

## **AGENCY RULE**

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### **15.99.03. F1 Ethics in Research**

*Supplements System Regulation 15.99.03*

*Approved May 7, 2015*

*Revised February 28, 2019*

*Next Scheduled Review February 2024*

#### 1. GENERAL

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) must adhere to the requirements of System Policy [15.99.03 Ethics in Research, Scholarship and Creative Work](#).

#### 2. DESIGNATED OFFICER

The Forest Resource Development Division Chief Operating Officer is the Designated Officer for TFS. The Designated Officer is responsible for carrying out the requirements of this Rule and System Regulation 15.99.03.

#### 3. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

TFS employees, including student workers, must comply with this Rule and must report any suspected violation to the Designated Officer.

#### 4. ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

Any allegations of misconduct in research activities conducted on behalf of TFS should be reported to the Designated Officer. Alternatively, the allegations may be submitted using the [Risk, Fraud & Misconduct Hotline](#).

#### 5. INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATIONS

5.1 An inquiry based upon a written complaint may be initiated by the Designated Officer. The inquiry is an assessment of whether the allegation has substance and if the allegation warrants an investigation.

5.2 Should an inquiry provide sufficient basis for conducting an investigation, one will be conducted by the Designated Officer. The investigation will adhere to the procedures contained in System Regulation 15.99.03. The investigation is an examination of relevant facts to determine if misconduct has occurred.

5.3 The findings along with any recommended actions will be forwarded to the Director for a decision.

CONTACT: [Forest Resource Development Division Chief Operating Officer](#), 979/458-6663