
College of the Redwoods



Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2025

Course ID & Section #number: FNR-1-E9168 Introduction to Forestry/Natural Resources

Instructor's name: Valerie Elder

Day/Time of required meetings:

Lecture: MW 02:05PM - 03:10PM

Lab: M 10:15AM - 01:25PM (*once a week!*)

Location: AT 127

Course units: 3



Instructor Contact Information

Office location or *Online: [Zoom \(https://redwoods-edu.zoom.us/j/88256457451?](https://redwoods-edu.zoom.us/j/88256457451?Odl2dhl0wPP3JIR7zICqGxeUEkvc2.1)

[Odl2dhl0wPP3JIR7zICqGxeUEkvc2.1](https://redwoods-edu.zoom.us/j/88256457451?Odl2dhl0wPP3JIR7zICqGxeUEkvc2.1)) or In-person at AT 134

Office hours: M/W 8:15-8:45 AT 134 or by Zoom/appointment

Office phone number: 707-476-4328



Email address: valerie-elder@redwoods.edu (<mailto:valerie-elder@redwoods.edu>)

Pronto is usually the fastest way to get ahold of me, but I strive to respond in 24 hours M-F.



Required Material

This course does not require a textbook. PDF and weblinks to required readings are posted in modules or handouts.



Catalog Description

An introduction to forest and natural resource issues and management. The lectures and discussion cover three general areas: goods and services derived from forests; basic management strategies for natural resources; and the development and application of relevant policies and regulations, including historical perspectives. Weekly field exercises introduce students to basic techniques for field work and how different management approaches are applied in the woods.



Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe the goods, services, and benefits derived from utilizing natural resources.
- Explain the basic components of forest ecosystems and use critical thinking to determine how management affects these ecosystems.
- Discuss the historic, economic, and political framework of natural resource utilization.
- Lab Specific Outcome: Demonstrate safety protocols and common field techniques used in natural resources at a basic level.



Course Calendar

****Subject to change with fair notice, due to weather or other events we may need to be flexible. Check email/canvas announcements and pronto before coming to class **** Not all assignments are listed below but this serves as a reference for most**** Carpooling is encouraged for field trips you don't need a car to take this course.

	Monday	Lecture	Lab	Wednesday	Lecture	Major Assignments
Week 1	25-Aug	Forest History	1st Day Survey/Writing Guide/Woods Safety	27-Aug	Forest History	
Week 2	1-Sep	Holiday	Holiday	3-Sep	Forest Ecology	
Week 3	8-Sep	Forest Ownership Outlining & Collaboration	Forest Measurements Lab 1- Pacing, Biltmore and Clinometer	10-Sep	Forest Ecology	Ownership Outline Part I
Week 4	15-Sep	Forest Ecology / Basic Tree ID	Forest Tree ID Walk	17-Sep	Forest Ownership Outlining	Ownership Outline Part II
Week 5	22-Sep	Forest Ecology	Forest Measurements Lab 2- Compass & Sketch Mapping	24-Sep	Forest Ecology Discussion	Draft Forest Ownership Essay
Week 6	29-Sep	Recreation	Forest Measurements Lab 3- Forest Plots	1-Oct	Recreation	Peer Review Forest Ownership Essay
Week 7	6-Oct	Wilderness	Headwaters Field Trip	8-Oct	Wilderness/Discussion	Final Draft Forest Ownership Essay



