CSS 490: Wilderness & Protected Area Management

Semester in the Wild

Syllabus

Instructors:

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Course Location: Taylor Wilderness Field Station & MOSS (McCall Outdoor Science School)

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FALL 2015

Course Goal and Learning Objectives

At the completion of CSS 490, students will have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of wilderness and wilderness & protected area management. This knowledge and understanding will include the philosophical, historical, and legal background of wilderness, wilderness management problems and ecological and sociological approaches to their solution, current issues, and current research related to wilderness & protected area management.

Having successfully completed this course you will:

1. Be able to trace the roots and origin of the concept of wilderness in the old world.

2. Understand and be able to explain how the concept of wilderness emerged and developed in North America and understand the roots of the major philosophical arguments both for and against wilderness protection and management in America.

3. Be able to explain the legal underpinnings of wilderness in America and the relationship of legally designated Wilderness to Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and other management designations.

4. Be able to describe how carrying capacity, limits of acceptable change, public involvement, and wilderness character monitoring, and physical impact monitoring are incorporated into modern wilderness management.

5. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of wilderness management issues and potential management actions, and the potential effects on the physical, biological, and social conditions of modern wilderness.

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Required Texts


Supplemental material for this course

Additional reading materials, maps, and inventory and observation sheets will be provided to the students via downloaded PDF documents.

Class Format

Class sessions will be a combination of lectures and discussions. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and offer personal experiences. It is your responsibility to have read the required readings before class and be ready to contribute to class discussions. Due to the importance of discussions, class attendance is required. Overheads, presentations and videos will also be used to illustrate lectures. Wilderness management concepts and management practices will be demonstrated in both classroom and wilderness field settings. It is your responsibility to have read and studied the material prior to the class meetings and to be ready to contribute to class discussion based on the material. Guest speakers will be worked into the class schedule at their convenience.