



DESCRIPTION

This certificate is based upon the student’s successful application of wilderness stewardship theory and practice to a designated wilderness area that has been agreed upon by the student/mentor pair. The student will complete four online courses:

1. *The Wilderness Act of 1964*
2. *Deciding to Keep Wilderness Wild: Four Cornerstones for Wilderness Management*
3. *Writing a Minimum Requirements Analysis*
4. *Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework*

Each course is followed by an assignment in which the student applies the concepts presented to the selected wilderness area. There is a final assignment – the capstone portfolio – in which the student presents all of their work and a reflection piece. Each of the assignments are graded by the mentor; the capstone portfolio is co-graded by the student’s mentor and another WSCP mentor who collaborate to provide feedback to the student.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Each course has specific learning objectives. Below are the overall objectives for the certificate.

After completing the courses, assignments, and other program components, you should be able to:

- * Identify and describe wilderness character
- * State prohibited uses of wilderness and exceptions to these prohibitions
- * Describe the special provisions made by the Wilderness Act
- * Distinguish between wild/untrammelled and natural conditions
- * Identify and describe how to protect wilderness benefits
- * Define and explain the concept of minimum requirements, and the process used for determining whether action is necessary and the minimum activity used to achieve that action
- * Describe the approach of managing wilderness as a whole
- * Use minimum requirements analysis and the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide in a specific wilderness management case
- * Identify and describe the wilderness stewardship planning framework and its eight components
- * Describe the use of the wilderness stewardship planning framework in a specific wilderness management case

RECOMMENDED COURSE SCHEDULE

As an adult learner, the student is responsible for managing his/her progress in the WSCP. The schedule below indicates the due dates for the five assignments.

It is strongly recommended that you adhere to this schedule and/or submit work before the indicated completion dates. Please review the Late Submission policy so that you understand the penalties for late work.

Timeline	Topic	Course Activity	To Mentor for Feedback	Due Date
October 1 to November 12	<i>Wilderness Act of 1964</i>	E-course and Assessment		
	Introduction and Check-in	Webinar		November 2
	Create your Wilderness Character Narrative	Assignment 1	October 29	November 12

November 12 to December 31		Discussion - November		November 30
	<i>Four Cornerstones of Wilderness Management</i>	E-course and Assessment		
	Wilderness Character and Protection	Assignment 2	November 26	December 10
		Discussion - December		December 31
January 1 to January 28		Webinar		January 7
	Writing an MRA	E-course and Assessment		
	MRA in your Wilderness Area	Assignment 3	January 14	January 28
		Discussion - January		January 31
January 29 To March 1	Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework	E-course and Assessment		
		Discussion - February		February 28
	Wilderness Stewardship Planning	Assignment 4	February 15	March 1
March 2 to April 30	Capstone Portfolio Assignment	Assignment	March 15	March 31
		Discussion - March		March 31
	Final Grade and Certificate Issued	Certificate		April 30

MENTOR ASSIGNMENT, TIMELINE, AND COMMUNICATION POLICY

All students are assigned a mentor to whom they are responsible for communicating about their coursework and progress in the certificate program. The mentor and student will complete the WSCP Mentoring Contract prior to the student beginning coursework. This contract outlines the responsibilities and expectations of both the mentor and mentee, includes contact information for both parties, a schedule for communication and feedback, and indicates the federally designated wilderness area to be studied.

The student and mentor should carefully review the course activity schedule and use it to verify that the mentor and student schedules can adhere to the deadlines for assignment submission, turnaround, and feedback.

The student and mentor will discuss the indicated completion dates for the various certificate milestones, such as course assessments, mentor feedback, and assignment due dates. Mentors and their mentees should communicate directly at least of once per month during the certificate course of study. Any alterations to the agreed upon schedule should be discussed and agreed upon between the mentor and student.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

ALL course-related activities are accessed and tracked in the virtual classroom. Use this page to connect to the e-courses and assessments, upload assignments, and participate in the discussion forum. The virtual classroom is accessed by logging in to www.provalenslearning.com and selecting 'my courses.'

