

Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research

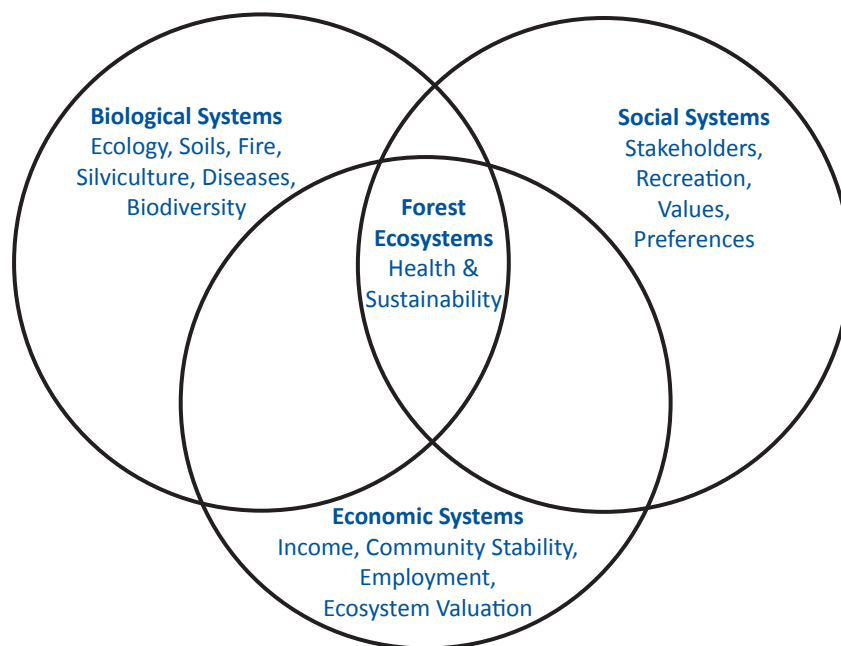
CFEOR



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: $\geq 100,000$ acres of forests OR any natural resource related organizations
 - Members: $\leq 100,000$ acres of forests OR any natural resource related organizations
 - Supporting members: small organizations/individuals such as municipalities and family forest landowners

Membership Categories and Responsibilities			
Category	Annual Dues	Other Financial Responsibilities	In-kind Contributions
Steering Committee	\$ 8,000	≥ 1 project	≥ 1 project
Members	\$ 4,000	≥ 1 project	Optional
Supporting	\$ 1,000	Optional	Optional

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 Houser, 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

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