

# FOR 215 : FOREST RESOURCE CAPSTONE

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## Transcript title

Forest Resource Capstone

## Credits

3

## Grade mode

Standard letter grades

## Contact hours total

50

## Lecture hours

20

## Lab hours

30

## Prerequisites

instructor approval.

## Description

Students conduct a sample survey of a large area and present their findings, along with recommendations for management of the area, in a written report. Oral presentation also made to department staff. Limited to second year students or those who have fulfilled majority of Forest Resources Technology Degree requirements.

## Learning outcomes

1. Explain the origin and process of the National Environmental Policy Act.
2. Describe the National Forest planning process and apply the appropriate portions to the assigned capstone project.
3. Explain the role of data collection, or results of the lack of data, and the importance of scientific understanding, including social science, in the planning process.
4. Describe the basic ecological, economic, and social pressures on forest management.
5. Identify, collect, quantify, and analyze biologic, abiotic, and cultural information to enable informed decision making.
6. Develop management alternatives for the assigned capstone project, select a preferred alternative, and defend the preferred alternative in a presentation to an audience of experts.

## Content outline

Identifying landowner objectives  
NEPA and the federal planning process focusing on USFS National Forest planning  
Understanding the conditions and constraints on the land  
Determine data/info needs  
Compile existing data  
Identifying legal constraints  
Ecological/silvicultural considerations  
Site inventory

Project mapping  
Wildlife concerns  
Alternative analysis  
Plan compilation  
Plan-in-hand  
Develop poster  
Project analysis  
Plan compilation  
Plan-in-hand  
Develop poster  
Project analysis

## Required materials

Required Texts: all materials from previous courses in the Forest Resources Technology program are utilized in this course. Required gear: hard hat, eye protection, clipboard, appropriate field clothes for labs that will take place during rainy and snowy weather, including durable field boots.

## Grading methods

Grades will be determined by weekly homework and quizzes, weekly field labwork, midterm exam, and final exam.