

# **MSU Forestry: on solid ground & growing**

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# Exciting (& challenging) times for forestry

## What we expect from forests

1. Wood & paper products
2. Substrate for bio-fuel production
3. Recreation / aesthetics
4. Carbon sequestration & storage
5. Biodiversity

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# Some current management challenges

1. Invasive exotic pests
2. Climate change
3. Deer populations
4. Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen

Given the importance of forests & management challenges, CANR & MSU see importance of forestry

# A brief history

Late 2009:

- Dean Armstrong (CANR) proposes to eliminate Forestry Department (among others) & to create an interdepartmental forestry program
- alternative was to merge with Fisheries & Wildlife

Late 2010 / early 2011:

- Dean Armstrong leaves MSU.
- Merger still planned

Spring 2011:

- Merger falls apart
- Forestry stands as an independent Department

1 July 2011 – Rich Kobe starts as Interim Chair

# Moving forward on several fronts:

1. New structure for Department; Directors of:
  - Graduate Studies
  - Undergraduate Studies
  - Technology & Communications
2. New Graduate Certificate in Forest Carbon Science, Policy & Management
  - stand-alone Certificate or as part of MS program
  - likely 1<sup>st</sup> program of its kind globally
3. Professional MS program in Forestry
  - set of core courses
  - specializations: Carbon, Bio-energy plantations

## **Moving forward on several fronts:**

4. Comprehensive review of our undergraduate curriculum
  - e.g., use of remotely sensed images for forest inventory
5. Discussing an undergraduate internship program
  - build on an outstanding alumni network
6. Building a video display in front lobby focused on undergrad recruitment
7. Redesigning web-site to make more dynamic

## Moving forward on several fronts:

8. Conference on “Sustainable forests and economic development: Domestic and global challenges”

- part of our celebration of UN International Year of Forests
- great slate of speakers from throughout the world
- no registration fees!
- October 23-25 @ MSU Union
- Still time to sign up: <http://forestry.msu.edu/>

9. Examining all of our business procedures & practices to operate more efficiently within a reduced budget