



WATERFRONT CENTRE
800 9TH STREET, SW 3RD FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

October 16, 2000

Dear ,

The Sustainable Forestry Partnership and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation invite you and your faculty to join in a collaborative effort focused on graduate level forestry education. With so much attention being given to issues of sustainability, our goal is to use this opportunity to stimulate dialogue among forestry schools and stakeholders to ensure our graduates continue to be competitive in today's market. The question is, what do our graduates need to know to practice sustainable forest management? While we do not believe there is one model or approach, we look forward to a dialogue that will help us identify key elements of a graduate program in sustainable forestry, and, that will allow us to share our individual and collective experiences. None of us possess the complete answer, however, we can agree that many in the forestry community are asking the same question. That is why we need your participation. While the dialogue will be among many different institutions, it will be up to individual faculty and departments to develop new classes and programs. The intent of our effort is to inform these emerging programs.

We are seeking your participation in two campus-based focus groups designed to reveal what faculty believe are key elements comprising comprehensive sustainability training. Our process will culminate in a national conference on sustainable forestry graduate education in mid-2001. Focus groups will send delegates to the national conference where findings can be compared and collected as part of a model curriculum guide. The guide, including individual findings will be published and made available to all whom are interested.

To read the project proposal and learn more about the project, see the Partnership's web site: <http://sfp.cas.psu.edu/curriculum.htm#curriculum>. An advisory committee with representation from academia, industry, and the conservation community will help guide Partnership and Pinchot staff in our facilitation of the process. You can find a list of advisors and participants on the web site.

We will contact you soon to discuss your interest in this important project. If you have questions, or wish to register your participation, please contact Dr. Michael P. Washburn, project coordinator at 202-401-5934 or sfp@psu.edu. We look forward to your participation in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. Washburn
National Coordinator
Sustainable Forestry Partnership

V. Alaric Sample
President
Pinchot Institute for Conservation

