

**Committee:** Forestry

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**Society of American Foresters Accreditation of the Forestry Program  
at the University of Missouri-Columbia**

**WHEREAS**, the amount of students entering the Forestry Department in the University of Missouri-Columbia would decline with the loss of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) accreditation; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a greater amount of forestry-related positions than there are prospective students to assume said positions; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri state, federal agencies and other employers preferably hire graduates with SAF accredited Forestry degrees; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of an effective recruitment effort within the University of Missouri-Columbia is reducing the visibility of the offered Forestry program; and

**WHEREAS**, there are vacancies of tenured professor positions and lack of traction of filling these vacancies; and

**WHEREAS**, the School is changing the forestry degree in favor of a natural resources degree; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Missouri-Columbia, a land grant institution, is the only accredited Forestry program in Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, the MDC is hiring out-of-state students from Iowa and Illinois universities that are accredited by the SAF; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016, encourages the University of Missouri-Columbia to continue with the accreditation of the Forestry degree and be in communication with the SAF accreditation committee throughout the accrediting process to ensure that the new structure will meet the SAF accreditation requirements, as well as encouraging increased outreach to high schools to promote Forestry and Natural Resources programs at the university.