This course will explore the linkages between ecological science and policy as part of the ongoing evolution in the conservation and management of natural ecosystems. It is designed to prepare students to pursue professional careers or advanced studies 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 deeper understanding of (1) how ecological science, environmental policy, and ecosystem management practice have evolved in the US and internationally, (2) the integration of advances in ecological science into natural resource and environmental policy and law; and (3) the ongoing reevaluation 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 and the Anthropocene.