FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Learning Objectives

• Basic Knowledge of Forest Flora and Fauna: Demonstrate knowledge of the biology, taxonomy, and ecology of flora and fauna associated with forested ecosystems
  • Identify the common tree species of North America (especially those of the northeastern US) and describe their silvics
  • Identify key understory plants, invasive species, pathogens, non-timber forest products, and fauna and describe their ecological roles in forest ecosystems

• Forest Data Collection: Accurately identify, measure and quantify a variety of forest ecosystem attributes
  • Design, execute, analyze and report on a forest inventory to measure both timber and non-timber attributes: Demonstrate proficiency with a specified set of field equipment
  • Design and implement a plan to monitor key ecosystem resources and processes

• Communication: Communicate effectively with diverse groups through listening, speaking and writing
  • Communicate clearly through email, letters and other forms of professional correspondence
  • Effectively present complex information in different formats to a variety of audiences: Use geographical information systems (GIS) to create a map showing features such as buffer zones on streams or roads or the layout of a timber sale
  • Conduct a clear dialog with a potential client to determine their needs
  • Use appropriate methods of communicating with diverse groups
  • Apply conflict resolution skills for consensus building, facilitation and negotiation

• Data Analysis and Critical Thinking: Apply science-based knowledge to select, obtain, analyze and interpret natural resources information in an ecological, economic and social context
  • Acquire data from primary and secondary sources to describe and analyze ecological, economic and social relationships on both spatial and temporal scales
    • Use a geographical positioning system (GPS) to map features such as a hiking trail
    • Find relevant natural resources information, such as publicly available data sets, research reports, and management plans
  • Critically analyze the evidence on multiple sides of a contemporary natural resources issue
  • Assess the economic, social, and ecological opportunities and constraints of a given land parcel within a relevant spatial and temporal context and recognize appropriate and defensible land management objectives
  • Identify and evaluate the full range – ecological, social, and economic – of impacts of different forest management alternatives
    • Apply economic, financial and business management tools to assess alternative forest management activities

• Data Synthesis and Critical Thinking: Recognize, identify, and integrate the relevant ecological, economic, and societal aspects of contemporary problems in natural resources management and use this understanding to develop, support and implement effective solutions
  • Based on an assessment of a property, develop, write and present a management plan, including silvicultural prescriptions, for the property that meet the stated land management objectives and implement the components of the plan
  • Describe the role of institutions such as markets, communities, governments, and non-government organizations in the management of natural resources
    • Describe and evaluate how a contemporary natural resources issue has been addressed by society
    • Identify a natural resources problem, evaluate the science and the politics behind the problem, engage the stakeholders involved, and propose a solution to the problem

• Professionalism and Social Awareness: Synthesize knowledge, diverse values, and ethics for making, communicating and supporting decisions with confidence, respect, professionalism, and compassion
  • Demonstrate openness, tolerance, and appreciation for alternative points of view
  • Demonstrate awareness of global issues and cultural diversity
  • Be able to present and conduct oneself as a professional