

## FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The science and business of fish and wildlife management has changed over the years and will continue to change. The public is becoming more involved in decisions that affect how the professionals conduct management. This semester we will discuss the history of wildlife management along with the implications of those changes, public involvement and what the future holds for resource management, while we emphasize the practical aspects of this business.

### GOALS & OBJECTIVES

I realize that most of you will not become professional fish or wildlife managers; however, I do expect many of you will work in conservation or an environmentally related field. As a result, an understanding of the past and knowledge of present fish and wildlife management philosophies and management techniques will benefit you. My goal is not only to acquaint you with the history and philosophy of resource management, but also discuss many problems facing managers today. We will discuss programs, tools and techniques used in fish and wildlife management so when you encounter decisions made by resource agencies in the future you will have an understanding as to what is going on behind the scenes. We will use fish and wildlife species as examples of management, and will incorporate several current events and situations confronting management agencies today into our discussions. Finally, I hope to **enthuse and encourage you to get out and enjoy** our resources with perhaps a new appreciation for and additional information **regarding how important management is to ensuring a “bright” future for our fish and wildlife resources.**

### OBJECTIVES

Use the following list of objectives to determine how well you understand fisheries and wildlife management. These bullets should serve as a good preview as well as review of what we discuss this semester.

- **Understand why management is necessary!**
- Understand the history of wildlife management on this continent, including past failures and successes through an intensive study of the “**North American Conservation Model**” (know this model!)
- Become familiar with life histories and taxonomy of many common and some rare and threatened species and be able to use them to illustrate certain management actions.
- Understand **funding** of resource management: who pays for fish & wildlife management?
- Understand how basic ecological concepts: population dynamics, energy flow, predator/prey relationships, succession, etc, affect the management of our fish and wildlife resources.
- Know some different **habitat types**, their **management** and the specific requirements of some species that cause them to depend on their preferred habitat types.
- Understand the **behavior** of some species and how managers use animal behavior to

conduct surveys, perform reintroductions, deal with nuisance problems, and achieve other management objectives.

- Discuss many of the conflicts and problems confronting managers and management today; problem species (exotics), nuisance wildlife and wildlife damage, etc.  
**Consider people management versus wildlife management.**
- Understand management tools: surveys, law enforcement, habitat management techniques, hunting & trapping, fishing, stocking, reintroductions, etc.
- Discuss the political and bureaucratic systems involved in managing our resources, along with state and federal agencies and private organizations and their resource management activities and programs.
- Discuss wildlife diseases and their importance and impacts to humans, domestic animals and wildlife populations.
- Discuss Urban Wildlife Management and the special problems posed by animals living among us.

## TEXT AND OTHER RESOURCES

We will use 2 books in this course along with additional reading materials provided. I will e-mail and/or **post on Oncourse several** papers and articles I want you to read. I will try to have the materials posted by Friday before the week we will discuss the material. Please read the materials because we will discuss and refer to them. They will enhance your learning and you will be tested on their content.

*Nature Wars* authored by Jim Sterba

This book does an excellent job of detailing the recovery of many wildlife species and the conflicts that some of them are causing today. Sterba discusses how “Americans have become *denatured*” and the problems with “substituting a great deal of real nature with reel nature”. This book takes on the “tough issues” of today and you will learn a lot as we discuss the material presented in this book. As you read each chapter, select a few items that interest you for our discussions in class.

*The Beast in the Garden* authored by David Baron

This is the true account of cougar-human interactions on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. This is one of the best books I know of detailing the problems and difficulties in managing habitats, people and wildlife together in today’s society.

Please keep up with the readings as assigned. You will be better engaged during the class discussions if you do so.

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

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SPEA Secretary - Jennifer Mitchner: SPEA Rm. 460 phone: 855-7980 [jmitchne@indiana.edu](mailto:jmitchne@indiana.edu)

Office hours: 5:00 on class evenings, and after class (additional by appointment) in the classroom.

**Do not hesitate to call me at home any time you have a question or a concern!** On class evenings, I will arrive at least 30 minutes before the beginning of class. I can meet with you then, and am willing to remain after class to discuss any class related subject. If you wish to make an appointment for either of those times, let me know and you will be moved to the front of the line. It will be my practice to arrive early for class regardless of whether or not there are scheduled appointments so if you want to discuss something I will be there.

### GRADING AND Exams

Exams	Points	Exam Date
Exam I	100 pts.	25 September
Exam II	100 pts.	23 October
Exam III	100 pts.	20 November
Final Exam	100 pts.	19 December: 7:15 pm
Total Points	400	

**There will be no make-up exams, it is too difficult to schedule and is generally not fair to the rest of the class! Do not miss the exams!**

The grading scale will be the standard: >90=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D with '+' and '-'.

