This course will explore the linkages between ecological science, policy, and management practices as part of the ongoing evolution in managing natural ecosystems. It is designed to prepare students to pursue professional careers or advanced studies and in natural resource management and policy. A key objective of this course is to equip students with backgrounds in the biological and ecological sciences to successfully navigate—and constructively participate in—policy, planning, and resource management decision making processes in both public agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

Students will come away from this course with a thorough understanding of (1) how ecological science, environmental policy, and ecosystem management practice have developed over time through both incremental evolution, and occasional revolutions, (2) the incorporation of ecological science in US environmental and natural resource policy and law; and (3) the ongoing reconsideration of some of the most fundamental aspects of ecosystem management science and policy as we move further into the “no-analog future” of climate change.