Week 8	13-Oct	Wildlife	Restoration Lab I Shively Farm	15-Oct	Wildlife/ Discussion	
Week 9	20-Oct	Wildland Fire	Library Instruction	22-Oct	Wildland Fire	Project Topic
Week 10	27-Oct	Forest Products	Restoration Lab II CR Campus	29-Oct	Forest Products / Case Studies Scientific Questioning	Project Sources
Week 11	3-Nov	Rangelands	Watershed Lab & Project Work	5-Nov	Rangelands	Outline
Week 12	10-Nov	Watershed	GPS	12-Nov	Watershed/Discussion	Draft
Week 13	17-Nov	Field Trip North Fork Mill Tour		19-Nov	Peer Review Research Essay	
Week 14	24-Nov	Holiday	Holiday	26-Nov	Holiday	
Week 15	1-Dec	Non-Timber Forest Products	Non-Timber Forest Products	3-Dec	Economics, Policy and Laws	Final Draft Issue Topic Paper
Week 16	8-Dec	Economics, Policy and Laws	Research Project Presentations	10-Dec	Review	
Final Exam Wednesday, December 17th 1-3 PM						
* weekly module quizzes and other in-class assignments not listed. Pay attention to due dates in canvas						

Expected Work Load The expected workload for CR Courses is calculated at 3 hours per week for each unit in a standard 16-week course. For the combined lecture and lab, this amounts to nine hours per week This may be more or less hours depending on your learning style.



Evaluation & Grading Policy



Assignments are listed in Canvas modules and are **subject to change**. Changes will be announced in class and posted in Canvas – due dates in Canvas should be considered the most current. Additional assignment due dates will be announced when the assignments are given. Most assignments will be turned in via canvas. You are responsible for knowing when your work is due.

Late Work: Assignments in canvas has a **due date**- when you are expected to turn it in and a **turn-in date** the last possible date you can submit an assignment. If you cannot turn in an assignment by the due date and want to submit by the turn-in date you must email me before the assignment is due and outline your plan for submitting the assignment by the turn-in date. Otherwise, 10% per day will be deducted from your assignment grade. After using two turn-in date grace periods late assignments will be deducted 10% per day.

Drop Policy: You may be dropped from the class if you miss 3 or more weeks of class participation, discussion, assignments or labs prior to the end of week 10. If you stop participating in class after week 10 you will be graded for participation and may receive an F.


Assignments will be graded typically within one week of submission, depending on instructor workload.

CR Grading Scale: A: 94-100, A-: 90-<94, B+: 87-<90, B: 84-<87, B-: 80-<84, C+: 77-<80, C: 70-<77, D: 60-<70, F: <60



Prerequisites / Co-requisites / Recommended Preparation

Students will be required to have access to adequate computer and internet access and familiarity with basic computer skills. Examples of this include:

- navigate a class in Canvas
- receive, respond and regularly check) messages sent to your CR email account
- receive, respond and regularly check) announcements sent in Canvas
-  load and upload files in Canvas assignments
- use a phone or digital camera (or webcam) to upload “selfies” to your online lab notebook




- use a word processor program (such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs)
- use a webcam or a phone to record and upload videos in Canvas
- use Zoom, email and canvas discussion boards to communicate with peers and instructor




Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

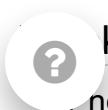
Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/light.php) 

[\(<https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/light.php>\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/light.php), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g. audio books or E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/index.php) 
[\(<https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/index.php>\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/services/sass/index.php).

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact SASS for a consultation:

SASS@redwoods.edu (<mailto:SASS@redwoods.edu>).

SASS office locations and phone numbers



ka campus

Phone: 707-476-4280,

- Locations: Student Services building, first floor SS113



Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: Main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- 707-476-4280



Academic Integrity

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic integrity, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated a lack of academic integrity, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the 2024-2025 College Catalog and CR Board and Administrative Policies.





AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard widely available. We use some of this technology in our analysis in class. However, overuse of these tools in this class can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, the policy of this class is that **AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments unless otherwise specified**, including discussion posts. Any or all of your assignment submissions and discussion posts may be screened by AI detection software, but the real penalty for AI misuse is that you will miss out on an opportunity to learn. In Forestry and Natural Resources, we so often reference on the ground conditions to ensure environmental protections- so critical thinking is essential!





Disruptive Behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2025-2026 College Catalog](https://redwoods.elumenapp.com/catalog/2025-2026/home)  (<https://redwoods.elumenapp.com/catalog/2025-2026/home>) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies)  (<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>).



Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

