This class will focus on various aspects of natural resources policies and policymaking. Because this is a required class for forestry, applied ecology, and wildlife ecology majors, we will mostly focus on forest, wildlife, public lands and global climate change policies. We will also briefly cover water and minerals policies and how citizens can affect policymaking.

The class will begin with the basics of public policies and government so that you can understand the basis for natural resource policies. We will then move into specific policies. We’ll have guest speakers, a few films, and one or two in-class assignments so you can see how these policies apply to the “real world”. We’ll have a fair amount of class discussion and it counts toward your grade.

My goal for you is that you be able to represent your profession well within the policy arena. Whether you end up being a forester and Society of American Foresters member, an ecologist and Ecological Society of America member, or another type of professional within the natural resource or environmental arena, you'll need to understand public policy making. You will have to deal with existing, proposed, and new natural resource policies. This class will help you to do this effectively.

Nearly every class day you’ll have an assigned reading. Keeping up with them is essential to being able to participate in class discussion and doing well on quizzes and exams. Taking excellent notes during lectures, readings, and films is also essential. Talk to me early if you need help developing strategies to do well in this class. Reading questions will help you prepare for discussion, quizzes, and exams. However, quiz and exam questions can come from anywhere in an assigned reading (they won’t all come from the reading questions) as well as from my lectures, guest lectures, and in-class films.

Grades

Quizzes (30%): Most weeks of the semester you’ll have a Thursday quiz as indicated in the schedule. They will be at the end of class. There are eight quizzes and I will drop your two lowest grades. **There will be no make-up quizzes.** If you miss a quiz it will count as a quiz that gets dropped. The quizzes will usually be multiple choice-based. They will test you on class material and readings covered since the previous quiz.

Midterm (30%): You will have one in-class midterm exam. It will include short answer and multiple-choice questions.

Final (30%): You will have one comprehensive final exam during finals week. It will be structured like the midterm.

Small Group Assignment(s) (10%): Once or twice during the semester I’ll have you work on in-class small group assignments. These will be handed in at the end of class. I will grade these for thoroughness, seriousness, and appropriate usage of course material.
Optional Extra Credit:
Participation (10%): I like to have a discussion-rich class. With 70+ students, the only way to give you credit for this have you write up participation points and hand them in to me. This is hokey, but unavoidable. You can get them for participation at any time in the semester, including when we have guest speakers.

When you ask a question, make a comment, or answer a question during class discussion jot down the gist of what you said, put the date and your name on it, and hand it in at the end of class. These will be tallied to generate your participation score – talking about once per week in class will put you in the A range for this extra credit.

Required Texts (Both are on sale at the bookstore. Two copies of each are on two hour reserve at the library):

1) Natural Resources and the Informed Citizen by Steve Dennis (referred to as Dennis in the reading assignments)
2) Ruin and Recovery by Dave Dempsey (Dempsey in the reading assignments)

Schedule

Week 1 January 10-14
Tuesday Introduction, syllabus.  
Thursday  

Policy Background; Property Rights

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 1 and 6

Week 2 January 17-21
Tuesday  
Thursday Quiz 1

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 4
Assigned Reading: Platt** Prop Rights Handout

(** indicates switch authors)

Week 3 January 24-28
Tuesday  
Thursday Quiz 2

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 5
Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 8 and 18**

Week 4 Jan 31-Feb4
Tuesday  
Thursday Quiz 3

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 1 and 2**
Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 3

Week 5 Feb 7-11
Tuesday  
Thursday No class – Winter Carnival

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 4
Week 6 February 14-18
Tuesday

Park Policies and Management

Thursday Quiz 4

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 7**

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 7**

Week 7 February 21-25
Tuesday

Minerals Policies and Management

Thursday Review for Midterm Exam

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 22**

Week 8 Feb 28-March 4
Tuesday Midterm Exam

Midterm

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 8**

Spring Break

Week 9 March 14-18
Tuesday

Global Climate Change

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Handouts, Physical Science and Climate Change

Assigned Reading: Handouts Problem and Solutions

Week 10 March 21-25
Tuesday Quiz 5

Wildlife Policies and Management

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 9

Assigned Reading: Dempsey, Ch 10

Week 11 March 28-April 1
Tuesday Quiz 6

Wildlife and Public Participation

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 10, 19**

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 14, 17, 23**

Week 12 April 4-8
Tuesday Quiz 7

Water Policies and Management

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Dennis, Ch 21**

Assigned Reading: Dempsey 11**

Week 13 April 11-15
Tuesday Quiz 8

Sustainability and Natural Resources

Thursday

Assigned Reading: Dempsey 12

Assigned Reading: Dempsey 13

Week 14 April 18-22
Tuesday

Assigned Reading: Dempsey 14

Thursday Review for Final Exam

Finals Week - Comprehensive Final Exam Thursday 10:15-12:15 in our regular classroom.