

**PRR 210**  
**Spring 2006**  
**Dr. Chuck Nelson, Instructor**  
**221 Natural Resources Bldg.**  
**7:00 - 9:50 p.m. Wednesday**

**Office: 131 Natural Resources**  
**Office Hours: 10:00AM – Noon Wednesday**  
**and by appointment**  
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## **OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION LANDS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Federal government owns 1/3 of the United States. On essentially all this land (except for some lands used for military purposes), the government is mandated to provide natural resource based recreation opportunities along with other outputs. This reflects a national commitment of more than a century to provide opportunities to explore, enjoy, and obtain a deeper understanding of America's natural, historic, and cultural resources. It includes national parks (and the many other related types of parkland managed by the National Park Service), national forests, national wildlife refuges, the "public lands" (managed by the Bureau of Land Management), federal reservoirs and the surrounding lands and many military lands. They provide open space, facilities and services natural resource based recreation and must meet the needs of this generation and those to come. Many federal lands also must meet other mandates such as being a source for wood, grazing, water, minerals, scientific study and habitat for an array of flora and fauna. Besides federal public lands, the states also have substantial holdings. Finally federal programs provide major financial incentives to private landowners, especially those in agriculture, that directly benefit outdoor recreation. These public efforts are complemented by a growing non-profit private sector effort to preserve, restore and enhance lands conducive to outdoor recreation on public and private lands.

The agencies that manage public lands must constantly wrestle with the conflicts inherent in mandates and policies that require protection of the resource base while simultaneously accommodating multiple resource uses and growing numbers of visitors. Some of the issues include: (1) conservation versus preservation, (2) the role of tourism, (3) perspectives and values regarding appropriate resource uses, (4) the management of entire ecosystems versus the management of resources whose boundaries are political, not biological or social and (5) the roles of citizens, non-profit organizations, local and state governments and private business in setting policy and managing natural resource based recreation lands. In addition, much of the world has observed our struggles, successes and failures, and attempted to apply various concepts across the globe. The result of these efforts often is considerably different than our own experiences.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Comprehend the range of values associated with natural resource recreation and public lands in the United States.
2. Develop thoughts about the roles and responsibilities of land managers regarding natural resource based recreation.
3. Understand the policy process and how it influences the management of federal recreation lands and resources.
4. Explain the context in which federal lands were acquired and retained and how they are currently managed.
5. Explain the difference between conservation and preservation and the policy implications of these two forces on public and private land management.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of threats to federal recreation resources and management techniques used to preserve and conserve the resources while providing for visitor use.
7. Comprehend ecosystem management and habitat restoration and enhancement and their implications for the future of the federal estate and other lands.
8. Develop a fundamental understanding of the differences between U.S. national parks and similar resources in other countries.
9. Develop in depth knowledge about one federal land holding at least partially dedicated to natural resource based recreation.

## GRADING PROCEDURES

*All grading will be on a straight scale with:*

|                  |   |     |   |                    |
|------------------|---|-----|---|--------------------|
| 90% or more      | = | 4.0 | = | 270-300 pts.       |
| 85%-89.94%       | = | 3.5 | = | 255-269 pts.       |
| 80%-84.94%       | = | 3.0 | = | 240-254 pts.       |
| 75%-79.94%       | = | 2.5 | = | 225-239 pts.       |
| 70%-74.94%       | = | 2.0 | = | 210-224 pts.       |
| 65%-69.94%       | = | 1.5 | = | 195-209 pts.       |
| 60%-64.94%       | = | 1.0 | = | 180-194 pts.       |
| Less than 59.95% | = | 0.0 | = | less than 180 pts. |

## REQUIRED TEXT:

Spring 2005 PRR 210 - Our National Parks and Recreation Lands - Nelson, Budget Printing in Trowbridge Plaza.

## OVERALL GRADING

|          | % OF GRADE | POINTS POSSIBLE |
|----------|------------|-----------------|
| Paper    | 10%        | 30              |
| 1st Exam | 30%        | 90              |
| 2nd Exam | 30%        | 90              |
| 3rd Exam | 30%        | 90              |
| TOTAL    | 100%       | 300             |

**There will be no extra credit opportunities other than those the instructor provides to all students on the 3 exams.**

## PAPER (10% of grade; due at the beginning of class on Wednesday March 22, 2006)

Each student will produce a three-page paper for one of the following types of lands: a federal reservoir, a national wildlife refuge, a national forest or a National Park Service area. The paper will be typewritten, double-spaced and contain:

- Name of the area
- Date of establishment
- Cabinet level department
- Land managing agency
- Location of the area (city/state or territory)
- Acreage of the site
- Annual visitation at the site
- Number of permanent and seasonal employees for 2005 or most recent year available
- Operations budget for the area
- Two key physical natural resource recreation attributes of the site (why is the site used for NR recreation?)
- Five natural resource based recreation activities legal and encouraged at the area
- A management concern or problem at the area related to NR based recreation (cite source(s))
- A feasible solution to that problem and who is proposing it (it could be you or others but give credit appropriately)
- Documentation for your paper (This is essential. **DO NOT PLAGERIZE**)

Agency websites are excellent sources for site overview while journals and popular press are useful for the management concern/solution section. Use subheadings for readability. **The paper is due at the beginning of class 3/22/06.**

## EXAMS (90% of grade)

There will be 3 exams. They will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching and true/false questions. The readings and lecture for the applicable segment of the course will be fully covered. Keep up on your readings!

