

Applied Wildlife Management - WILD 480, The Upshot

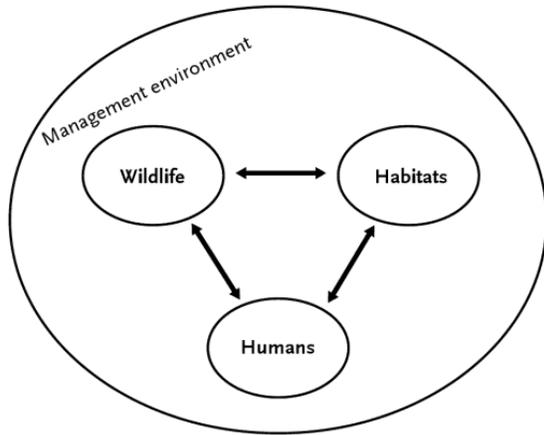


Figure 1.1. Wildlife management triad

Spring 2021, 3 credits, TR 8:00—9:20 am

Lead Instructor

Dr. Erim Gómez

erim.gomez@umconnect.umt.edu

Office hour room <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/97398275141>

Office Hours:

Wednesdays 11:00 AM-1:00PM

Fridays: Noon - 2:00 PM

Co-Instructor

Brandon Kittson, Master Student

brandon.kittson@umconnect.umt.edu

By appointment

Zoom Classroom

<https://umontana.zoom.us/j/99979760938?pwd=UEZ3ZmdtVUZmRTVxQ0s1Rkk2Y09jQT09>

Meeting ID: 999 7976 0938

Passcode: 076809

Course Description

This course is intended to apply all of the coursework during your undergraduate career to address real-world challenges in wildlife biology and management. Importantly, this will be done in accordance with the professional expectations you will encounter as you pursue a career in wildlife biology. Working individually and discussing some material in groups, we will address pressing conservation problems from a diversity of systems and species. You will develop practical solutions and make management decisions and recommendations. In doing so, you will consider ecological, social, cultural, financial, political, legal, and other important factors that are considered when addressing real-world conservation problems. Some principles of Structured Decision Making will provide a broad framework for our work. Much of the course will be focused around land management controversies and current issues with managing wildlife populations such as overabundant wildlife populations, issues in harvest management, species of

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conservation concern, energy development, and other issues facing wildlife biologists today. You will be challenged to present your findings, recommendations, and decisions in a diversity of formats.

Class Format

The course will consist of 2-80 minute meetings each week. **Important concepts and examples of wildlife management will be discussed using a problem-based learning format.** This approach will involve the presentation of cases that are designed to enhance student learning and understanding of important concepts. Problem cases based on current wildlife conservation issues will be presented to guide student learning and application of basic ecological and conservation concepts, techniques, and principles, specific knowledge about species and their habitats, and critical thinking skills (i.e., problem-solving, communications, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation). Problem cases will be developed from real-life situations.

A typical format will involve (1) Overview of the issue by the instructor; (2) A brainstorming session and discussion to help identify and focus the problem and information needed to address it (what is the problem, what are the fundamental and means objectives, what do we think we know, what do we need to know, and what are alternative solutions); and (3) Students make recommendations or a decision and communicate that outcome in a diversity of formats. Lectures will involve frequent discussion you're your peers to facilitate thought about course material. However, all graded assignments are to be completed individually.

Grading

This course is designed so you apply critical thinking to solve demanding, real-world conservation issues. Importantly, this will be done in accordance with the professional expectations you will encounter as you pursue a career in wildlife biology. You will thus be graded on the products you produce. Your final grade will consist of:

GRADING

Grading	Total Points	Due Date
Quizzes (4-5)	~50	Throughout the semester there will be quizzes designed to assess your comprehension of material we are discussing and the readings that were assigned.
Assignments (3 @ 20 points each)	~60	Feb. 5th, March 5, April 2 All Fridays at 11:59 PM
Project memo assignments (3 @ 40 points each)		TBA
Final term project	100	April 23 at 11:59 PM
Total points		

Grading Scale

A	93≥	B+	87≥	C+	77≥	D+	67≥
A-	90≥	B	83≥	C	73≥	D	60≥
		B-	80≥	C-	70≥	F	60<

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only- it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

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Grading Disputes

Please keep track of grades and contact me as soon as possible to fix any grading discrepancies. Discrepancies must be addressed within **two weeks** of when it is posted or handed back.

