

2026 CNR Summer Field Experience Information Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES)

Monday, May 18 to May 29, 2026

NRES 385/475: Field Techniques in Forestry, Soils, Water and Wildlife, 2 cr.

Certain undergraduates in the College of Natural Resources (CNR) can participate in the summer two-week shortened field techniques experience at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) instead of the six-week summer field experience. These undergraduates include waste management majors and select transfer students (NRES 385- sect 1) and students participating in the European Environmental Studies Seminar or Kenya Permaculture (NRES 475 – sect 1). Field-based programming will prepare students for advanced coursework in the CNR.

PURPOSE: This experience at CWES exposes you to the wide array of field techniques used to evaluate and manage forestry, soils, water, and wildlife resources. That goal includes learning to identify common plants and developing skills for resource management teams.

Keep this information packet for reference purposes and bring it with you to CWES!

Mandatory Information Meeting for all NRES 385 and NRES 475 participants:

Monday, March 30, 4 – 5 p.m., TNR 361

Fee Payments

- I. **\$25 registration fee:** After the session lists are posted, students can register for NRES 385 once permission is given. A \$25 fee will be charged to your account.
- II. **Tuition and Fee Payments:** There are no installment payment plans available for the summer session. Total amounts are due by the billing deadlines.
- III. **Pay my bill info found here:** <https://www.uwsp.edu/SFS/Pages/default.aspx>

Estimated Tuition, Room, and Board*

	Wisconsin Resident undergraduate	Minnesota Resident undergraduate	Midwest Student Exchange Undergraduate	Non-Resident Undergraduate
CWES Lodging	\$330	\$330	\$330	\$330
CWES Food	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Tuition, 2 credits*	\$646 (plus approx. \$203 in seg fees)	\$773 (plus approx. \$203 in seg fees)	\$968 (plus approx. \$203 in seg fees)	\$1397 (plus approx. \$203 in seg fees)
CNR Course fees	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$185
TOTAL	\$1,764	\$1,891	\$2,086	\$2,515

*Tuition rates are estimated and are subject to change through UW System and differential tuition.

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LOGISTICS (Mealtimes/check in subject to change. Check your email.)

Check-In: Because we have limited parking space available, please carpool. (Travel time: 25 minutes from campus). **Arrive at CWES on Monday, May 18 between 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** When you arrive at CWES please pull into the “Walker Lodge” parking lot. A CWES staff member will guide you on where to park. Your first meal at CWES will be lunch that day at noon in Sunset Lodge.

Orientation to CWES: You will be provided an orientation to CWES. If, for some reason, you are not present for that orientation, it is **your responsibility** to get the information from the CWES Director and CNR Associate Dean for Academic Affairs because you will still be held accountable for complying with the policies presented.

First Aid/Medical Emergency: If you have a need for basic first aid CWES has staff trained in first aid and CPR. If you have a medical emergency, call 911 from your cell phone. If you do not have a phone, ask another student to call 911. An EMS “hub” is located in Amherst and they normally can be at CWES within 10-15 minutes of a call. If an ambulance is needed, ask at least one student to go out to the main entrance to wave the ambulance in and give instructions as to where the injured student is located. AED units are also located in the hallway of the dining hall serving area, at the north bath house, and inside Walker Lodge. If an emergency occurs while you are in class or off site, you will be notified via the Pointer Alert system with further instruction.

Computers/E-mail: Each field team will be provided with a UWSP laptop for you to use as part of classes, required assignments and lab work. Anderson Lodge is also wired with Wi-Fi, and is part of the UWSP wireless service for laptops. There is outdoor Wi-Fi in the cabin loop and outside Sunset Lodge. The log cabins do not have indoor Wi-Fi.

Mail: Outgoing mail can be left on the Office Manager’s desk or placed in the mailbox across from the entrance. The address for CWES is:

Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
10186 County Road MM
Amherst Junction, WI 54407

Lodging: CWES offers Scandinavian Style log cabins and an Anderson lodge, all with a centrally located bathhouse in a “cabin loop”. Cabins and lodges consist of bunk beds with twin size mattresses. The bath house is a shared space with the TRCCS early childhood students. The on-site school will have access to the north bath house from 8:00am-3:00pm. SFE students will have access outside of that time. Sunset Lodge bathrooms will always be available to you.

