

# **FORS 481 Forest Planning Spring 2023**

## **1. Instructor and course details**

Instructor: Beth Dodson  
Email: [Elizabeth.dodson@umontana.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.dodson@umontana.edu)  
Office Hours: Open door/by appointment  
Class Times: T/Th 9:30-10:50 PM

Class Location: Forestry 206

Required Text: *Ecological Forest Management* by JF Franklin, KN Johnson, and DL Johnson  
Other readings as assigned (via Moodle)

Prerequisites: FORS 320 Forest Economics  
FORS 349 Practice of Silviculture or FORS 347 Multiple Resource Silviculture

## **2. Course Description**

Integrated multiple use planning at the forest-wide level: defining multi-resource management goals, generating management alternatives, projecting outcomes, assessing environmental impacts, and implementing preferred option.

## **3. Learning Outcomes**

- Assess the planning processes used by a range of forest land owners, managers, and stakeholders and compare the role of foresters in each.
- Understand the impact of temporal and spatial scale on forest planning efforts.
- Develop written and oral communication skills through research into a chosen forest planning effort and group work with peers.

## **4. Course Policies**

- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID symptoms, please don't come to class, contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330, and contact Beth ASAP to make alternate arrangements for class attendance.
- Please note this class may be streamed and/or recorded.
- All assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will lose 10% of the potential points per day late.
- All work must be neat, legible and complete.
- All work will be submitted on-line through the class Moodle or Box, unless otherwise specified. Graded assignments will also be returned electronically.
- While you are allowed to work with fellow students on individual assignments, all submitted individual assignments must represent your own individual work.

- All course materials (assignments, schedule with due dates, etc.) will be posted on the course Moodle, available through the UOnline home page. The course Moodle can be accessed from any computer with internet access.
- All course communications and announcements will be made via university email.
- The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154 or 406.243.2243. We will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.
- 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 as a part of Community Standards for the University of Montana. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#).

**Important dates:**

Date	Description
2/6	Last day to drop with advisor & instructor signatures (After this day a "W" will appear on transcript).
3/29	Last day to drop a course. Drops after this date will be allowed only under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, or deciding you want to change majors are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop a class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so before 5 pm on March 29.

## 5. Grading

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

Grades will be based on individual and group work assigned during the semester and active participation in class sessions. Grades will be based on points received out of points possible. The standard +/- grading scale will be used. All efforts will be made to return graded work within one week of when it is turned in. Posted grades will be updated continuously.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percent of final course grade</u>
Group LEF XC ski project	35%
Individual plan research	35%
Participation/weekly assignments	30%

## **6. Assignments**

### **LEF XC Ski Project**

Students will work in combined Forestry-Recreation groups of 6 students to develop a plan for rerouting cross-country ski trails within the student-managed Section 13 at Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

Note: there will be a required field trip on Thursday, February 16, 8 am – noon. Please arrange your absence with other instructors ASAP. I'm happy to provide official notification of your absence to other instructors or your place of employment as needed.

**Individual planning assignment:** Each student will select a unique plan to study throughout the semester. This plan will be selected via discussion post on Moodle by Thursday, January 19 on a first-come, first-serve basis (no more than one student per plan). Periodic assignments connecting lecture content with plans will be posted on Moodle and announced via email and in class (25% of project grade). At a minimum, these assignments will include short-answer and essay questions regarding topics of interest; an initial overview presentation that includes a description of the plan, agency or lands included, ecosystems covered, primary goals and objectives, and management activities included (in class on T Jan 24; 20% of project grade); interview guide (due March 2, 10% of project grade), interviews, and interview summaries (due April 6, 20% of project grade) related to topics of interest to each student and professionals in positions related to the student's plan and questions; and final presentation of findings throughout the semester during the final exam period (F May 12, 8-10 am, 25% of project grade).

**Participation:** Short assignments will be posted on Moodle by 9 am on the morning before each class period and will be due by 9 am prior to class. These assignments will include questions pertaining to that day's required reading, material presented in the previous class, and preparatory questions pertaining to that day's class. Active participation is expected of all students during class sessions, including small group and class discussions.

