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Spring 2026

# College of the Redwoods



## Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2026

Course ID & Section #number: FNR-1-E9967 Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources

Instructor's name: Valerie Elder

Day/Time of required meetings:

Lecture: M/W 10:05-11:10

Lab: Wednesday's 1:15-4:25

Location: AT-127

Course units: 3



## Instructor Contact Information

Office location or Online AT-134 (around the corner from AT-127)

Office hours: M-TH 9-10 AM or by appointment/zoom



Phone number: 707-476-4328 (office phone doesn't receive texts)

Email address: [Valerie-elder@redwoods.edu](mailto: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

 This is a tentative course schedule, 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. When possible we use 1-2 FNR vans for field trip transport.

	Monday	Lecture	Weds	Lecture	Lab	Project
Week 1	19-Jan	<b>Holiday</b>	21-Jan	Forest History	1st Day Survey/Writing Guide/Woods Safety	
Week 2	26-Jan	Forest History	28-Jan	Forest Ownership	Forest Measurements Lab 1- Pacing, Biltmore and Clinometer	
Week 3	2-Feb	Forest Ecology	4-Feb	Forest Ecology	ForestTree ID Walk	
Week 4	9-Feb	Forest Ecology	11-Feb	Forest Ecology/ Basic Tree ID	Headwaters Fieldtrip	
Week 5	16-Feb	Forest Ecology	18-Feb	Exam I (online)	No lab	
Week 6	23-Feb	Recreation	25-Feb	Recreation	Forest Measurements Lab 2- Compass & Sketch Mapping	
Week 7	2-Mar	Wilderness	4-Mar	Wilderness/Discussion	Forest Measurements Lab 3- Forest Plots	
Week 8	9-Mar	Wildlife	11-Mar	Wildlife/Discussion	Overview Research Project	Project Topic
Week 9	<b>16-Mar</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>18-Mar</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	
Week 10	23-Mar	Rangelands	25-Mar	Rangelands	Library Instruction	Project Sources
Week 11	30-Mar	Exam II (in person)	1-Apr	Restoration Lab I Shively Farm		
Week 12	6-Apr	Watershed	8-Apr	Watershed/Discussion	Restoration Lab II CR Campus	Project Outline
Week 13	13-Apr	Wildland Fire	15-Apr	Wildland Fire	GPS	
Week 14	<b>20-Apr</b>	Forest Products	22-Apr	Field Trip North Fork Mill Tour/ Green Diamond Nursery		Project Draft
Week 15	27-Apr	Forest Products Discussion	29-Apr	Economics, Policy and Laws	Project Work	
Week 16	4-May	Economics, Policy and Laws	6-May	Review	Research Project Presentations/Synth	Project Final Draft
Final Exam (Exam III) Wednesday, May 13th 10:45am – 12:45pm						

**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

This course includes three exams, 2-4 in quizzes and a final course project/synthesis. More assignment details are provided in canvas. Most lectures and labs will have graded assignments.



## 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

Most assignments will be turned in via canvas. You are responsible for knowing when work is due.



Attendance is expected at all lectures and lab meetings. Most lectures will have 5-point in-class assignments and points are assigned at each lab meeting. I will randomly give 2–4 quizzes in lectures, worth 20 points total.

Absences from courses meetings with prior notice can sometimes be made-up at the instructors digression but some assignments cannot be made up.

An absence from an exam will receive a 0 score. If you know you will be absent from an exam discuss with instructor at least 48 hours prior to the exam so we can attempt to make alternate arrangements.

**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.

Note that canvas is set to assign a 0 score for assignments. So late work will temporarily show a 0 score until it is graded.

**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:

 locate 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
- download 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>), 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>).

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

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

SASS office locations and phone numbers



## Eureka campus

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- Phone: 707-476-4280,
- Locations: Student Services building, first floor SS113

## Del Norte campus

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

## Klamath-Trinity campus

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- 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 2025-2026 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 may 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 assignments unless otherwise specified**, including discussion posts. Any or all of 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!





## 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.



## 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/2024-2025/home)  (<https://redwoods.elumenapp.com/catalog/2024-2025/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>).

