

GEOG 237 Natural Resources-Forestry

10:10-11:00 am
MWF

Instructor
Dr. Conghe Song

Room 220
Carolina Hall



Forests are natural resources that provides vital goods and services upon which human welfare depends. Forests play a key role in mitigating global warming by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and store the carbon as organic matter (e.g., wood), pumping water from below ground into the atmosphere to regulate air temperature, moisture, and precipitation. Forests are also home to millions of wildlife species, providing vital habitat to maintain the biodiversity on the planet. Forests serve as critical safety nets for millions of poor people in the world, providing them with food, fiber, fuel, and medicine etc. Unfortunately, the world forest resources are declining rapidly. In this interdisciplinary course, we will learn ecological principles of forest ecosystems, regarding where the world forests are distributed, what kinds of forests are out there, what are the factors influencing forest growth and development, and the goods and services forests provide, and the socioeconomic theories on how the world forests are managed, why forests are declining, and what we can do about it. The goal of the course is to gain a wholistic understanding for how to sustain the vital goods and services forests provide and support the livelihoods of forest-dependent people at the same time.