Adequate Progress: It is strongly recommended that students make every effort to adhere to the assignment deadlines negotiated with their mentors. While the WSCP respects the multiple demands of its professional students, the course of study is most beneficial and likely to result in successful completion if deadlines are respected throughout the experience.

The Certificate in the Fundamentals of Wilderness Stewardship will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of all program requirements, as determined by the WSCP instructor, mentor, and Board of Regents. Students must satisfactorily complete the following within one year of commencement of the program:

1. Four Wilderness E-courses..... Each course is self-paced, contains ungraded activities, and takes between one and three hours to complete.
2. Four E-course Assessments..... The assessments cover the content in each of the e-courses, respectively, and are taken after each course, before beginning the written assignment.
3. Five Written Assignments..... After the completion of each e-course and assessment, the student will consult with his/her mentor about the specific focus for the assignment. These assignments are written papers ranging from approximately 5 to 15 pages.
4. Discussion Forum Participation..... There are five, month-long, discussion forum topics. Students should respond with at least two separate posts for each: 1) respond to the original forum question, and 2) respond to another student’s response.
- ❖ Webinars..... An introductory webinar and at least one other topical “microwebinar” are offered as part of the program. The microwebinars are designed to provide timely information on assignments and wilderness issues, as well as an opportunity for peer and mentor questions. Webinars will be recorded and made available; attendance is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged.

GRADING POLICY

ASSESSMENTS are objective and scored automatically by the learning management software system. The assessments can be retaken an unlimited number of times. A score of 80% is required in order to pass the assessment and proceed to the next step in the course of study. Each assessment, regardless of the total number of items is worth a maximum of 25 points when scoring 80% or above.

ASSIGNMENTS are graded (by the mentors) using a point-based rubric. Review the rubric before beginning an assignment. In addition to a numerical grade, written feedback is provided. Each assignment is worth 100 points, and may be resubmitted one time for a maximum possible 80 points. Students are encouraged to submit their assignments for mentor review prior to the official due date (this does not count the official submission for grading). See the course schedule, above, for dates to submit for informal review

The cumulative score must be equal to or greater than 80% to receive the Certificate.

POINT BREAKDOWN:

Passing assessment (4) =	25 pts	=	100 pts
Assignments (4) =	100 pts	=	400 pts
Discussion Forum (5) =	20 pts	=	100 pts
<u>Capstone Portfolio =</u>	<u>100 pts</u>	=	<u>100 pts</u>
Total			700 pts
To receive certificate	(80%)	≥	560 pts

LATE SUBMISSIONS

Late submissions of assessments and assignments will result in the following:

- Submitted after the due date, up through seventh day = 10% point reduction
- Submitted after the seventh day past-due up to 14 days late = 20% point reduction
- Submitted more than 14 days late = no points awarded
- You must submit all five assignments and earn an average grade of 80% on assignments in order to receive a certificate.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Throughout this rigorous course of study, it is expected that students refrain from cheating and plagiarism. When completing projects, papers, or other assignments, please keep the following policy and guidelines in mind:

A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:

1. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
2. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
3. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
4. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

Consequences for cheating and plagiarism misconduct include:

- Resubmission of assignments with penalty
- Withdrawal from Certificate Program
- Other consequences at the discretion of the WSCP Board of Regents

The student's assignment may not be accepted, may receive fewer points, or may receive a failing grade.

ASSISTANCE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

While most of your work will be with your assigned mentor, there may be times that you need either technical assistance or have a more general question about the Wilderness Stewardship Certificate Program.

For technical assistance:	For questions about the WSCP:
Go to: http://provalenslearning.com/contact_us/	Go to: wscp.eppley.org
Email: support@eppley.org	Email: wilderness@eppley.org
Call: 812-855-3095	Call: 812-856-3881

Your instructor of record for this certificate is Kate Wiltz, Project Manager at the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands. Direct questions to her at kwiltz@indiana.edu.