

Proposal to Shelve B.S. in Natural Resource Management

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Required Information

Program Details:

- Full name of program to be shelved: Natural Resource Management
- Program code: FNRM
- Final term program will be open to new admits: Fall 2026
- Effective shelving semester: Fall 2027

Plan for Currently Enrolled Students

- There are currently 7 students enrolled in this program.
- Courses will be offered to allow currently enrolled students, and any entering the program in Fall 2026, to complete the program.

Reason for Shelving

CFRES currently offers seven bachelor’s degree programs and co-administers (with the College of Engineering) the newly created B.S. in Ecological Engineering. The BS in Natural Resource Management (NRM) was created about a decade ago under the belief that the widely used and recognized term “natural resources” would attract undergraduates. Enrollment in the NRM major has remained low over this decade even as CFRES enrollment has more than doubled during this same period.

After careful review by the CFRES Curriculum Committee and discussion in two faculty meetings, we are proposing to shelve the B.S. in Natural Resource Management. Fall 2026 would be the final term we would admit students to this program, and we will continue to offer all courses needed for existing students to complete their degrees. Once again, the primary reason for shelving the program is low enrollment.

Below, undergraduate enrollment in NRM in fall of the academic year.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0	1	4	5	5	6	6	6	5	4	7	7

Currently in 2026, students in NRM include: Fr=2, So=1, Jr=1, Sr=3.

Financial Impact

In the spring of 2026, the seven students in NRM represented just 2.1% of CFRES students (total 334). CFRES currently offers seven B.S. degrees, and our faculty community is very confident that the shelving of the NRM degree will not result in a loss of enrollment overall. Within CFRES, there is a consensus that sufficient overlap exists within our degree offerings to provide appealing B.S. degree options for those students attracted to natural resource management as a discipline. Thus, the financial impact on the college should be zero or even positive in terms of slightly reducing the administrative and advising work needed from 7.5 to 6.5 undergraduate degrees; for these purposes, the new B.S. in Ecological Engineering is counted as 0.5 degree.