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Recent Reorganization of the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University: Implications for Teaching and Learning

Terry L. Sharik¹

On July 1, 2002, the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University reorganized into three new departments, i.e., Aquatic, Watershed, and Earth Resources; Environment and Society; and Forest, Range, and Wildlife Sciences. The first two departments focus on the bio-physical sciences, while the third emphasizes the social sciences in an interdisciplinary setting. This reorganization represented a deep mixing of faculty, staff, and students from four former departments, i.e., Fisheries and Wildlife, Forest Resources, Rangeland Resources, and Geography and Earth Resources. The main effects of the reorganization on graduate education were the enhancement of linkages with basic and applied academic programs from other sectors of the university, and an increase in the number of graduate degrees and certificates offered. The main influences at the undergraduate level were the loss of a common core to all departments, an increase in undergraduate degrees offered (and associated specialization), and the requirement for strong cooperation among departments in the college to satisfy professional accreditation of degree programs and certification of individuals.

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