Food Service: Mealtimes are typically at 7:30 a.m., noon, and 5:30 p.m. Meals will be served throughout a **30-minute period**. Thanks in advance for bussing your own dishes and letting us know if you see that something on the salad bar needs to be restocked. Vegetarian options will be available at all meals for those that requested so ahead of time. If you have not signed up for vegetarian entrees do not take them. For your day off, there will be a sign-up sheet for meals for those students staying on site.

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Refrigerators: No personal refrigerators may be brought on-site for use at CWES.

Laundry: There is a laundry at the BP gas station in Rosholt, WI – approximately 8 miles north of CWES, with many washing machines and dryers.

Archery Range: We have a rustic archery range near the main entrance with 4 targets. We use this sometimes during the day or evening. If our staff is not using the archery range feel free to practice with your equipment.

Care of CWES Facilities: Please help us be good stewards of our CWES buildings, grounds, and equipment. Let us know if you have any problems or if you notice anything that needs maintenance attention.

Campfires: Depending on seasonal conditions, campfires may be permitted at the CWES fire bowl until 10 pm each night. We ask that you make sure the fire is out by pouring water on it and that you clean up after yourself before leaving the area. If a fire ban is imposed by the WI DNR, campfires will obviously not be allowed. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain good relations with our CWES neighbors by controlling the noise around the fire bowl.

Team Environment: Our goal is that this experience will help you feel more comfortable with each other and will facilitate greater communication and cooperation within your classroom groups. Beyond this immediate purpose, we also want to emphasize how important teamwork is to achieving success in natural resource management. Without working together, and integrating our disciplines (water, soil, wildlife, forestry, resource management), we won't be able to be as effective in solving environmental problems, managing natural resources, and working with the public.

CWES Waterfront: No CWES lifeguard will be on duty. Swimming is allowed at the Sunset Lake public beach or see information below under "Swimming" section. The boathouse will be opened by the Residential Living staff member or Stockroom Manager from 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m each night for life jackets, canoeing or kayaking. They will unlock the canoes/kayaks and log rolls, locking them up again at 9:00 pm. On the weekend the waterfront will open at 9:00 am and close at 9:00 pm, with the same policies as during the week.

Canoeing/Kayaking: All equipment – canoes, kayaks, paddles, life jackets – must be checked out and returned. There will be a check-out and return log in the boathouse. You must wear a properly fitted life jacket (i.e. fastened and ON) and follow the safety regulations outlined in the waterfront waiver. A life jacket must also be worn and fastened when fishing from CWES canoes, kayaks or paddle boats.

Swimming: Per American Camp Association (ACA) standard requirements, **CWES waterfront will be closed for swimming unless you can provide a certified lifeguard and another responsible adult (spotter) on duty at all times while you are swimming.** The lifeguard and designated spotter(s) must be out of the water and watching the swimmers adjacent to the CWES waterfront swim area. You must have one responsible adult (spotter) for every 10 swimmers + one lifeguard per 50 swimmers.

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Any use of the waterfront is at your own risk. You will sign a waiver at the end of this orientation to use the waterfront area during the next two weeks. If you do not sign the waiver, you are not allowed to use the CWES waterfront. The pontoon boats are **not** available for use during your stay at CWES.

Minister Lake: Only those with 40s around Minister Lake may walk all the way around it due to special agreements with CWES neighbors. Others may only walk to the property line.

Daily cleaning schedule: The CWES staff will clean all buildings and bathroom areas each day. Cleaning schedule times may vary depending on classroom instruction, weather, etc. Your lodging has garbage and recycling bins. If a bin is full, please set the bag of waste or recyclables outside of your front door in the morning and it will be picked up by CWES staff.

Flagging: You are required to take all flagging down on your forty before camp ends. If you find flagging from previous groups when you are flagging your 40 acres, please take it down and dispose of properly in CWES garbage to ensure we have use of these properties in the future.