Selected Topics

We will announce readings in the class ahead of time and make them available on Moodle. We will provide specific instructions for each writing assignment.

History of Wildlife Management and Conservation

Structure decision making

Applied Structure Decision Making

Harvest Management

Case Studies

Endangered Species

Energy Development

Human Dimensions of Management

Email Policy

I ask that students who email **me and the teaching assistant** do so in a composed and professional manner. Please provide a **CLEAR subject line** that **CLEARLY identifies the COURSE CODE** [i.e., Subject: WILD 370 question from student X], and a clear, concise question or statement. Please allow for 24 hours to reply from Monday to Friday. *Please do not expect us to reply to emails on weekends or past 5 pm.* If it takes me longer than **24 hours** to respond, please send me a friendly reminder.

Email Example

Subject Line: WILD 370 Question on next week's assignment.

Hello Dr. Gomez

I am a student in your Wildlife Habitat course. I have a question about the report due next Thursday and I was not able to find the answer to the assignment. Should our report draw only on readings listed on the syllabus or can I incorporate scholarly articles I read on my own, as long as it fits with the subject of the assignment?

Best,

Juana Ramirez

Outlook Invitation

If you want to set up a meeting with me, please send me an Outlook invitation. **If there is no event in my outlook calendar, there is no meeting.** Please send me an email too. Everyone should know how to set up an Outlook Meeting invite. [If you are not sure how to do this, please click on this link to learn.](#)

All meetings this semester will be via Zoom. [We can use this Zoom link for meeting with me](#)(Meeting ID 973 9827 5141).

Quizzes

Throughout the semester there will be quizzes designed to assess your comprehension of the material we are discussing and the readings that were assigned. These quizzes will not be announced in advance and can occur on any day or time during our class meetings. Quizzes will be of variable length and complexity. In addition to assessing your understanding and application, quizzes will help me understand whether some concepts are unclear. I expect there to be between 5-10 quizzes this semester, but the actual number could be more or less.

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Individual Writing Assignments

You will be responsible for 3 separate writing assignments that will be completed individually. We will discuss some of these topics in groups in class, but ultimately, you will be responsible for writing them up individually. Each assignment will provide an opportunity to communicate in a different format and to a different audience. Specific details for each assignment will be provided. For each assignment, you will be required to submit both an electronic and hard copy.

Project Memo Assignments

Each student will individually complete a term project. Associated with this term project are 3 project memo assignments which are designed to gauge your progress and provide early feedback. The term project must be done individually and more information is provided in the term project handout. For each memo, you will receive explicit instructions about what should be included, the length of the memo and other information. You will be required to provide both an electronic and hard copy of your memo assignments on the due date and time.

Term Project

Decisions are at the heart of wildlife management. Each of you will have the opportunity to make a decision (recommendation) on a project of your choosing. You will choose the species, population, and management question of interest. You will be required to present very specific material in your term project and the associated memos. Specific criteria will be provided for the term project in a handout, but it is important that (1) the project must be a real problem in wildlife conservation (it cannot be hypothetical or generic); (2) you need to focus on a decision problem for which the decision will not have been made by the end of the semester; and (3) there must be uncertainty involved in predicting at least some of the consequences of the alternatives you will consider.

