

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Who We Are

The School of Natural Resource Sciences (SNRS) includes the disciplines of Entomology, Natural Resources Management, Range Science and Soil Science.

The SNRS operates at the intersection of agriculture and natural resources. We are here to help land managers, agencies, industry and policy makers problem solve and implement solutions that maintain and improve natural resources. Grounded in the land-grant mission, our research, extension and teaching focus on improving management of natural resources and agroecosystems: from pollinators to pest management, cropping systems to soil health, wetlands to wildlife, and restoration to grazing management. We use our expertise and interdisciplinary strengths to empower communities, serve North Dakota and improve the world.

***We are the
NDSU School of
Natural Resource
Sciences***

► **GOAL: Improve student support.**

ACTION STEPS:

- ❑ Start a graduate student organization.
- ❑ Create an SNRS graduate student handbook.
- ❑ Create and disseminate SNRS undergraduate and graduate advising mentor/mentee best practices.
- ❑ Explore opportunities to improve student experiences.

► **GOAL: Celebrate, integrate and embrace the power of diversity.**

ACTION STEPS:

- ❑ Ensure SNRS programs, curricula, outreach opportunities and policies uphold inclusivity, diversity, respect and connection.
- ❑ Promote inclusive and collaborative opportunities and partnerships that prepare staff, faculty and students to be successful in a diverse and globally connected world.
- ❑ Prioritize and deliver creative education and extension opportunities that optimize educational experiences for different types of learners.
- ❑ Promote and support participation in programs and enrollment of students identified as non-traditional agriculture audiences.

► **GOAL: Enhance teaching, research and Extension.**

ACTION STEPS:

- ❑ Create a common SNRS graduate degree.
- ❑ Re-evaluate graduate and undergraduate curriculum considering future resources and online learning opportunities.
- ❑ Increase CAFSNR enrollment by building relationships with K-12 and by reaching traditional and non-traditional agriculture students.
- ❑ Include real-world and immersive education experiences and provide learning across multiple geographic scales for students, faculty, staff and stakeholders.
- ❑ Enhance collaborative opportunities for interdisciplinary, public and private research partnerships to solve complex problems.
- ❑ Increase perceived value of SNRS research, teaching and extension among students, faculty, staff and stakeholders.
- ❑ Identify targeted outreach strategies to increase student recruitment and retention efforts.

► **GOAL: Improve connections to external stakeholders.**

ACTION STEPS:

- ❑ Develop stronger relationships with stakeholders.
- ❑ Increase targeted marketing efforts and outputs.
- ❑ Create and maintain stakeholder-research database within SNRS.

► **GOAL: Build a stronger SNRS community.**

ACTION STEPS:

- ❑ Provide opportunities for people to connect and communicate.
- ❑ Encourage and enhance respect, professionalism, collegiality, inclusion and transparency.
- ❑ Improve and create leadership and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
- ❑ Align teaching, research and Extension duties to appointments and update as necessary, while exploring a standard model of teaching and advising expectations across SNRS.
- ❑ Create accountability for upholding job description and engaging in the SNRS community.