

Fall Semester 2018



Ecological Inventory and Management of Protected Lands

NRS 567 3 credits

Undergraduates and Graduate Students Welcome

Instructor: Carol Lynn Trocki, cltrocki@gmail.com or (401) 952-2937

Time & Location: 117A Coastal Institute, Tuesday Afternoons 2:00 to 5:45 PM

Format: lecture & discussion, demos & field trips

Course Description: This course will expose students with existing skills in natural history and ecology to the applications and contributions they can make to address local land stewardship needs and engage productively in Rhode Island's land conservation community. The class will guide and support students in the production of a Baseline Documentation Report for a local conservation group. This effort will provide students with a tangible portfolio project demonstrating their technical skills in an applied fashion, while also helping to address the existing 'BDR backlog' that threatens local land protection efforts.

Qualifications: This course is suitable for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. Prior experience with flora, fauna, and environmental resource identification, experience with GIS mapping, and a passion about contributing to land conservation.

In this Course Students Will:

- ☑ Apply a variety of previously studied NRS subject matter to the practical challenge of land conservation
- ☑ Demonstrate technical and communication skills by producing a Baseline Documentation Report for a protected property
- ☑ Develop a better understanding of the challenges facing land conservation and the various mechanisms and entities involved
- ☑ Explore personal values and opinions about the role of land conservation in natural resources science & management

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Resources:

- Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative, Baseline Documentation & Inventory Protocol, Version 2, September 2014
- Access to the Land Trust Alliance's Online Learning Center (sign in w/ URI email)
- ArcGIS for Desktop, Student Trial Software (ask Carol for authorization number)

Grading:

- Completed BDR for partner land trust (80%)
- Attendance at 1 land trust board/committee meeting and participation in 1 land trust public outreach and/or stewardship event (10%)
- Class attendance and participation (10%)

NRS 568: Ecological Inventory and Management of Protected Lands Spring 2018 Class meets: Tues, 2:00-5:45 PM, CIK 117A

10/01/2018 CLT

Date	Class Topic
Sept 11	Introductions, What is Land Stewardship?
Sept 18	Baseline Documentation Reports – <i>what are they and why do we need them?</i> Other Elements of a Stewardship Program
Sept 25	Conservation Easements & the Legal Aspects of Conservation Transactions <i>Reading & interpreting conservation documents. Planning for perpetual stewardship.</i> Other Elements of a Stewardship Program – Management Plans
Oct 2	Other Elements of a Stewardship Program – Monitoring
Oct 9	Document Review, Determining Boundaries, Planning your Site Visit
Oct 9	Field Trip, Part 1: Local Land Trust Property BDR Site Visit <i>What are we looking for... and how do we find our way...</i>
Oct 16	Field Trip, Part 2: Local Land Trust Property BDR Site Visit GIS & Online Mapping Resources for Land Trusts and Land Stewardship Applications <i>Mapping resources & identifying conservation values on protected properties.</i>
Oct 23	Profile of a Land Trust Stewardship Staff Member Guest: Alex Chuman, Stewardship Director, Aquidneck Land Trust & Rhode Island Land Trust Council Board Member <i>Documentation for future monitoring & stewardship needs.</i>
Oct 30	What else do we need to know to do a BDR? Questions and Work Session.
Nov 6	Landscape-Level Conservation – Working with Landowners and other Partners <i>How do we decide what land to protect? Where do the resources come from?</i>
Nov 13	No Class – Veteran’s Day, Monday Classes Meet Tuesday
Nov 20	Land Trust Advocacy and Community Networking <i>How does policy shape land conservation? Who pays for it? Why isn’t government regulation enough? What’s the lay of the land in land conservation these days?</i>
Nov 27	Why Saving Acres Isn’t Enough... <i>Land Management Planning – future challenges and opportunities. What’s the vision?</i>
Dec 4	Panel Discussion with RI Land Trust Leaders - for this class we will meet at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn in Matunuck!
Dec 11	The Value of Public Engagement, Wrap-Up / Evaluations
Dec 18	Final BDRs Due by 12:00pm