Free Day: You will have free days on May 23-24. If you are staying at CWES and want to eat that day, you'll need to make sure that you have been counted in the food service numbers. Look for weekend meal sign up on the Friday before. A TA/Stockroom Manager will be on site during the entire day, so please see her/him if you have questions or problems.

CWES Clients: From time to time, members of the general public or officials from UWSP may visit CWES. This may require that we show someone around within a log cabin, Anderson Lodge or other CWES facilities. We thank you in advance for being good ambassadors of the CNR and helping to clean up after yourself and leaving your living and study areas in presentable condition.

Roles of the Resident Assistant/Teaching Assistants/Stockroom Manager: The CNR Resident Assistant, Teaching Assistants & Stockroom Manager are here to help you get the most out of this learning experience. They are here to act as a liaison between you, the CWES staff, and the CNR faculty/instructors. They will outline key times when they will be available to check in/out equipment or otherwise be of assistance. You are responsible for all equipment used in your courses. If items break due to misuse or carelessness, you are responsible for their replacement cost. Keep the lines of communication open and help them understand how they can help you. The Teaching Assistants & Stockroom Manager are supervised by the Academic Coordinators, so please contact them if you have concerns or questions related to the academic program.

The Resident Assistant is responsible for creating and maintaining a safe, welcoming, and academic community/environment – remember, you are here for coursework! They report to the College of Natural Resources Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and CWES Director. All university guidelines are enforced on the CWES property. Additional guidelines are outlined within this orientation, given the unique nature of the CWES property and the frequent interaction with the general public, both on-site and in the surrounding community. It is your responsibility to take these policies and guidelines seriously. Abuse of the policies can result in your removal from the session and will be reported to University Student Affairs and the UW-Stevens Point Dean of Students. The Teaching Assistants and

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Stockroom Manager assist the Resident Assistant by being extra sets of eyes, keeping an eye on the session and will assume their responsibilities when the latter is off duty.

Quiet Time: Out of respect for fellow students, please observe the 10:30 p.m. lights-out policy in the sleeping areas. Take socializing and group studying to Sunset Lodge. The central area in Anderson Lodge is **for individual/quiet study only** as noise in this area affects the ability of people in the sleeping bags to get rest.

Tobacco Use: Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited on all campus grounds, including CWES. Please see the UWSP Tobacco Free Policy at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuhealth/Pages/Tobacco-Free/policy.aspx> for more information.

Firearms, Explosives, and Fireworks: Firearms, explosives, or fireworks of any kind will not be permitted at CWES.

Alcohol: University regulations regarding alcohol are fully enforced during Summer Field Experience. At CWES, the consumption of alcohol is allowed in Sunset Lodge or the outdoor fireplace area adjacent to Sunset Lodge if one is of legal drinking age. Alcohol is not allowed in any other indoor or outdoor public spaces. Violation of this policy can result in removal from the program in addition to any university sanctions through the Dean of Students office. There is zero tolerance to violations of the alcohol policies.

Additionally, alcohol is not permitted at Sunset Lake County Park (tickets are around \$300) or at the CWES waterfront. Alcohol should be stored out of view (*This includes storage out of view in sleeping areas*). State vehicles cannot be used to transport alcohol – that is now a felony. No kegs/pony kegs or barrels are allowed. Alcohol consumption and procurement are governed by Wisconsin statutory age restrictions under UWS 18.06(13)(b), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Illegal Drugs: The UW System and UWSP prohibit the unlawful possession, use, distribution, manufacture or dispensing of illegal drugs by students and employees on university property including CWES. No illegal drugs will be allowed on the CWES premises or at Sunset Lake County Park. Violation of these provisions may lead to disciplinary action in accordance with UWS 17.03(1)(b), Wisconsin Administrative Code and dismissal from the program.

Clean Up/Check Out: Prior to taking the plant exam on the final day of NRES 385, the CWES staff will walk through each of the sleeping and living areas and will check you out. In the event facilities or equipment are damaged, the responsible parties will be required to pay for repair or replacement costs.

