

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

**Contact Info**

Instructor: Dr. Marie Perkins  
Virtual: Wed. 11:00 - 12:00 or by appointment  
Office Hours: Join URL: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041>  
Passcode: 262380525  
Email: mperkins@uwsp.edu  
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 12:15  
Lab: Asynchronous - videos and assignments posted on Canvas by 9:00 Wed.

**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.

**Course Structure:** This course will be conducted 100% online.

- **Synchronous Zoom Lecture:** This course will generally consist of two 75-minute lectures each week. Lecture will be held synchronously online using Zoom during the above lecture times. In addition, these class periods will be recorded and available for you to view at your convenience. 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. You can access the live Zoom lectures and Zoom recordings in Canvas.
- **Asynchronous Lab:** The laboratory portion of this course will consist of weekly videos and assignments posted on Canvas. You should expect lab to consist of additional lecture content, writing activities, demonstrations of analytical and GIS approaches, and time for collaborative development of wildlife management plans. I will be available during the scheduled laboratory sections (Wed. 9:00 - 10:50 AM and 1:00 - 2:50 PM) to answer questions and help you with lab assignments.

**Canvas:** Course materials including copies of lecture slides, assigned and recommended readings, recorded Zoom lectures, and other related materials will be posted to Canvas. All of your assignments and exams will be submitted in Canvas. I will communicate information related to the course using Canvas announcements.

**Assignments:** You will be given a variety of assignments during the semester related to readings, videos, Canvas discussions, and activities during lecture and lab.

**Journal club:** I will be assigning you 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 synchronous lectures on these dates. I will provide 3 peer-reviewed journal articles for you to read before your group meets to discuss the articles provided. You will record your Zoom meetings and submit the link and passcode for each recording as your assignment.

**Exams:** Three exams will be given during the semester; each exam will be worth 60 points and will be completed on Canvas. 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 plans:** You will be required to develop a management plan as part of a 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 in Zoom 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>	
Assignments	80	93% and above	A
Journal Club	60	90-92%	A-
Exams	180	87-89%	B+
Management Plan		83-86%	B
Draft Plans	80	80-82%	B-
Presentation	50	77-79%	C+
Final Plan	100	73-76%	C
Peer Evaluation	50	70-72%	C-
TOTAL	600	67-69%	D+
		64-66%	D
		62 and below	F

**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.

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	
January	Tues.	26	Course and management plan introduction	
	Thurs.	28	Defining habitat and management	
February	Tues.	2	Current land-use practices	
	Thurs.	4	Succession and disturbance	
	Tues.	9	Guest lecture - TBA	
	Thurs.	<b>11</b>	<b>Journal Club 1 - No class</b>	
	Tues.	16	Land cover types - wetlands and forest	
	Thurs.	18	Land cover types - grasslands and agriculture	
	Tues.	<b>23</b>	<b>WI TWS virtual meeting - No class</b>	
	Thurs.	<b>25</b>	<b>WI TWS virtual meeting - No class</b>	
March	Tues.	2	Home range and resource selection	
	Thurs.	<b>4</b>	<b>Exam 1 - No class</b>	
	Tues.	9	Water management I	
	Thurs.	11	Water management II	
	Tues.	16	Fire	
	Thurs.	<b>18</b>	<b>Journal club 2 - No class</b>	
	Tues.	<b>23</b>	<b>Spring Break - No class</b>	
	Thurs.	<b>25</b>	<b>Spring Break - No class</b>	
		Tues.	30	Wildlife monitoring
	April	Thurs.	1	Attribute monitoring
Tues.		6	Guest lecture - Haley Frater	
Thurs.		<b>8</b>	<b>Exam 2 - No class</b>	
Tues.		13	Harvest methods	
Thurs.		<b>15</b>	<b>Journal Club 3 - No class</b>	
Tues.		20	TBA	
Thurs.		22	TBA	
Tues.		27	Corridors and mechanical methods	
Thurs.		29	Anthropogenic disturbance	
May	Tues.	4	Anthropogenic disturbance	
	Thurs.	6	Policy and programs	
	Tues.	11	Presentations	
	Thurs.	13	Presentations	
<b>Final Exam</b>				

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

Date		Lab Topic	Assignment and due date
January	27	<b>No lab</b>	
February	3	Writing exercise	Writing assignment 1 Due: Feb. 12
	10	Writing exercise	Writing assignment 2 Due Feb. 19
	17	Work on Management Plans	Summary of group work Due: Feb. 19
	24	<b>No Lab - TWS Meeting</b>	
March	3	Group peer review assignment	Peer review 1 Due: Mar. 5
	10	GIS/Mapping	Making a Map Due: Mar. 19
	17	Prescribed fire exercise	Prescribed fire assignment Due: Apr. 2
	24	<b>No Lab - Spring Break</b>	
	31	Work on Management Plans	Summary of group work Due: Apr. 2
April	7	TBA	TBA
	14	TBA	TBA
	21	Group work on Management Plans / Giving a Presentation	Summary of group work Due: Apr. 23
	28	Corridors	Wolverine habitat connectivity Due: May 7
May	5	Work on Management Plans	Summary of group work Due: May 7
	12	<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/EdWqWKqeY8xAjVgnhHQ72zQBWcezJs1Gv3idTJ7\\_yfHL1A?e=4mSOKz](https://uwspedu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mperkins_uwsp_edu/EdWqWKqeY8xAjVgnhHQ72zQBWcezJs1Gv3idTJ7_yfHL1A?e=4mSOKz)