

AACR 5

Office of the President
September 21, 2004

Members, Board of Trustees:

ROBINSON FOREST TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees endorse the Robinson Forest Sustainable Management Guidelines, associated research plan, and the proposed allocation of future timber revenue.

Background: The deliberation of plans for Robinson Forest by the University administration and the College of Agriculture provides an opportunity for the review of Forest management and research potential. Two primary objectives guide the proposed plan. (1) to further advance the excellence and impact of research and education conducted at the Forest and (2) to use accessible resources and income to best support the goals of the E. O. Robinson trust, while sustaining the ecological and scientific value of the Forest.

The new management plan partitions the Forest into four major land use designations. These designations would preserve undisturbed old-growth forest in a significant fraction of the Forest, define specific areas for intensive hydrologic research, give appropriate consideration for aesthetic and educational values, and allow sustainable rotational timber harvest in some blocks. The plan also includes an environmentally friendly, long-term harvest rotation and revises procedures for developing harvest and management plans for the Forest.

As part of the plan, a “Streamside Management Zone” research proposal will dramatically elevate the status of hydrologic research in Robinson Forest. The Forest offers a unique opportunity to conduct a study of this scope and impact. It promises to provide a groundbreaking, landmark analysis of forest ecosystem function, offers an opportunity to access substantial extramural funding, and would generate national and international interest in Robinson Forest research. The research would have immediate and substantial impact on timber management practices.

Allocation of future timber revenues associated with the management plan and research study will involve the following: (a) Direct costs of logging operations would be the responsibility of the College of Agriculture; reimbursement for these would be deducted to calculate net proceeds. Such costs would include, but may not be limited to maintenance or construction of logging roads and stream crossings, required permits and environmental impact analysis, silvicultural requirements and timber appraisals. (b) The first \$250,000 of net proceeds in any fiscal year

would be allocated 50 percent for maintenance of research/education infrastructure in the Forest and 50 percent for support of the Robinson Scholars initiative. c) Net proceeds in excess of \$250,000 in any fiscal year would be allocated 40 percent to support research and education infrastructure and 60 percent for the Robinson Scholars initiative.

After careful consideration of the objectives and recommendations, the President and the Provost endorse the management plan and associated proposals.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____