

**WILDLIFE 451**  
**MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT**  
**Fall SEMESTER 2021, 4 CREDITS**

**Contact Info**

Instructor: Dr. Marie Perkins (she/her)  
Office Hours: Wed. 10:00 - 11:00 or by appointment  
Join URL: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041>  
Passcode: 262380525  
Email: mperkins@uwsp.edu  
Lecture: TNR 352; Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 - 1:45  
Lab: TNR 356; Friday 10:00 - 11:50 or 1:00 - 2:50

**Course Goal:** This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles of wildlife habitat management. Broadly, this will include topics related to land cover types that provide habitat for species of North American wildlife, concepts and challenges of managing habitat management, manipulation techniques, and quantification of habitat selection metrics. Ultimately, students in this course will be expected to integrate these topics in the form of a written wildlife habitat management plan.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Identify structural characteristics and ecological functioning of common North American land cover types.
2. Assess the application and effects of specific habitat management techniques.
3. Critically evaluate and apply peer-reviewed ecological literature relevant to managing habitat for wildlife species.
4. Develop specified management goals and design appropriate management plans for 2 wildlife species.
5. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

**Required Textbook (open access):**

McComb, B. C., B. Zuckerberg, D. G. Vesely, and C. A. Jordan. 2020. Monitoring Animal Populations and their Habitats: A Practitioner's Guide. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. This book can be found as a PDF on the course Canvas page or in a variety of formats at the website: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/957>

**Course Structure:** Both lecture and lab will be conducted in person. Lecture periods will be a combination of formal lectures, activities, and class and small group discussions. Readings and short assignments related to lectures may also be required. The laboratory portion of this course will consist of additional lecture content, writing activities, demonstrations of analytical and GIS approaches, and time for collaborative development of wildlife management plans. Additionally, each lab section will be developing and conducting a monitoring plan during the semester.

**Canvas:** Course materials including the textbook, copies of lecture slides, assigned and recommended readings, recorded Zoom lectures (if needed), and other related materials will be

posted to Canvas. All assignments will be submitted in Canvas. I will communicate information related to the course using Canvas announcements.

**Assignments:** You will have a variety of graded and ungraded assignments during the semester related to readings, videos, and activities during lecture and lab.

**Journal Club:** You will be assigned to groups of 4-5 people for your journal club. During the semester, your journal club will meet 3 times via Zoom and there will not be in-person lecture on these dates. I will provide 3 peer-reviewed journal articles for you to read before your group meets to discuss the articles. You will record your Zoom meetings and submit the link and passcode for each recording for your assignment.

**Lab Attendance and Participation:** Forty-five points of your grade will be associated with attendance and participation in lab each week. If you are unable to attend lab, contact me prior to your lab section, you will be expected to complete any missed laboratory activities.

**Exams:** Three exams will be given during the semester; each exam will be worth 60 points. These exams will focus on new material, however, many of the concepts in this class build on each other. Understanding of previous topics will be incorporated in the exams.

**Management Plan:** You will be required to develop a management plan as part of an assigned small group. You will submit multiple draft portions of your management plan, worth a total of 80 points. Your group will give a presentation of your management plan during the final week of classes, worth 50 points. The final version of your management plan will be worth 100 points. There will also be a total of 50 points based on peer-evaluation of your efforts in developing, writing, and presenting your management plan.

**Grading:**

<b>Evaluation:</b>	<u>Points</u>	<b>Grades:</b>	
		93% and above	A
Participation	45	90-92%	A-
Journal Club	45	87-89%	B+
Exams	180	83-86%	B
Management Plan		80-82%	B-
Draft Plans	80	77-79%	C+
Presentation	50	73-76%	C
Final Plan	100	70-72%	C-
Peer Evaluation	50	67-69%	D+
TOTAL	550	64-66%	D
		62 and below	F

**Face Coverings\*:** At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is

university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

**\* Face covering mandates may change throughout the semester, you are expected to follow the most up-to-date requirements.**

**Other Guidance:**

- Please monitor your own health each day using this screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
- As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

**Getting Help:** Please do not be shy about asking for help. You are welcome to email me to schedule a time to meet with me in Zoom. If you are having any trouble understanding something in class, do not hesitate to get in touch, as those problems will likely only get worse as the material becomes more complex and builds on itself.

