

Natural Resource Management CRSN 152 Sect 03

Tues/Thur 9:50-11:45 2 units

Instructor: Kristen Heady kkusic@ucsc.edu

Did you know that UC Santa Cruz is going through a planning process to determine future growth for the next 20 years?

The UC Santa Cruz Campus is composed of over 2000 acres and is located in a truly unique setting. Campus combines traditional University facilities (e.g. lecture halls, residence building, theatres, and sports fields to name a few), but what makes it truly unique is the natural setting that it is placed in and the values these lands provide for supporting research, teaching, and conservation. As UCSC grows we have to make decisions about tradeoffs that are associated with growth. In 1988, the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) created the 409 acre campus reserve. The campus reserve is not a permanently protected UC Natural Reserve; rather it is a land use designation within the current LRDP and can change when LRDP's are revised. Additionally, over the past decade there has been a tremendous amount of growth in recreational use (primarily mountain biking) that, while providing a valued outdoor activity, is having an impact on habitat within undeveloped portions of the campus. During the Natural Resource Management Laboratory Practicum, you will gain real-world experience in understanding how land is managed and processes that go into stewarding these areas. This 2 unit course/internship should be taken all three quarters (Fall, Winter, Spring) as each quarter will build off of the last one. You will be tasked with evaluating plans, leading habitat and species mapping efforts, implementing on-the-ground surveys, and creating a land management plan by the end of spring quarter. We will meet on Tuesdays and you will work with group members on Thursday to complete your project. During this class you will meet with various stakeholders such as UC Reserve managers, professors who use the living laboratory of upper campus, recreational users (e.g. mountain bikers, equestrians, State Parks, etc.), and administrators who are involved in LRDP planning efforts. Through GIS and other types of monitoring, you will help to create a plan for reserve and recreational use for upper campus with the objective of creating a comprehensive recommendation for natural resource protection and use on upper campus. This class will require you to work independently as well as with a small group and is open to all majors. Please contact me if you have any questions.