

NRM 4307/5303 Range and Wildlife Habitat Management
Fall 2014

Instructor:

Mr. Chris Pipes, M.S.

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., or by appointment

Course description:

Principles and practices of range and wildlife habitat management, including range improvement through mechanical, chemical, prescribed burning, and biological manipulation of vegetation, grazing systems, revegetation, and other habitat management practices. Also incorporates the effects of these practices on livestock and wildlife interactions.

Class meetings:

Lecture/lab: M/W 11:00 - 12:50 (or longer for some field trips)

For field trips, dress appropriately for walking around in the sun and amongst the bugs, thorns, brush, etc.

TENTATIVE Course Outline:

DATE	Monday	Wednesday
Aug 25/27	Introduction, syllabus, etc.	Principles & Concepts
Sep 1/3	LABOR DAY. NO CLASSES.	Lecture: Principles & Concepts
Sep 8/10	Types of Rangeland	Brush
Sep 15/17	Controlled Grazing	Controlled Grazing
Sep 22/24	Prescribed Burning	<i>Field Trip (Mimms Ranch)</i>
Sep 29/Oct 1	Prescribed Burning	Chemical Treatments
Oct 6/8	Chemical Treatments	Review
Oct 13/15	Mid-term Exam	Mechanical Treatments
Oct 20/22	Mechanical Treatments	Fertilizing/Seeding
Oct 27/29	Water	<i>Field Trip (Davis Mountains Preserve)</i>
Nov 3/5	Fences	Other Improvements
Nov 10/12	Private Applicator Manual (or alternate)	Private Applicator Manual (or alternate)
Nov 17/19	Private Applicator Manual (or alternate)	Lab (Private Applicator Test ?) Final
Nov 24/26	<i>Field Trip (EMWMA)</i>	TG HOLIDAYS. NO CLASSES.
Dec 1/3	Special Topics (management paper due)	Final Review
FINAL		Wednesday, Dec. 10, 10:15 a.m.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to state the principles and concepts that drive habitat management
2. Students will be able to explain how to apply different land management techniques to achieve a desired habitat result
3. Students will develop a specific plan for habitat management through a series of assignments.

Recommended Text: Wildlife Habitat Management of Forestlands, Rangelands, and Farmlands, Neil F. Payne and Fred C. Bryant, 1998.

Required: Extension agency publications for Applicator License (2). See attached form.

Policies:

1. Roll will be taken during each class meeting. The SRSU catalog states "The instructor may, at his discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. Non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences."
2. Cheating on any exam or assignment will result in an F for that material and possible expulsion from the class with a grade of F.
- 3.. Missed exam/quiz policy: No make-ups will be provided for unexcused absences and a grade of 0 will be assigned. Request for an excused absence must be made at least 12 hours prior to exam/quiz time. Make-up exams/quizzes should be taken in advance of the normal date/time, or, in extreme circumstances, afterward within one week of the original date/time.
4. If you miss a lecture, obtain notes from a willing classmate. Handouts, assignments, etc. may be obtained from me.
5. It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator.

TENTATIVE Grade Structure (600 points total):

Lecture: 2 one-hour exams @ 100 points each	200 points
Species Paper	50 points
Other assignments, quizzes, etc.	50 points
Final Paper	100 points
Private Applicator test (lab final):	100 points
Field trips: 2 @ 50 points each	100 points
(Must attend at least two field trips worth 50 points each, with extra credit awarded for attendance on additional field trips.)	

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE ANY GRADE HIGHER THAN A D.

Grade assignment: <60 = F; 60-69 = D; 70-79 = C; 80-89 = B; 90-100 = A

CHECK BLACKBOARD AND YOUR SUL ROSS E-MAIL FREQUENTLY.

Program Learning Outcomes for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management:

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
3. Communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.
4. Conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting.
5. Apply knowledge about elements of an ecosystem into an appropriate conservation management plan.

Habitat Management

Assignment 1

Due September 22

For this assignment, research and write a paper (typed, double spaced, 12 pt font, 1" margins) on the species assigned to you in class. The paper should include information from peer reviewed journals, books, and reliable websites such as USFWS, the Audubon Society, TPWD, etc. If you use websites, those ending in .com are not acceptable. Websites ending in .gov or .edu are best. Websites ending in .org (nonprofit organizations, but NOT Wikipedia) are ok as long as it's something reputable. Cite all sources. Should be at least 2-3 pages with about 5 sources. Include a BRI publication resource if possible (http://bri.sulross.edu/pubs_reports.html).

For your species you will need to include:

Description of the species;

Wintering habitat;

Breeding habitat;

Foraging strategies;

Food sources;

Cover type required for habitat;

Any special habitat needs;

Conservation status;

Population status;

Any other information that is pertinent to designing a habitat management plan for the species.