**DO NOT CHEAT!** Academic and personal misconduct by students in this class are defined and dealt with according to the procedures in the Code of Student Ethics. If I catch you, you will receive a 0 (zero) on that test. No excuses, no appeal no retakes. I trust you, don't let me down.

**Exam I: 100 pts. 25 Sept.** We will discuss the format in class, but essay, short answer, and fill in the blank type questions are all very likely. This exam will cover all we have discussed to date along with any guest speakers, reading assignments chapters read in *Nature Wars* to date and anything else I have mentioned or that we have discussed in class.

**Exam II: 100 pts. 23 Oct.** This exam will cover material we have read and discussed **since** the last exam, again including guest speakers, readings and *Nature Wars*. The format of the exam will be similar to the first exam and will be discussed again before the exam.

**Exam III 20 Nov.** This exam will cover material since the previous exam and format will be the same as before and will be discussed before the exam. *The Beast in the Garden* will be covered on this exam.

**Final Exam. 100 pts. 19 Dec. 7:15 PM Comprehensive**

The final exam will cover what we have learned during the semester. Emphasis will be placed on material covered since the last exam, but a good general understanding of what we have

learned throughout the semester will be very helpful.

### **Class Participation**

I encourage questions and discussions during class. Your participation and attendance will be taken into consideration as I grade your exams. If you do not attend, do not pay attention during class, or do not add to our discussions, you may not receive the benefit of the doubt during grading. Also, anything discussed in class may appear on an exam, so if you do not attend you will have missed information that may not be available by acquiring notes from other students!

### **Class Schedule**

I will stick to the schedule as much as possible. Certain issues will occur during the semester and we may take extra time to discuss them. If I detect a special interest by you during the semester, we may spend more time on that topic than planned or discuss an entirely new topic. I frequently have the opportunity to bring in guest speakers and will do so as opportunities arise. It is not always possible to schedule them early enough to include in the syllabus (and in the past we have had some surprise guests!). As a result, I reserve the right to deviate from the schedule somewhat. Exam questions will cover the material presented and discussed in class including assigned readings and guest speakers. This material may deviate from what the schedule indicates but we will discuss those changes during the class prior to the exam date.

**Oncourse:** I plan on posting resources for you on Oncourse, please check it regularly for reading materials, announcements and other information that will help us achieve our goals.

**Please attend class, participate, let me know if you have any problems or questions, and let's all have a good and enjoyable semester while we discuss fish and wildlife management!**

E460 Fisheries & Wildlife Management: 2014 Fall Semester Schedule		
Date	Topic	Exams & Reading Schedule
26-Aug	Intro, Syllabus, Course Preview, Anthropomorphism	Always Check for Readings on Oncourse!
28-Aug	What is F&W Management? & "Bennett's Tenets"	Nature Wars: Introduction & Forest People
2-Sep	History & Philosophy of Management	Chapter 1
4-Sep	The North American Conservation Model --- DVD	2
9-Sep	Succession - The Key to How We Manage Habitat	3
11-Sep	Animal Behavior and Management Implications	Wild Beasts & 4
16-Sep	Surveys; Techniques and Purpose	5
18-Sep	Growth, Age, Sex and Management	6
23-Sep	Managing the Critters -- Hands On Techniques	7
25-Sep	<b>Exam I</b>	<b>Exam I 100 points</b>
30-Sep	Population Dynamics	8
2-Oct	Habitat Types: Importance and Management	Denatured Life & 9
7-Oct	Habitat Management Continued	10
9-Oct	Managing with Fire	11
14-Oct	State & Federal Programs for Resource Mngt.	12
16-Oct	Fisheries and Wildlife Funding	Epilogue
21-Oct	Farm Pond & Stream Management	Begin <i>The Beast in the Garden</i> (BIG ) 1, 2
23-Oct	<b>Exam II</b>	BIG 3, 4
28-Sep	Nuisance Wildlife Mngt: Problems & Solutions	BIG 5, 6
30-Oct	Urban Wildlife Management	<b>Exam II (100 pts) (No BIG on Exam)</b>
4-Nov	Cats & Wolves -- Large Predator Management	BIG 7, 8
6-Nov	Kaibab Plateau and Other Examples -- Kay	BIG 9, 10
11-Nov	Rare & Endangered Species & Their Management	BIG 11, 12
13-Nov	Exotics and Their Management	BIG 13, 14
18-Nov	Fish & Wildlife Diseases	15 & Epilogue
20-Nov	<b>Exam III</b>	<b>Exam III (100 points)</b>
25-Nov	Thanksgiving Week No Class	
27-Nov	Thanksgiving Week No Class	
2-Dec	Species Discussions -- Alligator and Others	
4-Dec	Backyard Wildlife Management Where We Live!	
9-Dec	Discuss Cronon and other Things	
11-Dec	Evaluations, Review and Wrap-up Discussions	
19-Dec	Final Exam 7:15 pm	<b>Final Exam (Comprehensive) 100 pts</b>