## 7. Schedule (will be updated on Moodle as needed)

\*Co-convened with PTRM 485 Recreation Planning

Week	Date	Topic	Guest Speaker	Reading
1	17-Jan	Course intro		
	19-Jan*	Forest and Recreation Planning	Beth/Will	Ch. 1 – Sustaining forests and their benefits; Recreation planning - Meinecke
2	24-Jan	Initial plan presentations		Ch. 2 – Understanding forests as ecosystems
	26-Jan*	Lubrecht XC Ski planning context	Representatives from Missoula Nordic Club and student-managed Section 13	Ch. 3 – Forest dynamics: disturbances, developmental stages, and forest archetypes; Winter use trails, MN DNR; The Visual Experience in Forests Used for Dispersed Winter Recreation - Brush
3	1-Feb*	LEF XC Ski group work time (sliding scale tool)		IVUMC Visitor Use Management Framework – Chapters 1 & 2
	3-Feb*	Lolo NF Forest Plan Revision	Katie Knotek, Lolo NF Recreation Program Manager	Ch. 4 – Silvicultural principles for ecological forestry
4	7-Feb*	LEF XC Ski group work time (Venn diagram discussion)		Ski Touring Trails: Planning Trails for Visual Enjoyment – Nielsen
	9-Feb*	Role of Landscape Architecture and Design in Planning	Lucy Rummler, City of Missoula Parks and Recreation	Ch. 5 – Larger spatial-scale concerns: landscapes and regions
5	14-Feb	Role of Management Objectives in Forest Planning	Cindy Super, Forestry Coordinator, Blackfoot Challenge	Ch. 6 – Economic, social, and political drivers of forestry
	16-Feb	Lobbying for forest management	Jason Toddhunter, Montana Logging Association	Ch. 7 – Legal frameworks for forestry
6	21-Feb	Forest Collaboration	Tim Love, Forest Collaboration Network	Ch. 8 – Resolving forestry conflicts through collaboration

	23-Feb	Forest Management for Income Generation: Weyerhaeuser Sothern Timberlands	James Castleberry and Tommy Tadlock, Weyerhaeuser Southern Timberlands	Ch. 9 – Capital, income, and sustainability
7	28-Feb*	LEF XC Ski group work time (Element 1 of plan)		IVUMC Visitor Use Management Framework – Chapter 3
	2-Mar	DNRC planning	Dan Rogers, DNRC	Ch. 10 – The economic value of forests
8	7-Mar*	LEF XC Ski group work time (Element 2 of plan)		Review IVUMC Visitor Use Management Framework – Chapters 1 & 2 AND IVUMC Monitoring Guidebook – Chapter 4
	9-Mar	Montana Forest Action Plan	Wyatt Frampton, DNRC (invited)	Ch. 11 – Adaptive management: achieving resilience in the face of change and uncertainty
9	14-Mar	Tribal forestry: CSKT forest plan revisions	Shawn DeFrance, CS&KT Forestry, Tribal Forest Planning	Ch. 12 – Forests on fire: nature’s thermal creativity
	16-Mar	BLM Fire and Fuels Planning	Michael Albritten, BLM	Ch. 13 – The fire next time: strategies for fire and fuels management
	21-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
	23-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
10	28-Mar*	LEF XC Ski group work time (Element 3 of plan)		Guidelines for Developing Ski Touring Trails – Alesch (Review previously read Winter Use Trails – Minnesota DNR)
	30-Mar	Conservation strategies – examples from TNC efforts in western Montana	Steve Kloetzel, TNC	Ch. 14 – Conserving and restoring biological diversity
11	4-Apr*	LEF XC Ski group work time (Element 3 of plan, cont.)		(Review previously read Winter Use Trails – Minnesota DNR AND The Visual Experience in Forests Used for Dispersed Winter Recreation - Brush)

	6-Apr	Carbon Credits Market opportunities for private ownerships - Lubrecht Forest	Thomas Buchholz- Senior Scientist, Spatial Informatics Group	Ch. 15 – Climate change, carbon, and forests
12	11-Apr	USFS planning	Amanda Milburn - Lolo NF (invited)	Ch. 20 – The greatest good: planning the future of US national forests
	13-Apr	Forest certification		Ch. 16 - Forest Certification; Ch. 17 – Classical forest regulation: its relevance to ecological forestry
13	18-Apr	Review and categorization of forest planning models		Ch. 18 – Making decisions: naturalistic and structured approaches
	20-Apr	Strategic planning for wilderness	Travis Belote – The Wilderness Society (invited)	Ch. 19 – Forest planning under ecological forestry
14	25-Apr*	LEF XC Ski group work time (final plan and presentation prep)		
	27-Apr	The role of the forest products industry	Paul McKenzie, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber	Ch. 21 – Potential contributions of ecological forest management
15	2-May*	Final LEF XC Ski presentations	Representatives of Missoula Nordic Club, LEF, and Section 13	
	4-May*	Reflection/wrap-up exercise - split class		
	12-May	Final plan presentations (F, 8-10 am)		