

11/11 deliverables -

Salamander video - What secrets does the salamander hold?/ why salamanders matter

Did you know our salamander research once helped tell the story of our forest?

At the HOLT Research Forest, our researchers used to study salamander populations to learn more about forest health. These small amphibians are ecological indicators, meaning the abundance of their population can reveal a lot about our forest. Especially how our environment is changing in ways we might not be able to see with our eyes.

Because salamanders are sensitive to soil moisture, their abundance reflects a shift in temperatures, soil quality, and habitat conditions. Our coastal location provided the perfect shaded environment for this species to thrive. *From 1994 to 2024? OR we were able to monitor the amphibians for years* by utilizing cedar shingles and other forest debris to sample the population. Towards the end of this study, researchers gathered that the indicator species was stable. Though this specific research has since ended, the data from these hidden creatures continues to shape how we understand and care for our forest ecosystem and backyards today!

A Living Laboratory for Learning and Research -

SWOT -

Strength -

- long-term data collection, previously established work ethics
- Env. settings provide students with space to transition
- Smaller team = guidance, 1-on-1

Weaknesses -

- Funding capacity
- Networking expansion
- Gap in technical gear (dated tools)
- Following outdated procedures (why??)

Opportunities -

- Explore climate/weather resilience
- Collaborate with other organizations/schools?
- Workforce edu. + hands-on learning
- Host 'open house' community see what HRF is about?, tinker night?

Threats -

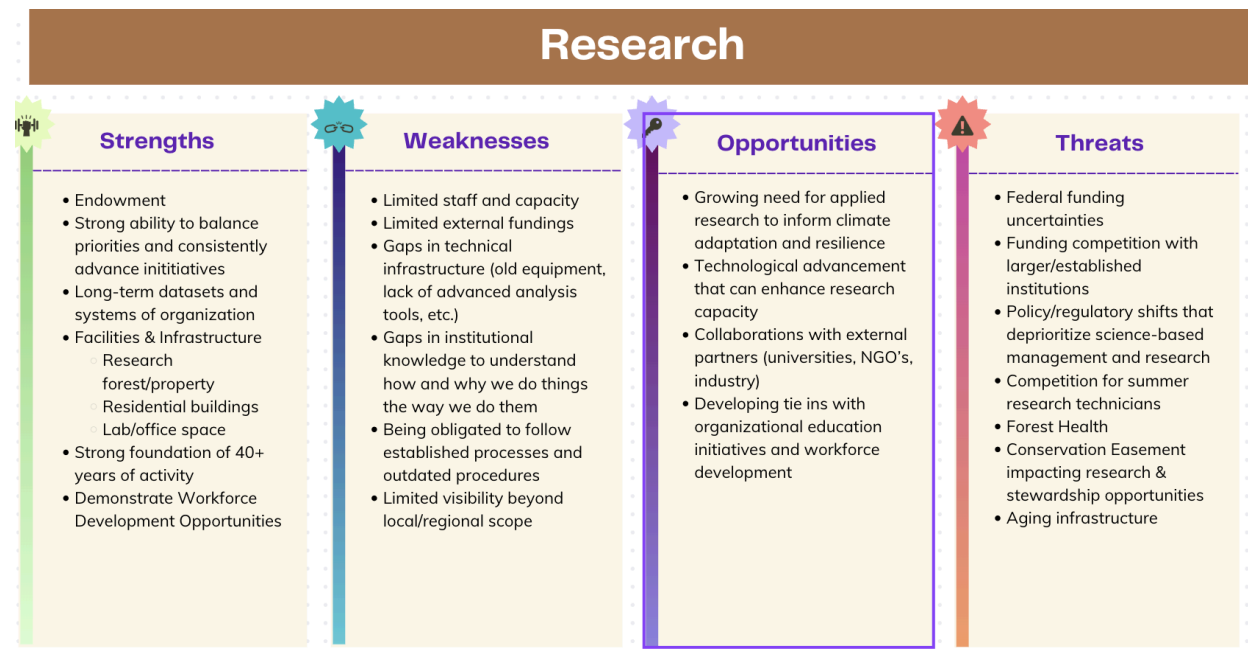
- Fundings, Gov.shift in research?
- Ecosystem health concerns
- Conservation easement & impacting research?
 - Approval of what is done in land

- 1) Increase media engagement , + collaborations?
- 2) Craft more opportunities for workforce development (what's good for a post grad as one adjusts into professional life?)
- 3) Maintain priority datasets

SMART GOALS:

Brand consistency-

- 1) Increase media engagement
 - a) continue growing/developing online presence
 - b) At least 3 posts a month?
 - c) Feature guests sharing their stories/experiences (2 guests/3 months)
- 2) Living Laboratory series
 - a) content/articles that show whats going on at HOLT
 - b) Summer overview of goals? Intro. New faces
- 3) Educational video concepts
 - a) Report on past/continuing research
 - b) Basic forest knowledge that may be interesting community
 - i) How old is your forest
 - ii) What do the different layers of the forest mean?
 - iii) Lets identify some trees + facts



Research

**Holt Research Forest &
Collaborative Projects**

**Increase engagement at
Holt Research Forest with
external researchers and
other collaborators**

**Provide workforce
development opportunities
for students and early-
career professionals**

**Identify priority datasets
and continue long-term
monitoring efforts, while
establishing new research
projects and protocols**