

PRR 449
Dr. Chuck Nelson, Instructor
19 Natural Resources

FALL 2005
9:10AM–12:00PM Monday & Wednesday
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NATURAL RESOURCE BASED RECREATION MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Natural resource based recreation is an integral part of our society and culture. It is a potent economic, political and social force in directing the management of public and private lands. Its management requires knowledge in both natural and social science and the ability to use that knowledge to manage people, facilities and resources. Maintaining the productive capability of the environment while meeting the recreational and other needs of current and future generations is the on-going challenge of natural resource based recreation managers.

OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide you with critical information and insight in natural resource based recreation management. It will use actual situations to demonstrate approaches to management problems. It will also integrate with knowledge gained by students in related coursework and outdoor life experiences. Finally, it will provide you the opportunity to apply the knowledge you have gained.

Specific Objectives

1. Student will understand the historical antecedents and current status of natural resource based recreation.
2. Student will understand the interrelationship of outdoor recreation activities with other natural resource uses and areas of management such as forestry, fisheries and wildlife and tourism.
3. Student will understand key recreation management tools as applied to natural resource based recreation including law enforcement, maintenance, resource-sensitive design and management, administration, policy and citizen involvement.
4. Student will understand best management practices in relationship to camping, trails, dispersed recreation and water based recreation.
5. Student will expand their range of resources that can be used in natural resource based recreation problem solving.
6. Student will apply knowledge gained from objectives 1 – 5 through class participation, examinations and a project.

TEXT

Required reader at Budget Printing on Trowbridge for Nelson, PRR 449, Fall 2005.

EXAMS

There will be 3 examinations. They may contain essay, multiple choice, true/false and matching questions. They are listed in the class calendar. Each will cover lecture, readings and class discussion/presentations.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Students have two options. Regardless of which you choose, each student will make a power point presentation to the class on October 12, 2005. This will provide an opportunity for the student to receive feedback from the instructor and class mates prior to turning in the paper on October 17, 2005.

1. **In a paper of 10 – 14 pages, with a minimum of 7 references (2 or more from websites), the student will:**
 - I. Identify and provide background on a critical challenge currently facing natural resource based recreation. It may be a general issue, such as privatization of public recreation or a specific issue, such as the management of mountain bikes on the North Country Scenic Trail in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
 - a. Describe the current situation and the factors that led to it.
 - b. Project the consequences if the situation continues on its current course for the next decade.
 - c. Which specific management entity or type of management entity does this concern? It may be public, non-profit or commercial.
 - II. Discuss in depth a preferred set of management actions for the management entity identified.
 - a. Describe the key management entity and its role in providing this type of natural resource based recreation.
 - b. Describe a management process to identify key management actions to meet the challenge.
 - c. Describe and explain key management actions likely to result from that process.
 - d. Consider how the actions you suggest may be realistically funded and how they should be implemented.
 - e. Compare and contrast your proposed actions with current entity actions. How do they differ or are they an extension of the current management direction? Explain.

There are no right or wrong answers. There are well-researched, persuasive points of view, and poorly researched, weak points of view. Work and succeed at presenting the former.

2. **Sleepy Hollow State Park (intersection of Price and Shepardsville Rds. North of Laingsburg and northeast of East Lansing) provides an outstanding learning laboratory for this course. In a paper of 10 – 14 pages, the student will examine two of five sets of facilities/opportunities:**

Foot/bicycle/equestrian trails
Waterfront/Beach/Boat launch
Family and organization campgrounds
Dispersed recreation opportunities (fishing, nature observation, hunting)
Day use facilities (shelters, picnic areas, sports fields, playgrounds)

Be sure to include the park rules for each facility/opportunity in your consideration.

In this examination, accomplish the following:

- a. Describe the current situation with the set of facilities/opportunities chosen
- b. Document your description photographically using a disposable camera supplied by the instructor or your own equipment
- c. Identify and document sometime between September 14 and October 4 four key management and/or maintenance challenges with the facility/opportunity set chosen. This should be both written and photographic. Base this on readings from the literature (including materials from the course pack and other sources), lecture and other knowledge such as that gained from work experience, recreational experience, etc.