## SPECIAL NOTES

1. No one will be excused from taking exams at the times scheduled without **PRIOR** permission of the instructor or a written doctor's excuse. You need to e-mail me or leave me a voice mail if I am not available.
2. Individuals who miss lectures or videos are expected to make arrangements with fellow students to obtain notes on the material presented. The instructor's lecture notes and the videos will not be duplicated or available.

**PRR 210**  
**CLASS CALENDAR**  
(readings should be completed by the date of the class)

| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Topic</u>  | <u>Film</u>  | <u>Readings</u>   |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1/11<br>Week 1  | Genesis of the Federal Lands and their Management: Ideas, People and the Policy Process   | Excerpts from Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery | Harriss; Seattle; Watkins; Sellars; Sax (Pages 1-42 in your reader)                                 |
| 1/18<br>Week 2  | The Crown Jewels: Preservation in the Nature Parks  | National Parks: Playground or Paradise                               | O'Toole; Conway (Pages 43 – 50 in your reader)  |
| 1/25<br>Week 3  | Historical Parks: Commemoration and Interpretation  | Antietam Visit   | Robbins; Carman; Allen; White (Pages 51 – 74)   |
| 2/1<br>Week 4   | National Recreation Areas, Seashores and Lakeshores: Where Should Recreation Dominate?  | 48 Hours in Yosemite   | Sowell; Jeho; Neives & Wald (Pages 75-77)   |
| 2/8<br>Week 5   | <b>FIRST EXAM</b>   |  |   |
| 2/15<br>Week 6  | Army Corps of Engineers and the States with Michigan as a Case Example  | Michigan State Parks in Crisis                                       | Monks; McIntosh (Pages 78-87)   |
| 2/22<br>Week 7  | National Forests: Multiple Use in Action and Wilderness   | The Continuing Forest; Theodore Roosevelt                            | McCarthy; Page; Doherty; Sedjo; Leopold; Cole (Pages 98-142)  |
| 3/1<br>Week 8   | BLM Lands and BOR Waters: The Westerner's Secrets   | Rafting Through the Grand Canyon/Grand Canyon Flood                  | Carrier; Eggert; Christiansen (Pages 143-176)   |
| 3/8<br>Week 9   | <b>Spring Break – No Class</b>  |  |   |
| 3/15<br>Week 10 | National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks Around the World   | The National Wildlife Refuges of Alaska                              | Chadwick; Stewart; Strebeigh; Chadwick; Parfit (Pgs. 177-236)                                       |
| 3/22<br>Week 11 | <b>SECOND EXAM</b>  |  |   |
| 3/29<br>Week 12 | The Nature Conservancy: An NGO Partnership in Land Ownership for Conservation with Guest Speaker Rebecca Hagerman, TNC Michigan Volunteer Coordinator                                   | Tallgrass Prairie  | Visser & Mendoza; The Nature Conservancy (Pages 272-284)  |
| 4/5<br>Week 13  | Ecosystem Management, Fire and Yellowstone National Park  | Yellowstone Burning; Fire Wars                                       | Overbay; Chapman; Wuerthner; Wilkinson; Chase; Repanshek (Pages 237-271)                            |
| 4/12<br>Week 14 | Ducks Unlimited: An NGO Technical Assistance Partner in Conservation with Guest Speaker David Brakhage, Great Lakes Regional Biologist; USDA and FWS Private Land Conservation Programs | Ducks Unlimited  | Ducks Unlimited; Petrie; Moorman (Pages 88-97; 285-289)   |
| 4/19<br>Week 15 | Alaska and the Yukon: Conservation and Preservation in the Far North  | Troubled Waters; Restoring Alaska                                    | Hammond & Andrus; McCammon; Lemonick; Clark; EVOS; Adamson & McDonald; Parks Canada (Pages 299-362) |
| 4/26<br>Week 16 | Natural Resource Law Enforcement: Guest Speaker, Dan Sheil, FWS Special Agent and Wild and Scenic Rivers  | CNN Presents; BLM Rangers  | Robbins; Vanderpool (Pages 290-298)   |
| 5/4<br>Week 17  | <b>THIRD EXAM</b> Wednesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Room 223 NR  |  |   |

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE BREAK!!!

If you are interested in a career and a course of study concerning managing public lands, please contact me and I will be happy to work with you.