

WILDLIFE 451/651
MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT
SPRING SEMESTER 2024, 4 CREDITS

Contact Info

Instructor: Dr. Marie Perkins (she/her)
Office Hours: By appointment
Zoom - Join URL: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041>
In person: TNR 188
Email: mperkins@uwsp.edu
Lecture: TNR 170; Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 12:15
Lab: TNR 356 Monday 9:00 - 10:50 or CPS 107 2:00 - 3:50

Course Goal: This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles of wildlife habitat management. Broadly, this will include topics related to land cover types that provide habitat for species of North American wildlife, concepts and challenges of managing habitat management, manipulation techniques, monitoring, and quantification of habitat selection metrics. Ultimately, students in this course will be expected to integrate these topics in the form of a written wildlife habitat management plan.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify structural characteristics and ecological functioning of common North American land cover types.
2. Assess the application and effects of specific habitat management techniques.
3. Critically evaluate and apply peer-reviewed ecological literature relevant to managing habitat for wildlife species.
4. Develop specified management objectives and design appropriate management plans for 2 wildlife species.
5. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

Textbooks (open access):

McComb, B. C., B. Zuckerberg, D. G. Vesely, and C. A. Jordan. 2020. Monitoring Animal Populations and Their Habitats: A Practitioner's Guide. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. This book can be found as a PDF on the course Canvas page or in a variety of formats at the website: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/957>

Burns, R. M., and B. H. Honkala. 1990. Silvics of North America: 1. Conifers; 2. Hardwoods. Agriculture Handbook 654. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, DC. vol.2, 877 p. https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag_654/table_of_contents.htm

Course Structure: Both lecture and lab will be conducted in person. Lecture periods will be a combination of formal lectures, activities, and class and small group discussions. Readings and short assignments related to lectures may also be required. The laboratory portion of this course will consist of additional lecture content, writing activities, demonstrations of analytical and GIS approaches, and time for collaborative development of wildlife habitat management plans. Additionally, there will be 2 all-day field trips (see schedule updated on Canvas).

Canvas: Course materials including the textbook, copies of lecture slides, assigned and recommended readings, recordings, and other related materials will be posted to Canvas. All assignments will be submitted in Canvas. I will communicate information related to the course using Canvas announcements.

Grades and Assignments:

Lab Participation: Attendance in lab is mandatory and attending and participating in lab will be worth 5 points each week (5 pts x 13 weeks = 65 pts total). There will be a few additional assignments related to lab activities, these will be posted on Canvas.

Journal Club: There will be 3 Journal Club assignments during the semester, and each will be graded in 2 parts. For each Journal Club assignment, I will provide 3 peer-reviewed journal articles for you to read. Part 1 of your Journal Club assignments will be to read and take notes on each article and submit your notes on Canvas (7.5 pts x 3 = 22.5 pts total). Part 2 of your Journal Club assignments will be to discuss the articles with your Journal Club group **in class** (see schedule below) and submit a follow-up summary on Canvas (7.5 pts x 3 = 22.5 pts total). You must participate in the discussion to receive points for this assignment portion – no alternative assignment is available. You will be assigned to groups of 4-5 people for your Journal Club discussions, you can find your Journal Club group members on Canvas.

Exams: Two exams will be given during the semester; each exam will be worth 100 points. These exams will focus on new material, however, many of the concepts in this class build on each other. Understanding of previous topics will be incorporated into the exams.

Management Plan: You will be required to develop a management plan as part of an assigned small group. You will submit multiple draft portions of your management plan, worth a total of 90 points. Your group will give a presentation of your management plan during the final week of class, worth 50 points. The final version of your management plan will be worth 100 points. There will also be a total of 50 points based on peer evaluation of your efforts in developing, writing, and presenting your management plan.

Grading:

Evaluation:	<u>Points</u>	Grades:	
		93% and above	A
Lab Participation and assignments	80	90-92%	A-
Journal Club	45	87-89%	B+
Exams	200	83-86%	B
Management Plan		80-82%	B-
Drafts	90	77-79%	C+
Presentation	50	73-76%	C
Final Plan	100	70-72%	C-
Peer Evaluation	50	67-69%	D+
		60-66%	D
TOTAL	615	Below 60%	F

Academic Dishonesty, Attendance, and Late Work Policy: Trust between students and the instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom (e.g., cheating on exams) or in research efforts (e.g., plagiarism). Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning objectives of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the students. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI generated submissions (using ChatGPT or other similar AI programs) are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If instances of alleged academic dishonesty are identified, appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the institution's policies ([UWSP Chapter 14](#)). Academic dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent that University policy permits.

