



ROBERT L. AND ESTHER S. YOUNGS FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION TO NATURAL RESOURCES

In order to document the intentions and understandings of the parties, Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs (the “donors”) and the College of Natural Resources at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (“Virginia Tech”), the donors and the College hereby set forth the intended use(s) for the named fund, as follows:

In light of the need for excellence in understanding, describing, and promoting conservation and effective utilization of the world’s natural resources, advancing that understanding; and communicating needs and progress; and recognition of outstanding Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources graduate student contributions to that cause; the donors direct that the Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs Fund (the “Fund”) be established, for use by the College of Natural Resources of Virginia Tech (the “College”) and that the initial contribution, and all other contributions to this fund, be used to make an award to a current or recent graduate student in the College. The donors or others interested in the purpose of the fund may make additional contributions at any time.

The Award shall be named the Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs Award for Excellence in Written Contribution to Natural Resources and shall be given according to the following criteria:

1. The Award, \$500 and a certificate, shall be made annually to a graduate student enrolled in the College (or received a graduate degree in the preceding year) who authors a scientific document that demonstrates excellent writing and effective communication, reflecting how their graduate research advances the understanding of any aspect of the management, utilization, conservation, or socio-economic effects of natural resources.
2. To be considered for the award, the document should be prepared by the applicant, only, and should concisely summarize the effort to solve a scientific problem. The document should be written for a general scientific audience, omitting or minimizing specialist jargon. Consideration also requires the following: text and illustrations are limited to two double spaced pages; a third page is allowed for citations only, if needed. Minimum 25mm margins and 12 point font apply.
3. Documents for the award shall be submitted no later than January 31 of the year in which the award will be made. Submission must occur through a sin-

gle CNR faculty nomination, and must be accompanied by a nominating cover letter that meets the following requirements:

- Includes a nomination statement
 - Includes applicant biographical information strictly limited to:
applicant's degree program, year of study in the graduate program or
date of successful defense of the graduate degree.
 - No comments about the applicant's qualifications or about the significance of the applicant's research should appear
3. A panel consisting of one faculty member from each Department of the College will review and judge nominated documents.
 4. Criteria for judging the documents are:
 - a. Good scientific writing that is clear, unambiguous, and fluid.
Correct use of words, punctuation, and transitions between ideas
 - b. Organization: Beginning, middle, ending
Clearly describes a problem, its significance, the approach to solving it, and conclusions reached
 - c. Illustrations (if needed): appropriate and clear
 5. In the event that no student meets the above-stated criteria in a given academic year, the Donor directs that no award be made.

Robert L. Youngs, DONOR
Esther S. Youngs, DONOR

College of Natural Resources
By: J. Michael Kelly, Dean

Signature _____ Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Date _____