Unacceptable Behavior/Consequences: Any behavior that is disruptive to the operation of CWES or to maintaining positive community relations will not be tolerated. This includes behavior that:

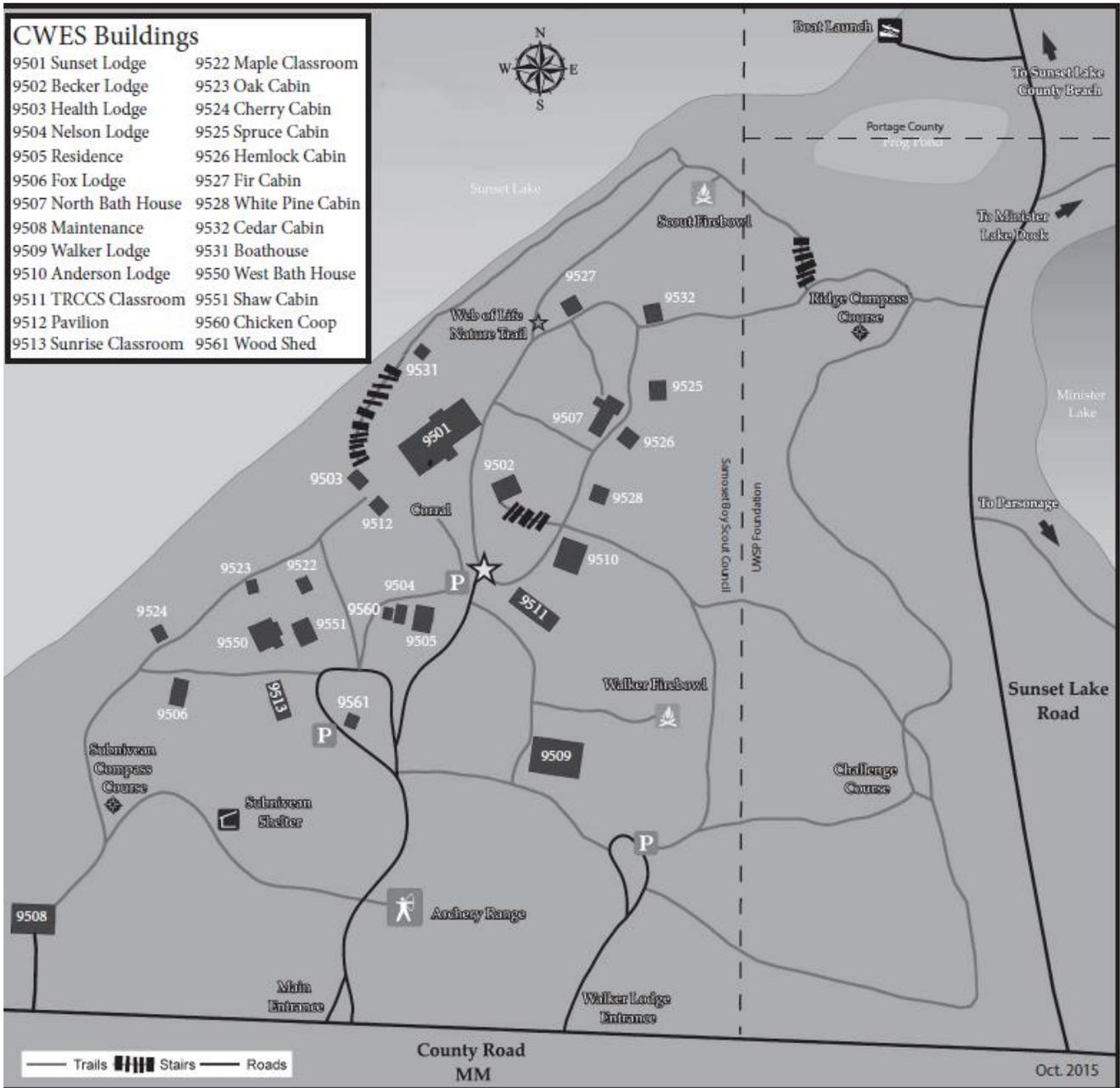
- a. Endangers the safety of others,
- b. Disrupts the teaching/learning environment of the session or of other groups on site
- c. Interferes with the ability of faculty and staff to perform their duties, and

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- d. Creates negative attitudes toward UWSP by CWES neighbors or members of the communities surrounding CWES.