**Academic Dishonesty and Late Work Policy:** Trust between students and the instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom (e.g., cheating on exams) or in research efforts (e.g., plagiarism). Academic dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent that University policy permits. **Late work will lose 10% for every 24 hours after the designated deadline.** If you (or your group) are having a hard time submitting assignments on time, please contact me.

**Inclusivity Statement:** It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs are addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity all students bring to this class is viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at [dos@uwsp.edu](mailto:dos@uwsp.edu).

**Equal Access for Students with Disabilities:** UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to complete an Accommodations Request form. Phone: 346-3365 or Room 609 Albertson Hall.

**Online Materials and Class Recordings:**

Lecture materials and recordings for WLDL 451 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

**Lecture Schedule:** Below is a tentative course schedule that is subject to change\*.

Date			Lecture Topic
September	Thurs.	2	Course and management plan introduction
	Tues.	7	Defining habitat and management
	Thurs.	9	Wildlife monitoring
	Tues.	14	Attribute monitoring
	Thurs.	16	Guest lecture - Brad Strobel
	Tues.	21	Current land-use practices
	Thurs.	23	Succession and disturbance
	Tues.	28	<b>Exam 1</b>
	Thurs.	<b>30</b>	<b>Journal Club 1 - No class</b>
October	Tues.	<b>5</b>	Land cover types - grasslands and agriculture
	Thurs.	7	Land cover types – forests and wetlands
	Tues.	12	Water management I
	Thurs.	14	Water management II
	Tues.	19	Forest management
	Thurs.	21	Guest lecture - Haley Frater
	Tues.	<b>26</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
	Thurs.	<b>28</b>	<b>Journal club 2 - No class</b>
November	Tues.	<b>2</b>	<b>TWS virtual meeting - No class</b>
	Thurs.	<b>4</b>	<b>TWS virtual meeting - No class</b>
	Tues.	9	Prescribed fire
	Thurs.	11	Prescribed fire
	Tues.	16	Connectivity, corridors, and road crossings
	Thurs.	<b>18</b>	<b>Journal Club 3 - No class</b>
	Tues.	23	Policy and programs
	Thurs.	<b>25</b>	<b>Thanksgiving – No class</b>
	Tues.	30	Anthropogenic disturbance
December	Thurs.	2	Anthropogenic disturbance
	Tues.	7	Presentations
	Thurs.	9	Presentations
<b>Final Exam: Final Exam: Mon. Dec. 13 - 2:45PM - 4:45PM</b>			

**Lab Schedule:** Below is a tentative lab schedule that is subject to change\*.

Date		Lab Topic
September	3	<b>No lab</b>
	10	Writing exercise and intro to monitoring plan
	17	GIS/Mapping
	24	Work on management plans and monitoring plan
October	1	Monitoring plan
	8	Group peer review
	15	Monitoring plan
	22	Group peer review and writing exercise
	29	Monitoring plan
November	5	<b>No Lab - TWS Meeting</b>
	12	Monitoring plan
	19	Monitoring plan
	<b>26</b>	<b>No Lab - Thanksgiving</b>
December	3	Work on management plans
	10	<b>No Lab</b>

\*You can find changes to the lecture and lab schedule in the live shared document:

[https://uwspedu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mperkins\\_uwsp\\_edu/EbYgX8uvX-NGrXHpli4db\\_wBR0uDYPEiep8rqLJQE6pMQ?e=MlwRi9](https://uwspedu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mperkins_uwsp_edu/EbYgX8uvX-NGrXHpli4db_wBR0uDYPEiep8rqLJQE6pMQ?e=MlwRi9)