

FORS 481 Forest Planning Spring 2024

1. Instructor and course details

<i>Instructor:</i>	Dr. C. Alina Cansler
<i>Email:</i>	alina.cansler@mso.umt.edu
<i>Office Hours:</i>	By appointment here ; Charles H. Clapp building (CHCB) 439
<i>Class Times:</i>	M/W/F 10:00-10:50 PM Class Location: Forestry 206
<i>Required Text:</i>	<i>Ecological Forest Management</i> . 2018. by JF Franklin, KN Johnson, and DL Johnson. Other readings as assigned (via Moodle)
<i>Prerequisites:</i>	FORS 320 Forest Economics; FORS 349 Practice of Silviculture or FORS 347 Multiple Resource Silviculture

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.

Learning Outcomes

- Assess the planning processes used by a range of forest landowners, managers, and stakeholders, and gain an understanding of how differing objectives, policies, and cultures result in differing planning outcomes.
- Understand the impact of temporal and spatial scale on forest planning efforts.
- Develop written and oral communication skills through critical reading, discussion, and writing on forest management and planning related topics.

2. Course Policies

- All work will be submitted on-line through the class Moodle unless otherwise specified. Graded assignments will also be returned electronically.
- 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 Office for Disability Equity (ODE). Requests for disability accommodations need to be provided to the instructor via email within the first two weeks of the semester, and it is the student's responsibility to schedule an appointment with the instructor to make a plan for disability accommodations.
- 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.
- Use of AI, such as ChatGPT, for assignments is prohibited, unless expressly allowed in the assignment description.
- 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](#).

- In this class, we all work to support an inclusive and equitable learning environment where we draw strength from the diversity of perspectives we and others bring.
- If you feel sick please don't come to class, contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330, and contact the instructor ASAP to make alternate arrangements for class attendance.
- Some class periods of this class may be conducted via online video conference; attendance is expected.

Important dates:

Date	Description
2/7	Last day to drop with advisor & instructor signatures (After this day a "W" will appear on transcript).
3/28	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.
5/3	Last day of spring instruction.
5/8	Finals period is scheduled for this day. Last assignment due by 12:10, the end of finals period.

3. Grading

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.

Assignment	Percent of final course grade
Reading assignment questions	5%
Engagement with guest speakers	5%
Friday in-class discussions	10%
Project: comparison of forest plans	20%
Discussion question 1	15%
Discussion question 2	15%
Discussion question 3	10%
Revise discussion questions 1	10%
Revise discussion questions 2	10%
Total	100%

Class engagement

Participation: Short assignments will be posted on Moodle Monday afternoons pertaining to the reading from Franklin et al. 2018. They are due by 9 am Wednesday mornings (before class). These assignments will include questions pertaining to the required reading, material presented in the previous class, and preparatory questions pertaining to that days' class.

Students are expected to actively engage with guest speakers.

Discussion sections take up one of our three scheduled class meetings per week, usually on Fridays. In discussion sections, the class will discuss a few questions that will require conceptual synthesis of readings and lectures. We will discuss these questions in groups, and these will serve as primers for the questions that will be assigned for the discussion papers. It is crucial that you are comfortable with the concepts covered in assigned readings and discussion sections – it will be the key to your success in this course.

Assignments

Performance is evaluated with three essay responses to discussion questions, two revisions of discussion questions, and a student research project comparing two forest management plans.

Discussion papers are short 3 pages papers, in which students answer a challenging synthesis question drawing support for their answer only from the references covered in the readings or lectures. The goal of these assignments is for students to developed and demonstrate a deep understanding of the class references and demonstrate in writing their critical thinking regarding concepts and examples presented in lectures and readings. Assignment question will be sent to the class after the discussion section, and due before the next discussion section.

Discussion paper revisions: Students will revise their first two discussion papers, based on instructor feedback.

Forest plan assignment: Each student will select two forest plans, which they think will be interesting to compare and contrast. Plans will be selected through discussion with the instructor, during one of the discussion sections. Periodic mini-assignments connecting lecture content with plans will be posted on Moodle and announced via email and in class, and will make up a proportion of the final assignment grade. At a minimum, these assignments will include short-answer and essay questions regarding topics of interest. Students will compare the plans, and a final written report and final oral presentation of findings will be scheduled after spring break.

Late assignments will lose 25% of points the first day, and an additional 10% of the potential points per day late after the second day. 1 day late = 75%, 2 days late = 75%; 3 days late = 65%; 4 days late = 55%; 5 days late = 45%...

