Syllabus
WLF 694 – ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT
Spring 2002

Instructor: Abby Powell, Asst. Leader (Wildlife)
Alaska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
Room 209, Irving I, UAF; 474-5055, ffanp@uaf.edu

Course Objectives:

Through critical review and discussion of historical and contemporary literature and case studies:

1) gain an understanding of laws pertaining to endangered species management
2) evaluate cases studies (successes and failures) and effectiveness of current legislation
3) develop an endangered species Recovery Plan

Course format is a combined lecture and discussion. Students will be required to read papers assigned for each lecture and contribute to the discussions. The instructor will facilitate discussion and provide a summary that synthesizes the literature and/or topics discussed during each weekly meeting. Students will be required to read, comprehend, synthesize, and discuss selected historical and current literature concerning endangered species legislation (state, federal, and international), examples of successes and failures of the current system, case studies for plants, invertebrates, fish, birds, herptiles, and mammals, the process of recovery planning including developing recovery goals, and alternative methods for preserving biological diversity. Students will be evaluated on their participation in discussions, special assignments, two exams, and a term paper (Recovery Plan). Depending on class size, students will break into groups to develop a recovery plan for a species that is currently listed but does not have a plan.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions.

Grading Policy:

1) 20% - Contribution to seminar discussions led by others,
2) 20% - Special Assignments
2) 20% - Midterm Exam (March 13th)
3) 20% - A completed Recovery Plan for a species currently listed but without a plan. Species must be approved in advance by the instructor. Plans will be developed in phases during the semester, with review by the instructor after each phase. The final grade will be based on the completed Plan due at the end of the semester,
4) 20% Final Exam (May 8th)
Topics:
The Endangered Species Act
  History
  Listing (Section 4)
  "Take" (Section 7)
  Critical Habitat
  Recovery
  Amendments
Case Studies
  Plants
  Invertebrates
  Fish
  Reptiles/Amphibians
  Birds
  Mammals
State Laws
International Legislation
  Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Multiple Species Conservation Plans (MSCPs)

Teaching Procedures:

Lecture sessions will meet twice each week followed by a discussion. All students will read and be prepared to discuss assigned papers for that week. The instructor will facilitate discussion and provide a summary that synthesizes the literature discussed during each weekly meeting. Occasional guest lectures may include agency personnel dealing with various aspects of endangered species issues in Alaska and/or the Pacific Northwest.

For the term paper, the class will develop Recovery Plans for listed species that currently does not have a plan. Students will identify current knowledge of the species abundance and distribution, develop recovery goals and criteria, identify critical habitat, and write a comprehensive recovery plan. Students may use Population Viability Analysis (PVA) to develop recovery criteria. This exercise may lead to the submission of Recovery Plans to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies for their use and review.