Violators: Violations of any of the UWSP/CWES policies outlined in this document will be subject to disciplinary action which can include a reduction in your overall grade and/or dismissal from the program. In the event someone acts in an uncooperative, destructive, or unprofessional way, consequences will be determined by the faculty, College of Natural Resources Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, UW-Stevens Point Dean of Students and the CWES Director or a CWES representative. Consequences may include a meeting with the CNR Associate Dean, Dean of Students, referral to UWSP Student Conduct Office, suspension from this program, and total dismissal from the Program. All students must sign a form indicating they have read and understand the policies stated in this document.

CWES Map



Bring this information packet with you to CWES.

Personal Equipment Checklist

The following list of essential and recommended items for the 2 weeks at CWES. Keep in mind that nights and days can be cool and wet and classes continue rain or shine. Bring ample clothing for all weather possibilities.

ESSENTIALS:

- Water bottle
- Bed linens or sleeping bag (no bedding provided)
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Comfortable clothes for after hours
- Field clothes (dress in layers and bring a few long and short sleeve shirts; wear long pants in the field)
- Extra jacket/sweater – it can be cold!
- Hat
- Waterproof hiking boots (a second pair if you have them in case one pair gets wet)
- Comfortable tennis shoes
- Pencils and black pen (2-3)
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries (towel, washcloth, soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Raincoat, jacket, or poncho (head to toe coverage is best)
- Waterproof cover for clipboard (plastic bag will do)
- Notepaper or book for taking notes in the field
- Calculator, ruler

RECOMMENDED:

- Binoculars, field guides (birds, mammals, plants – trees, flowers, shrubs, ferns)
- Stapler
- Swimsuit and bandana
- Small backpack
- Shower sandals
- Sports equipment (playing cards, Frisbees, etc.)
- Laptop if you have one (Wi-Fi is available)

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Optional field guides

Not required, but strongly recommended (one book from each category).

1. Wildflowers

- Black, M.R., and E.J. Judziewicz. 2009. Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region: A Comprehensive Field Guide. University of Wisconsin Press. 320 pp.
- Newcomb, L. 1977. Newcomb's wildflower guide. Little, Brown, and Co., Boston. 490 pp.
- Peterson, R.P. and M. McKinney. The field guide of wildflowers of northeastern and north central North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 420 pp.

2. Trees and shrubs

- Farrar, J.L. 1995. Trees of northern United States and Canada. Iowa State Press. 504 pp.
- Petrides, G.A. 1972. A field guide to trees and shrubs. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 374 pp.
- Brockman, C. F. 1968. A guide to field identification: trees of North America. Golden Press, NY. 280 pp.