- d. Provide specific management recommendations to improve each challenge identified and prioritize your proposed management actions. Explain your rationale for your priority ranking.
- e. Provide estimates of cost for each management recommendation based on the literature, current or recent prices for contractors/supplies and conversations with natural resource based recreation managers.

In total, you should have at least 7 literature citations, with no more than 4 from websites.

For this assignment, there are more likely to be right (sidehill design for a trail that currently runs straight up and down a steep slope) and wrong management approaches (e.g. rerouting a trail away from sandy loam soils through a wetland with loose organic soil). You will be responsible for purchasing your own state park vehicle entry permit if you do not already have one.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

The power point will be from 8 – 15 slides, excluding the title slide. You will have approximately 15 minutes per presenter with an additional 5-10 minutes for question and answer. You will need to have your power point on a CD. The instructor will supply the laptop and LCD projector for displaying your power point in class.

LITERATURE CITED

In your paper, use APA or scientific writing formats to document your paper.

EVALUATION

All grading will be on a straight scale. There will be no opportunities for extra credit other than those the instructor provides to all students on the 3 scheduled exams.

Assignments	Points	Percentage = Grade	Points
Research Power Point	20		
Research Paper	120	≥90.0% = 4.0	450 – 500
Exams	360	85% - 89.95%=3.5	425 – 449
Total Points	500	80% - 84.95%=3.0	400 - 424
		75% - 79.95%=2.5	375 – 399
		70% - 74.95%=2.0	350 – 374
		65% - 69.95%=1.5	325 – 349
		60% - 64.95%=1.0	300 – 324
		< 60% = 0.0	< 300

PRR 449 CLASS CALENDAR FS04

Date	Topic	Reading
NR Recreation Introduction and Integration in Land Use		
8/29	The History of NR Recreation and Integrating it with other NR Uses; Setting the Direction for NR Based Recreation with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Process	Cordell; Sharpe et al.; Nelson and Stynes
8/31	Influence of Land Use Trends on NR Recreation and Tourism; Matching State and Federal Priorities to Local Needs	Nelson
9/5	Labor Day Holiday - No Class	
9/7	Limiting Negative Environmental Impacts of Recreation through Best Management Practices; Managing Fire in NR Recreation Settings	DNR; National Fire Protection Assn.; Vogt and Nelson
9/12	Recreation Facilities and their Maintenance	Sternloff and Warren
9/14	EXAM #1 and meet with instructor after regarding research project	
Managing NR Recreation: Non-Motorized Trails, Boating and Campgrounds		
9/19	Non-Paved Hiking/Biking with VASA Trail Development Video and Cross Country Ski Management: Guest Speaker Dennis Hansen, Trails Consultant/Author of Trail Atlas of MI	ATC; NPS; McCoy and Stoner
9/21	Rail Trails video Life of a Rail-Trail and Managing Rail-Trails: Guest Speaker Paul Pounders, Director Midland County Parks	Nelson et al.; Pere Marquette Rail Trail
9/26	Boating and River Trail Management	Nat.Park Service; Nelson and Valentine; Wilson
9/28	Campground Management and Meeting the Needs of Disabled Campers in MI State Forest Campgrounds	Nelson; Ferguson and Nelson; FMD
10/3	Exam #2	

Managing NR Recreation: Motorized Trails and Law Enforcement

Date	Topic	Reading
10/5	ORV Trail Management with ORV Trail Safety Video; Snowmobile Trail Management	Nelson and Lynch; Meyer; Alger; Nelson et al.; Stynes et al.
10/10	Dispersed Recreation Management; Philosophy of Recreation Law Enforcement	Nelson and Lynch; Nelson and Larsen
10/12	Student Power Point Presentations on NR Recreation Management Research Project	
10/17	Visitor, Resource and Facility Security <u>Paper due at the beginning of class</u>	Hall; Sharpe et al.
10/19	Final Exam	

Enjoy the rest of the semester and the outdoors! Be sure to talk with me if you are interested in paid employment in NR based recreation research through MSU.