philosophy and Goals
A team of multi-disciplinary researchers/extension specialists in cooperation with stakeholders and partners will conduct basic and applied research on the following issues and develop applications to further the health and sustainability of forest ecosystems:

- Restoring Florida forest ecosystems
- Evaluating water quality and quantity
- Valuing forest ecosystems
- Assessing visitors & recreation management strategies
- Promoting biodiversity, wildlife and fish populations
- Controlling invasive, exotic species
- Cost effective conservation planning through public-private ventures
- Exploring innovative market opportunities
- Understanding and using prescribed fire
- Enhancing threatened and endangered species

New and existing knowledge of these issues will be disseminated
- through conferences, workshops, and seminars,
- by educating the public on forest ecosystem research through the Florida Cooperative Extension Service,
- by developing practical applications for cooperative members and industrial & family forest landowners,
- by serving as a clearinghouse for new information,
- by enhancing communications among stakeholders,
- by facilitating access to technical expertise and information.
Structure and Organization

Administration

- Four co-directors with expertise in ecology, wildlife, recreation, and economics and policy from School of Forest Resources and Conservation and Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.
- Science and Outreach committees with representatives from Steering Committee and Member organizations
- **Three levels of membership:**
  - Steering Committee: ≥ 100,000 acres of forests OR any natural resource related organizations
  - Members: ≤ 100,000 acres of forests OR any natural resource related organizations
  - Supporting members: small organizations/individuals such as municipalities and family forest landowners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Categories and Responsibilities</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
<th>Other Financial Responsibilities</th>
<th>In-kind Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
<td>$ 8,000</td>
<td>≥ 1 project</td>
<td>≥ 1 project</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Supporting</td>
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**Membership Benefits**

**Effective way to ensure a common goal**

- Access to numerous scientists in ecology, biometrics, wildlife, soils and water, sociology, recreation, and economics and policy.
- Capitalize on the interest of other organizations and stakeholders in pursuing your goal of sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems.

**Easy access to credible information**

- Help create relevant scientifically derived information from in-depth, long-term studies on forest ecosystems.
- Obtain information through trainings, publications, and membership meetings.

**Cost Effectiveness**

- Reduce research costs due to IFAS/UF leveraged contributions ($500,000/yr towards support of scientists, staff and operating expenses).
- Improve your ability to obtain external grants through existing CFEOR projects.

**Deliverables**

- Biweekly newsletters and an annual report.
- Workshops/Fieldtrips/Conferences
- Applied research on sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems.

**CFEOR Administration**

Charlie Houder, Steering Committee Chair
Bill Cleckley, Steering Committee Vice Chair
Tim Breault, Science Committee Chair
Denise Raines, Outreach Committee Chair

**Executive Co-Directors**

Shibu Jose, Taylor Stein, George Tanner

**Contact:** Nancy Peterson

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