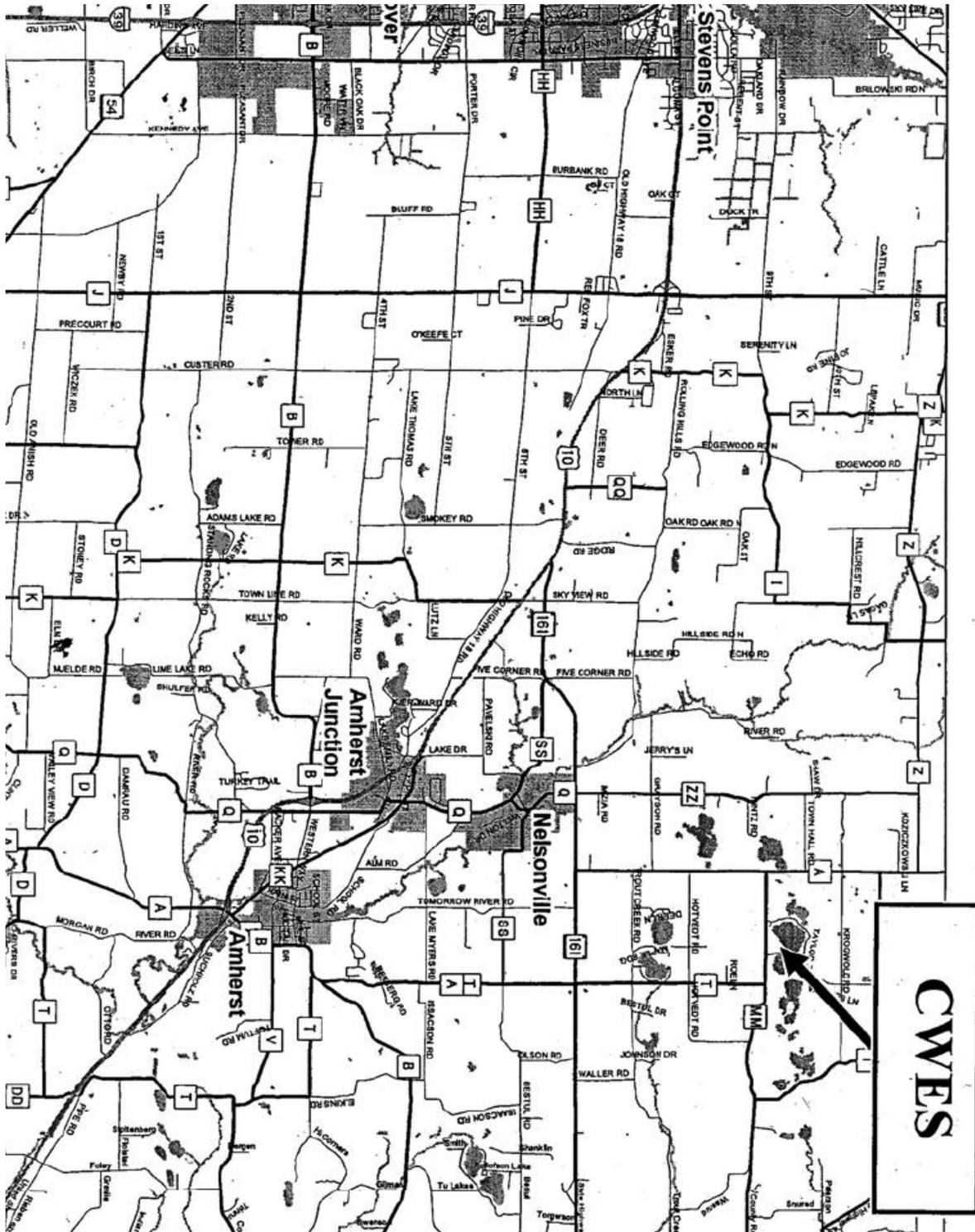
3. Birds

- Dunn, J.L., and J. Alderfer. 2011. National Geographic field guide to the birds of North America, Sixth Edition. National Geographic. 504 pp.
- Peterson, R.T., 2008. Peterson field guide to birds of North America. Houghton Mifflin Co.,

4. Mammals

- Reid, F. 2006. Peterson field guide to mammals of North America: [newest edition]. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 608 pp.

Directions to CWES From Stevens Point: Travel east on Highway 10 beyond I-39 to Hwy161 (approximately 7 miles). Turn left on to 161 and follow it to County Rd. A. Turn left on A for 2.5 miles to MM and turn right (east). CWES will be on your left ¼ miles down. Additional directions and information can be found at the CWES website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/cwes/>



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Student Agreement to Comply

**2026 CNR Summer Field Techniques in Natural Resources
(NRES 385) Policies at CWES**

I have read the preceding “*Student Policies and Guidelines for the CNR Summer Field Techniques in NRES at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES)*” document and understand the policies and guidelines contained therein. I agree to comply with these policies and understand the information provided in this document. I further understand that in the event I violate them or otherwise act in a way deemed unprofessional by the CNR faculty or CWES Director, my course grade may be negatively affected by up to 20%. Other disciplinary actions (including expulsion from this course and the European or Kenya Program) may also be taken depending on the seriousness of the violation.

Turn in this signed form when you arrive at CWES to check in.

Student Signature

Printed Name

Date

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