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# **SENIOR PROJECT (FORS 4730) FACT SHEET**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Students in all majors of the School of Forest Resources are required to successfully complete either FORS 4750, Senior Project, or FORS 4750, Senior Thesis. The Senior Project option involves the identification and solution of a resource management decision problem by several students working as a team. This option best suits the educational and career goals of most students in the School. This Fact Sheet provides details for students ready to enroll for Senior Project. A Senior Thesis Fact Sheet is available from the Undergraduate Coordinator's Office.

## **REGISTRATION**

FORS 4730 is offered each semester. You should schedule Senior Project as close to the end of your program of study as possible (usually your last semester in residence), because it is intended to integrate material from all courses in your major.

During the semester preceding your entry into the class, you must attend a meeting for prospective students, scheduled by the course instructors. Meeting notices will be posted on bulleting boards around the School. This meeting will provide specific instructions for the course and initial approval of your proposed project and team. The names of the instructors will be listed in the OASIS registration manual.

## **SUITABLE SENIOR PROJECT PROBLEMS**

A suitable Senior Project problem will:

- Have a client(s) who has the responsibility for deciding how a particular forest resource should be managed to best achieve stated ends or objectives;
- Include more than one feasible method to accomplish the client's objectives. Your team must evaluate each alternative in a way that permits the team to rank the proposed alternatives in terms of how well they meet the stated objectives;
- Result in written and oral reports to the client to recommend an alternative to meet client objectives and to justify this recommendation;
- Be completed in one semester; and
- Have teams with members whose majors correspond to the management objectives of the client. Teams with a mix of majors usually produce stronger projects and are highly recommended by the instructors. A team with all members from one major will only be approved under special circumstances.

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

Students are expected to attend and participate in weekly lectures, weekly team meetings with the instructors, and final oral presentations by classmates. Weekly lectures concern topics that are important to the completion of projects and are sequenced to coincide with the steps required to complete projects. Lecture topics typically include discussions of problem definition and solution, sampling and data collection, the analysis of management alternatives, report writing, preparation for oral presentations, etc. Weekly team meetings give teams an opportunity to gain technical input from class instructors. Teams are expected to report on progress up through that week and on plans for the next week. These progress and planning meetings serve to keep the team's work on schedule throughout the semester.

### **DIFFICULTY DEFINING A SUITABLE PROBLEM**

If the team is unable to locate and define a suitable project, a problem can be assigned at the team's request. Usually this will involve management planning for a parcel of land owned by the School. In such cases an assigned faculty member will act as the client and will play the role of a lay client. Experience has shown that assigned problems tend to be more difficult than those selected by students.

January 24, 2002