4. Schedule (will be updated on Moodle as needed)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Assignments	Textbook reading
1	F	1/19/2024	Dr. Cansler: Course overview		Optional: Chapters 2-4. Review if needed.
Large-scale planning, legal frameworks, rule making					
2	M	1/22/2024	Dr. Cansler: Why Forest Planning? Large spatial scales		Ch. 1 – Sustaining forests and their benefits;
	W	1/24/2024	Dr. Cansler: Landscape ecology		Ch. 5 – Larger spatial-scale concerns: landscapes and regions
	F	1/26/2024	Dr. Cansler: Strategic guiding documents, and forest plan assignments		Ch. 6 – Economic, social, and political drivers of forestry
3	M	1/29/2024	Dr. Cansler: USFS planning rule		Ch. 7 – Legal frameworks for forestry
	W	1/31/2024	Dr. Cansler: NEPA		
	TH	2/1/2024 5-7 pm	Webinar (live or asynchronous): Anticipating the release of the Proposed Action		
	F	2/2/2024	Discussion: choice of forest plans to assess; “A citizens guide to forest planning”	FPA - choose plans and topics	Ch. 20 - The Greatest Good, Planning the future of US National Forests
4	M	2/5/2024	No class		Ch. 18 – Making decisions: naturalistic and structured approaches
	W	2/7/2024	Online: Old and mature forests NFP amendments		
	F	2/9/2024	Discussion: Old and mature forests		
5	M	2/12/2024	Dr. Cansler: Adaptive management		Ch. 11 – Adaptive management: achieving resilience in the face of change and uncertainty
	W	2/14/2024	Update on FPA		
	Th	2/15/2024 5-7 om	Field trip (on you own or carpool): Proposed Action Event: Lolo National Forest online event for the proposed Action		
	F	2/16/2024	Discussion: Adaptive Management	DQ 1 assigned	
Forest planning for producing revenue, while maintaining other values					
6	M	2/19/2024	No class, President’s Day		
	W	2/21/2024	Plantation forestry		Ch. 9 – Capital, income, and sustainability
	F	2/23/2024	Exercises: evaluating tradeoffs	DQ 1 due	Ch. 17 – Regulated forest
6	M	2/26/2024	Sustained yield		Ch. 10 – The economic value of forests
	W	2/28/2024	Forest Planning on Private Lands in Montana		
	F	3/1/2024	Discussion: Role of Management Objectives in Forest Planning	FP update 1 due	
8	M	3/4/2024	Private industrial		
	W	3/6/2024	Private family forestry		
	F	3/8/2024	Discussion		
9	M	3/11/2024	Forest certification		Ch. 16 - Forest certification
	W	3/13/2024	Forest certification		
	F	3/15/2024	No Class	DQ1 revision due	

10		3/18/2024- 3/22/2024	Spring break		
Multiple perspectives and objective; prioritization and engagement in the planning process					
11	M	3/25/2024	Dr. Cansler: Landscape prioritization for varying objectives	DQ 2 assigned	Ch. 12 – Forests on fire: nature’s thermal creativity Optional: Ch. 3 – Forest dynamics: disturbances, developmental stages, and forest archetypes
	W	3/27/2024	Dr. Cansler: HRV, FRV		
	F	3/29/2024	Discussion	DQ 2 due	
12	M	4/1/2024	Tribal forest management		Ch. 13 – The fire next time: strategies for fire and fuels management
	W	4/3/2024	Tribal input into forest planning		
	F	4/5/2024	Dr. Cansler: Strategic fire risk planning		
13	M	4/8/2024	No class	FPA draft due	
	W	4/10/2024	Fire risk planning in practice		
	F	4/12/2024	Discussion		
14	M	4/15/2024	Carbon		Ch. 14 – Conserving and restoring biological diversity Ch. 15 – Climate change, carbon, and forests
	W	4/17/2024	Biodiversity and restoration		
	F	4/19/2024	Discussion: Multiple landscape priorities	DQ 2 revision due	
15	M	4/22/2024	Guest: Tim Love. Topic: Collaboration. Speaker's affiliation: Retired. Former Montana Forest Collaboration Network; Former Lolo Forest Supervisor		Ch. 8 – Resolving forestry conflicts through collaboration
	W	4/24/2024	Guest: Amanda Milburn. Topic: balancing multiple priorities in the Lolo Forest Plan Revision. Speaker's affiliation: Plan Revision Team Leader, USFS		
	F	4/26/2024	FPA Presentations	FPA due; FPA Presentations	
16	M	4/29/2024	Dr. Cansler: Forest planning in an era of global change		
	W	5/1/2024	Discussion	DQ 3	
	F	5/3/2024	Wrap up exercise		
17			Finals week	DQ 3 due	