NR Courses

NR 140. Careers in Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: F
CR/NC
Analysis and development of career goals in natural resources and environmental sciences. Acquainting students with potential career options and preparation of academic plans for the majors in the Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences Department. Credit/No Credit grading. 1 activity. Crosslisted as ERSC/NR 140.

NR 141. Introduction to Forest Ecosystem Management. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Fundamentals of forestry including basic silviculture, forest protection, measurement and policy. Integrated resource management of forest lands for water production, forage, recreation, wildlife, and timber. 3 lectures.

NR 142. Environmental Management. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Recommended: NR 140.
Environmental management as a process within functioning societies seeking a harmonious balance between human activities and intrinsic behavior of the natural environment. Major components of the natural environment and the political and social activities that impact that environment. 3 lectures.

NR 203. Resource Law Enforcement. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Law enforcement applied to natural resource conservation on public and private lands. Examination of state and federal laws related to fish and wildlife management. Problems associated with implementation of resource laws examined. 3 lectures. Crosslisted as NR/RPTA 203.

NR 204. Wildland Fire Control. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: NR 215.
Fire control techniques used on various wildland fuels. Elementary fire physics, fuels, weather, fire behavior, tactics and fire suppression techniques, line construction, ‘mop-up’, fire line safety, air operations and fire organization. Meets basic wildland fire fighter certification requirements for the USDA Forest Service. Partially meets California Department of Forestry Firefighter I requirements. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 208. Dendrology. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Recommended: BOT 121.
Identification, classification, silvical characteristics, distribution, environmental requirements and economic importance of woody plants in shrub, woodland, and forest ecosystems of the United States. Emphasis on species located in the Pacific Coastal, Sierran, and Cascade ecosystems. 2 lectures, 2 laboratories.

NR 215. Land and Resource Measurements. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Introduction to land and resource measurement technology and methods - field instruments, property description, map and photograph reconciliation, data accuracy and precision. Trigonometric functions as applied to natural resources applications. Field trips required. 1 laboratory.

NR 218. Applications in GIS. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
ARC/INFO and ArcView Geographic Information System (GIS) computer software to explore environmental, natural resource, social and economic issues using spatial data. Develop and apply data base and software management competencies. 1 lecture, 2 laboratories. Crosslisted as LA/NR 218.

NR 247. Forest Surveying. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: NR 215.
Use and care of tapes, staff compass, abney levels, total stations, and GPS receivers. Keeping field notes, measurements by tape. Closed and open traverse by compass and total stations. Turning angles and determining directions of lines. Map reading and public land description. GPS measurements. Weekend field trips required. 1 lecture, 1 laboratory. Crosslisted as BRAE/NR 247.

NR 260. Forest Practices and Environmental Protection. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Recommended: NR 141 and NR 215.
Relationships between forest ecosystem management, forest practices, harvesting methods, timber harvest planning, components of forest harvesting, harvesting effects; cost analysis of harvesting methods; safety management; value-added forest utilization; environmental protection; and road location. Overnight or weekend field trips required. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.
Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

NR 290. Intercollegiate Forestry Activities. 1 unit
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Enrollment limited to those qualified to compete in intercollegiate forestry activities and consent of instructor.
Beginning through advanced skills in the event areas of college forestry activities. Instruction in use of specialized equipment and safety. Minimum of 4 hours of laboratory per week. Total credit limited to 18 units. Credit/No Credit grading only.
NR 306. Natural Resource Ecology and Habitat Management. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas B2 and B4.  
Resource ecology and management implications in the major  
ecosystems of North America. Importance of maintaining the natural  
dynamics of energy flow and nutrient cycles at the community and  
ecosystem level to sustain uses and values. Humanity’s role as a  
principal factor of change of the resources in natural systems. 3 lectures,  
1 laboratory.

NR 307. Fire Ecology. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas B2 and B4.  
Effects of wildland fires on shrub, woodland, and forest environments to  
include fuels, plants, soil, water, wildlife, and air. Emphasis on western  
U.S. forest and shrub ecosystems. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 308. Fire and Society. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A3 with a grade of C-  
or better; and one lower division course in GE Area D.  
Prehistorical and historical record of human use of and attitude toward  
fires. Mythology and religion of fire. Traditional, cultural and ethnic  
variations and their influence on modern U.S. institutions involved in  
managing fire. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Crosslisted as ES/NR 308. Fulfills GE  
D5.