At a minimum, your term project must (1) be developed within the context of structured decision making; (2) offer a decision (recommendation) that is based on the principles of structured decision making; (3) consider at least 3 management alternatives; (4) consider some aspect of human dimensions, legal/political factor along with ecological considerations; (5) apply a simulation model that you develop (population model, habitat model, etc.); and (6) be supported by peer-reviewed literature which is referenced appropriately. Other attributes of the project are in the term project handout.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. **Missing more than 2 classes will result in a 10% total grade deduction. More than 4 unexcused absences can result in failure.** Attendance is mandatory; your desire to learn and do well in the Course will dictate your presence. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, assigned readings, on the Course Moodle website, and class assignments. It is especially important that you are present for exams. In the case of medical or other emergencies (e.g., legitimate, planned absences), I will work with the student individually in terms of rescheduling an exam time. Formal documentation will be required for legitimate emergencies that require a student to miss an exam.

Assignments

There will be three **MAJOR** assignments made throughout the Course to enhance your learning of the course material. **You will be expected to complete the assignments outside of class and submit them through Moodle on or before the assigned due date. In the event you encounter a problem uploading your assignment to Moodle, you may email the assignment to the instructors. Assignments turned in within 1 week after the due date will be deducted 50% accordingly. Assignments will not be accepted >1 week past the due date.**

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Classroom Etiquette and Lecture-Discussion Groups

You are expected to fully participate and engage in our discussions.

Academic Dishonesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. Plagiarism qualifies as academic misconduct. Students often misunderstand plagiarism, particularly when reporting information from the web or other digital sources. Anytime you extract information from another source for an assignment or paper, it is critical that you cite your source. If you report text verbatim, you must place the text in quotes and cite the source accordingly. We are less concerned with the format of your citations at this point than the fact that you attempt to appropriately reference the source.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you have a disability that may adversely affect your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154 or call them at 406.243.2243. We will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.

Curry Health Center Counseling

Counseling assists students by addressing their personal counseling and psychotherapy needs for the purpose of helping them gain the most from their time on campus. When a student's mental health care needs are beyond the scope of our services, we will assist with referrals to community-based providers for specialized or longer-term care.

Services provided:

- Individual Counseling (telecounseling only)
- Group Therapy - (telecounseling only)
- Topical Seminar - (telecounseling only)
- Urgent one-time Appointments Available
- Limited Psychological Assessments
- Psychiatric Consultation
- Consultation with concerned others
- Referrals to community-based resources

Behavioral Health Options for alcohol, other drugs, gambling and weight management

Call 406-243-4712 to make an appointment. For crisis, after-hours care call the National Suicide Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, contact the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741, or contact your nearest Emergency Department.

Curry Health Center Counseling Services provides a confidential and inclusive environment to address the personal, behavioral and mental health needs of all UM students. We specialize in addressing the concerns and goals of our diverse UM community. Every student has to navigate a wide variety of stressors and challenges during their college career and we're here to offer support as well as assist in getting connected to resources on and off campus. Our licensed counselors, social workers and psychologists, as well as advanced graduate students, offer individual and group therapy in addition to urgent counseling. Your initial consultation is no cost and subsequent individual sessions are \$25; group therapy is at no cost.

Zoom Etiquette

·Please, it is highly encouraged that you have your camera on. However, it will not be mandated.

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- **I will dock points for tasteless and/or distracting Zoom “pranks.”**
- Try to log into your class or meeting from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
- **Please keep your audio on mute** until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
- Consider using **headphones** with an external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities.
- **Close unneeded applications** on your computer to optimize the video quality.
- If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the "Raise Hand" feature. Then unmute yourself after your teacher calls on you.
- When you are speaking, let others know that you are finished by saying something like, "That's all," or "I'm done," or "Thank you," so that everyone knows you have finished your comments.
- If you would like to use the chatbox, **remember that it is public**, and a record of the chat is kept and archived, **even in the breakout rooms**.
- Keep paper and pens or pencils handy to take notes.
- Make sure your video is on (if you have camera capabilities) so your teacher and peers can see you.
- Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting with your back to a window, you may be silhouetted by the light coming through.
- Please take care of your personal needs (appropriate dress, basic hygiene, eating, chewing gum, talking to others in your home, etc.) before entering a Zoom classroom.
- Please do not use profanity or inappropriate language.
- All Zoom lectures are recorded so please act accordingly.