It is in your best interest to attend the lectures; I highly encourage you to attend lectures and participate in lecture activities and discussions. Attendance in lab is mandatory, I will take attendance during the first few minutes of each lab. Attending and participating in lab will be worth 5 points each week.

Late work will lose 10% for every 24 hours after the designated deadline. If you (or your group) are having a hard time submitting assignments on time, please contact me.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops may be distracting to those around you. This is especially true if you are using these devices to view other content. As such, as a courtesy to your classmates and instructors, we ask that electronic devices be put away unless they are being used for note taking or interacting with digital lecture material in class. Please speak with your instructors ahead of time if you have some other reason which requires access to electronics.

COVID-19 Guidance and Other Precautions:

We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the [UWSP's website related to COVID](#). The [CDC website](#) provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.

Other Guidance:

- If you are not feeling well or test positive for COVID-19, **do not come to class**; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
- As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

Getting Help: Please do not be shy about asking for help. You are welcome to email me to schedule a time to meet with me in person or via Zoom. If you are having any trouble understanding something in class, do not hesitate to get in touch, as those problems will likely only get worse as the material becomes more complex and builds on itself. You can find

important dates, including drop/add dates, in the semester academic calendar linked here <https://www3.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/calendars.aspx>. Additionally, the CNR Student Success Center (TNR 122) has professional advisers and peer mentors as an additional resource for students <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr/ssc/>.

Inclusivity Statement: It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that student's learning needs are addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity all students bring to this class is viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities: UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to complete an Accommodations Request form. Phone: 346-3365 or Room 609 Albertson Hall.

Online Materials and Class Recordings:

Lecture materials and recordings for WLDL 451/651 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Lecture Schedule: Below is a tentative course schedule that is subject to change*.

Date			Lecture Topic	
January	Tues.	23	Course and management plan introduction	
	Thurs.	25	Defining habitat and management	
	Tues.	30	Habitat management planning	
February	Thurs.	1	Current land-use practices	
	Tues	6	Let's review!	
	Thurs.	8	Monitoring Wildlife	
	Tues.	13	Monitoring attributes	
	Thurs.	15	Agriculture	
	Tues.	20	CRP and the farm bill	
	Thurs.	22	Journal Club 1 - Grazing	
	Tues.	27	No class (WI TWS meeting)	
	Thurs.	29	No class (WI TWS meeting)	
March	Tues.	5	Brad Strobel - Guest lecture	
	Thurs.	7	Prescribed Fire I	
	Tues.	12	Prescribed Fire II	
	Thurs.	14	Wetlands	
	Tues.	19	No Class - Spring Break	
	Thurs.	21	No Class - Spring Break	
	Tues.	26	Water Management	
	Thurs.	28	Journal Club 2 - Urban	
	April	Tues.	2	EXAM 1
		Thurs.	4	Forests
Tues.		9	Scott Hyngstrom – Guest lecture	
Thurs.		11	TBD	
Tues.		16	Home range and resource selection	
Thurs.		18	Journal Club 3 – TBD	
Tues.		23	Policy and programs	
Thurs.		25	Anthropogenic disturbance	
Tues		30	Climate change	
May		Thurs.	2	Grasslands / mechanical methods
	Tues	7	Lesia Kardash - Guest lecture (grasslands)	
	Thurs.	9	No Class	
Final Exam: Mon. May13, 12:30 – 2:30; TNR 170				

Lab Schedule: Below is a tentative lab schedule that is subject to change*.

Date		Lab Topic
January	29	Introduction to management plans
February	5	Writing workshop I
	12	Work on management plans
	19	Peer review
	26	GIS/Mapping
March	4	GIS/Mapping
	11	Writing workshop I
	18	No Lab – Spring Break
	25	Work on management plans
April	1	Peer review
	8	Work on management plans
	15	TBD
	22	Necedah NWR field trip; 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
	29	Presentations
May	6	TNC field trip; 7:45 AM – 2:30 PM

*You can find changes to the lecture and lab schedule on Canvas