NR 312. Technology of Wildland Fire Management. 4 units  
GE Area F  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area B2 or B3.  
Models and technology to solve complex land management problems.  
Historic, current and future perspectives of wildland fire in California.  
Sustainability and ecosystem health. Assumptions and limitations of fire  
behavior and suppression models. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Fulfills GE Area F.

NR 314. Environmental Life-Cycle Analysis. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W, SP  
Prerequisite: NR 306.  
Estimation and assessment of environmental impacts of human activity  
and product development using life-cycle analysis methodology;  
organization and presentation of modeling results. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 315. Measurements and Sampling in Forested Environments. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W, SP  
Prerequisite: BRAE 239 or BRAE/NR 247; and STAT 217 or STAT 218.  
Recommended: MATH 161 or MATH 221 or equivalent.  
Principles and methods of sampling and measurement for forest and  
natural resource quantities and qualities. Modeling and estimation  
tree volumes, stand structure and composition, and related  
forest vegetation. Applications in sampling, statistical and inventory  
techniques. 2 lectures, 2 laboratories. Overnight, weekend field  
laboratories required.

NR 317. The World of Spatial Data and Geographic Information  
Technology. 4 units  
GE Area F  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area B2.  
Basic foundation for understanding the world through geographic  
information and tools available to utilize spatial data. Application  
of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related technologies,  
including their scientific basis of operation. Not open to students with  
credit in LA/NR 218. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Crosslisted as LA/NR 317.  
Fulfills GE Area F.

NR 320. Watershed Processes and Management. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: NR/LA 218 and SS 121. Recommended: NR 306.  
Introduction, analysis, and measurement of watershed processes  
of precipitation, evapotranspiration, streamflow, stream channels,  
erosion, and riparian functions. Watershed management toward aquatic  
habitat and water quality goals. Weekend field trip required. 3 lectures, 1  
laboratory.

NR 321. Water Systems Technology, Issues and Impacts. 4 units  
GE Area F  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area B2.  
Sustainable strategies and technologies to enhance freshwater supplies  
and marine habitats. Systems treated include artificial wetlands,  
stormwater, drinking water, agricultural and industrial waste water. 3  
lectures, 1 activity. Fulfills GE Area F.

NR 323. Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A3 with a grade of C-  
or better; and GE Area D1.  
Social, economic, political and ecological conditions and institutions that  
influence decisions affecting the environment; examination of human-  
caus ed environmental impacts and how they in turn influence social  
institutions. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D5 except for Forestry and Natural  
Resources majors.

NR 324. Social Dimensions of Sustainable Food and Fiber Systems. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better;  
completion of 2 lower division courses in GE Area D; and junior standing.  
Historical, political, socio-economic, and cultural dimensions of  
sustainable food and fiber systems. Overview of frameworks used  
for understanding agro-ecological sustainability with an emphasis on  
human elements. Exploration of core sustainability concepts, practices,  
and goals through case studies. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D5 except for  
Environmental Management and Protection majors.
NR 326. Natural Resources Economics and Valuation. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W  
Prerequisite: MATH 161 or MATH 221 or equivalent. Recommended: GE Area D2 (ECON 201 recommended), AGB 212.

Theory of efficient use of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, including methods for attaching value to marketable and non-market natural resources. Environmental economic theories and techniques to address allocation of water, timber, wildlife/fisheries, open space, and recreation. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

NR 335. Conflict Management in Natural Resources. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W  
Prerequisite: NR 141 or NR 142. Recommended: PSY 201 or PSY 202.

Application of behavioral science principles and techniques in the management of natural resource systems. Management of internal and external human resource issues and concerns in natural resources organizations is emphasized. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 339. Internship in Forest and Natural Resources. 1-12 units  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Selected students will spend up to 12 weeks with an approved firm or agency engaged in forest or natural resources management. Applying and developing managerial skills and abilities. One unit of credit may be allowed for each full week of completed and reported internship. Credit/No Credit grading.

NR 340. Wildland Fire Management. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: NR 204.

Wildland fuels, fire weather, and fire danger ratings in chaparral, grassland, and forested areas. Advanced modeling of surface and crown fire behavior. Fire management strategies and implications, policies and objectives of fire management organizations. Saturday field trips may be required. 3 lectures.

NR 350. Urban Forestry. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: NR 208.

