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ON-LINE GIS INSTRUCTION AT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT: The College of Forest Resources GIS Research and Teaching Program at North Carolina State University has developed a student directed learning program for GIS applied to Natural Resource Management. Students in the introductory GIS course independently learn elementary spatial analysis over the computing network and apply these concepts in the professional development courses. The core of this two year GIS curriculum design effort is the campus-wide GIS delivery system. This system is a cooperative effort among the NC State Libraries, the Instructional Technology Office, and the College of Forest Resources. The Libraries house and maintain the spatial data and provide assistance to users, the Informational Technology staff provide the delivery of GIS to over 2000 campus computer seats, and the College delivers the formal instruction program and houses the spatial analysis research effort. The instruction program is centered on student laboratories that are offered on the World Wide Web. Students review the material demonstrated in class and practice application of this material in a "virtual" laboratory environment. Homework submission and return, help sessions, and project presentations are all done electronically. This paper highlights the on-line GIS instruction system, curriculum, laboratory exercises, and student evaluations of this on-going effort.