

FOR 335: Recreational Use of Forests and Parks

Spring 2023

Course Description and Objectives

The immense popularity of recreation in forests and parks is reflected in the more than 450 million visits made to U.S. national forests and national parks each year. Nature-based recreation – on federal, state, local, and private lands – provides countless benefits to people and society, including opportunities to improve physical health, restore mental well-being, spend quality time with family and friends, and reconnect with nature. Moreover, these experiences can foster support for the protection of these places. However, growing enthusiasm for recreation in forests and parks is not without consequence. Too much or inappropriate recreational use can degrade the natural environment and impact the quality of recreation experiences. Fortunately, these impacts can be minimized through careful planning and management.

These issues will be explored through the following course objectives:

1. Study recreational use and users in forests and parks, including past, current, and projected activities and participation
2. Introduce major providers of forest-based recreation, with a focus on U.S. agencies and organizations
3. Examine social and ecological impacts of recreation in forested environments
4. Outline management frameworks and alternative strategies and practices to manage recreational use of forests and parks
5. Review theories, concepts, and tools for understanding and managing nature-based recreation
6. Explore the forest recreation profession, including key organizations and contributors
7. Consider a diverse array of contemporary forest and park recreation management issues

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm, other times by appointment

Class Location & Meeting Time

TNR 255

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00 am – 9:50 am

Required Texts

Manning et al. (2022). *Studies in outdoor recreation – Search and research for satisfaction*. 4th ed. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press.

Additional readings as posted on Canvas.*

Grading

		<u>Grade Scale</u>	
Quizzes (5 @ 10 pts each)	50 pts	A: 93+	C: 73-76
Exams (2 @ 100 pts each)	200 pts	A-: 90-92	C-: 70-72
Assignments (2 @ 25 pts each)	50 pts	B+: 87-89	D+: 67-69
Presentation	50 pts	B: 83-86	D: 60-66
<u>Class Activities</u>	<u>50 pts</u>	B-: 80-82	F: <60
Total	400 pts	C+: 77-79	

Quizzes and Exams:

There will be five online quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material presented in each section of the course and are worth up to 10 points each. Quizzes will be open on Canvas for one week and can be taken multiple times. While multiple attempts are allowed, quizzes must be completed independently. They should be used to help test your knowledge of the lecture material.

Written exams will take place in class on the dates designated on the course schedule. Two required exams, worth 100 points each, will be given during the semester. Additionally, there will be an optional comprehensive final exam during the final exam period. The lowest of the three exam scores will be dropped when calculating the final course grade.

Quizzes and exams will be based on lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, and class presentations and may contain true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and/or essay questions. Academic honesty is required and expected. All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in a failing grade on the quiz/exam or in the course.

Assignments:

There will be two 25-point assignments designed to explore selected recreation topics in greater depth. Assignments will be introduced two weeks before they are due. They will involve a written component that will be submitted to Canvas, as well as a small group discussion in class.

Recreation Issue Presentation:

Throughout the semester, we will consider a variety of contemporary outdoor recreation issues and trends through short in-class student presentations. Topics will be assigned early in the semester, and you will have an opportunity to trade topics or to propose a new topic. Your assignment will be to

present the multiple dimensions of your issue in relation to materials from class sessions, course readings, and other sources. Additional instructions for the presentation will be provided during class.

Class Activities:

A variety of activities will be used to illustrate course concepts and encourage engagement with lecture material. Fifty points will be allocated based on participation in class activities. Please contact me if you'll need to miss more than one or two in-class activities during the semester. I understand that mental and physical health and other challenges may require flexibility for some individuals this semester. If you need to quarantine or miss class for another excused reason, reach out so I can help you keep up with the course requirements. Communication is key to navigating any issues that arise.

Academic Honesty

All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students. Refer to the Dean of Students website for policies and expectations regarding academic honesty at UW – Stevens Point.

Learning Resources

If you have questions or observations about the course, please share them! I am happy to talk during office hours or at another scheduled time. I will also ask for feedback during the semester. Don't hesitate to reach out when I can be of help. Writing and other academic assistance is available in the Tutoring Learning Center. Please arrange for accommodations for learning or physical disabilities through the Disability Resources Center.

College of Natural Resources Principles of Professionalism

See Canvas for a copy of these principles, required of all students, staff, and faculty in the CNR.

Forestry Anti-harassment Statement

Please review this statement on Canvas and the associated expectations of everyone involved in this class.

Health Precautions

Please take good care of yourself and others this semester by following health and safety guidance provided by the University: <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Course Schedule

See the next page for the planned course schedule. Recognize that the schedule is subject to change.

Module	Week	Lecture Topics	Items Due
Recreational Use and Users	1	Introduction & overview Key concepts Benefits of outdoor recreation	
	2	History of outdoor recreation Participation trends Youth and the outdoors	
	3	Reaching diverse audiences Untold stories Federal agencies	(Quiz 1 opens Tuesday) (Introduce assignment 1 Thursday)
Recreation Providers	4	Federal wilderness system National trails system State and local agencies	QUIZ ONE DUE (Tuesday)
	5	Private/nonprofit providers Inclusive recreation Partnerships	(Quiz 2 opens Tuesday) ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE (Thursday)
	6	Funding for fish and wildlife International providers Exam review	QUIZ TWO DUE (Tuesday)
Recreation Impacts	7	Exam 1 Ecological impacts Newer concerns	EXAM ONE (in class on Tuesday)
	8	Crowding Conflict Depreciative behavior	
Management Practices	9	Overview Information/education Rationing/allocation	(Quiz 3 opens Tuesday)
	10	Rules/regulations/law enforcement Zoning/site design Carrying capacity	QUIZ THREE DUE (Tuesday)
Recreation Research	11	Green Circle (online) Social norms Indicators and standards	(Quiz 4 opens Tuesday) (Introduce Assignment 2 Tuesday)
	12	Substitutability Recreation specialization Place attachment	QUIZ FOUR DUE (Tuesday)
	13	Economics of O.R. Recreation jeopardy Exam 2	ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE (Tuesday) EXAM TWO (in class on Friday)
Careers in Forest Recreation	14	Outdoor recreation profession Career activity Presentations	(Class Reflection (aka, Quiz 5) opens Tuesday)
	15	Presentations The future	QUIZ FIVE DUE (Tuesday)
	16		OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 15, 12:30pm-2:30pm