Establishment and management of municipal forests, wildland-urban interface, wildlife habitat, and pollution abatement. Management of forest areas requiring special attention because of heavy recreational use, fire hazard, watershed, and societal values. Full-day field trips may be required. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 351. Introduction to Emergency Management in California. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area B3 or D.

Emergency management emphasizing the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations. Earthquake hazard used as the case to explore potential wide geographic impacts, multiple secondary hazards, and multidisciplinary problem-solving methods in natural disasters faced by local governments and communities. 2 lectures, 1 activity. Crosslisted as CRP/NR 351.
NR 406. Indigenous Peoples and International Law and Policy. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: ES 241; and NR 141 or NR 142; and junior standing required.

Interdisciplinary examination of the evolution of international law effecting indigenous peoples in the U.S. and in the Americas. Development of international legal and sociological norms and their impact on human rights of indigenous peoples with particular attention to environmental issues. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as ES/NR 406.

NR 408. Water Resource Law and Policy. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Detailed examination of the various legal systems of water use, regulation and management in California and the United States. Discussion on the key concepts and principles of state, federal and interstate water quantity and quality control; focusing on issues and problems, why conflicts occur and how solutions evolve. 3 lectures. Crosslisted as CRP/NR 408.

NR 412. Senior Assessment Project. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: NR 326 and completion of GE Area A3 with a grade of C- or better.

Principles and practices of integrated sampling and inventory of natural resource values in terrestrial ecosystems, culminating in a student project report. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 414. Sustainable Forest Management. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: NR 326, NR 365.

Biophysical, economic, social and political influences on optimal forest management for purposes of providing sustained yields of goods and services. Growth and yield modeling; forest investment analysis; sustainable forest production; harvest schedule modeling. Day field trip required. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 416. Environmental Impact Analysis and Management. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: NR 326 or NR 306.

National Environmental Policy and California Environmental Quality Acts as applied to environmental and natural resource management problems and projects. Intent, purpose and history of the laws; differences between laws identified. Request for proposals and preparation of environmental assessment documents covered. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 418. Applied GIS. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: NR/LA 218.

Acquisition, organization and analysis of spatial data from diverse sources using Geographic Information System (GIS) software. GIS modeling applications and validation techniques used in development and preparation of client-driven projects. 1 lecture, 2 activities.

NR 420. Watershed Assessment and Protection. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: NR 320; or graduate standing.

Analysis of streamflow, peak flows, and land management effects using established techniques and hydrologic models. Fluvial processes, sediment transport, and channel restoration techniques. Assessment and restoration of watersheds toward protection of aquatic and public resources. Weekend field trips required. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 421. Wetlands. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: BOT 121 or BIO 162, CHEM 111 or CHEM 127, and SS 121 or SS 131. Recommended: one of the following: BIO 327, BOT 313, BOT 326, MSCI 328 or NR 306.


NR 425. Applied Resource Analysis and Assessment. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: NR 416.

Environmental impacts in responses to resource management, projects, programs and activities. Preparation, implementation, and coordination of environmental plans. Criteria for measurements, interpretation, and evaluation. Resource inventories, analysis, evaluation, synthesis, environmental assessment writing and preparation. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 434. Wood Properties, Products and Sustainable Uses. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area B.

Principles of wood properties, green building practices, sustainable and efficient use of renewable wood resources including methods for using wood as an energy source. Field trips required. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 435. Environmental Policy Analysis. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: NR 326. Recommended: NR 335.

Policy process approach to understanding the efforts to resolve natural resource problems in the public and private sector. Principles and techniques used to analyze the effects of environmental policies. Analysis of major federal and state environmental laws. 4 lectures.

NR 445. Wildland-Urban Fire Protection. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: NR 340.

Biophysical and socioeconomic issues affecting wildland fire management in urbanized landscapes. Fire risk assessment. Pre-fire prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, during-fire response, and post-fire recovery actions by public- and private-sector agencies and residents. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.
NR 465. Ecosystem Management. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: NR 326 and NR 416.

Capstone course that integrates biophysical, economic and socio-political sciences. Principles, concepts and techniques designed to utilize resources while sustaining ecosystem health within acceptable limits of change. Ecosystem assessment, planning, management and monitoring project. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.

NR 471. Selected Advanced Laboratory. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Directed group laboratory study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 laboratories.

