

ACTION ITEM #4

Establish a Major in Forestry under the approved
Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences
(Daniel J. Bernardo)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

PROPOSED: To establish a major in Forestry, under the approved Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences effective Fall 2015.

SUBMITTED BY: Daniel J. Bernardo, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: In December 2011, Washington State University (WSU) phased out its long-standing major in Forestry. However, this decision did not meet with universal support from key stakeholders in the state and region. As a part of the Washington State Budget passed in the final days of June of 2013, WSU was mandated to re-establish its forestry major (WA State budget, July 1, 2013, Sections 606(6); 607(1)).

Over the course of the past year WSU has explored alternative approaches to re-establishing the forestry major on the Pullman campus. Recently the administration of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences elected to establish a newly updated forestry major on the Pullman campus. WSU will seek accreditation of the forestry major by the Society of American Foresters as soon as possible.

The new Forestry major will be an integrated, interdisciplinary program within the School of Environment and will only be offered on the Pullman Campus. It is expected that the School of the Environment will develop articulation agreements with various community colleges in the state over time in an effort to rapidly build enrollment in the proposed major.

The major was approved by the Academic Affairs Committee on March 3, 2015 and passed by the Faculty Senate on April 2, 2015.