NR 472. Leadership Practice. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Tasks associated with development of personal leadership skills. Study and practice in setting goals and objectives; developing, evaluating and implementing a project independently and as part of a team; decision making and problem-solving emphasized. Total credit limited to 4 units. 1 laboratory. Crosslisted as NR/RPTA 472.

NR 475. Sustainable Forest and Environmental Practices. 12 units
Term Typically Offered: SU
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area B and consent of instructor. Recommended: Junior or senior standing.

Typical modules related to sustainable forest management, ecosystem sampling and inventory methods, photo interpretation, hydrologic resources, road condition, project impact analysis, best management practices. Topics covered vary from term to term depending on the priority for learning modules. Residency at Swanton Pacific and extended field trips required. 8 lectures, 4 activities. Crosslisted as HNRS/NR 475.

NR 476. Senior Project - Advanced Internship Experience in Environmental Science/Management. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and ERSC 363 or NR 306 or NR 326.

Independent internship experience conducted under faculty supervision focusing on a discipline area of environmental science/management. Completion of a project as a component of their internship. Satisfies the senior project requirement. Minimum 90 hours required. Crosslisted as ERSC/NR 476.

NR 477. Senior Project - Research Experience in Environmental Science. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and ERSC 363 or NR 306 or NR 326.

Guided research experience in a specific area of environmental science. Implementation of materials and methods. Collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Completion of formal written report. Satisfies senior project requirement. 1 lecture, 2 laboratories. Crosslisted as ERSC/NR 477.

NR 478. Senior Project - Current Topics in Environmental Science/Management. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and ERSC 363 or NR 306 or NR 326.

Critical evaluation and formal presentation of current issues in environmental science/management. Evaluation of current topics, analysis of supporting evidence, and synthesis and presentation of resulting perspectives on different approaches to current challenges in environmental science/management. Satisfies the senior project requirement. 3 lectures. Crosslisted as ERSC/NR 478.

NR 479. Senior Project - Independent Study. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; ERSC 363 or NR 306 or NR 326; and consent of instructor.

Selection and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Projects typical of problems which graduates must solve in their fields of employment. Project results are presented in a formal report. Minimum 90 hours total time. Crosslisted as ERSC/NR 479.

NR 500. Individual Study. 1-3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Advanced independent study planned and completed under the direction of a member of the department faculty. Open only to graduate students who have demonstrated ability to do independent work. Total credit limited to 4 units.

NR 503. Tropical Forest Ecosystem. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent or instructor.

Tropical forest ecosystem classification, function and limitations. Applied tropical forest management systems; tropical problems, management, and political strategies; over-grazing and desertification; overcutting and fuelwood shortages. 3 seminars.

NR 532. Applications in Biometrics and Econometrics. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: One course in undergraduate statistics, graduate standing, or consent of instructor.

Parametric and semi-parametric statistical methods in modeling biological and economic phenomena. Biometric modeling of stand growth and inventory. Econometric modeling of market and environmental values. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.
NR 534. Environmental Modeling. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: One course in statistics or graduate standing.

Methods and modeling approaches used in quantifying ecological and environmental processes and conditions, such as fire behavior, wildland hydrology, terrestrial and aquatic habitat condition, using GIS and other models. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

NR 539. Graduate Internship in Forest Resources. 1-9 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of internship instructor.

Application of theory to the solution of problems of forest resources or related businesses in the field. Analyze specific management problems and perform general management assignments detailed in a contract between the student, the firm or organization, and the faculty advisor before the internship commences. Degree credit limited to 6 units.

NR 570. Selected Topics in Forest Resources. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 1-4 seminars.

NR 571. Selected Topics Forest Resources Laboratory. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group laboratory of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 1-4 laboratories.

NR 575. Applications in Advanced Watershed Hydrology. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Recommended: NR 420.

Techniques and applications in watershed hydrology to real-world projects. Projects could include water quality or quantity assessments, water quality or channel morphology monitoring, and structural and non-structural enhancements for channel and upland watersheds, culminating in a final report and presentation. 2 laboratories.

NR 581. Graduate Seminar in Environmental Sciences. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Student study and presentation of selected developments, trends and problems in the field of forest and natural resources, earth and soil sciences, and environmental management. 3 seminars. Crosslisted as NR/SS 581.

NR 599. Thesis. 1-9 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Individual research in forest or natural resources management under the general supervision of faculty, leading to a graduate thesis. Degree credit limited to 9 units.