

Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship

2019 SUMMER FIELD COURSE

*Available for undergraduate and graduate degree
and non-degree seeking students*



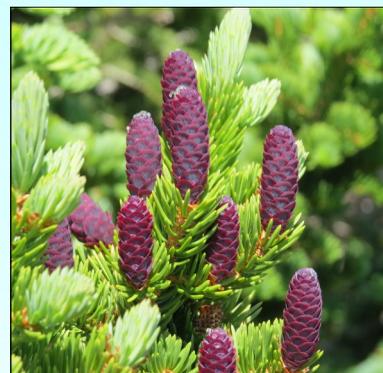
FOREST AND RANGELAND
STEWARDSHIP
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

“...the oldest task in human history [is] to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.”

- Aldo Leopold, 1938

Ranching in the Rocky Mountain region is not what it used to be. While livestock production remains an important component of most ranching programs, today's ranches have diversified their operations significantly over the last decade, allowing for more stable economic profitability and enhanced environmental sustainability for generations to come. The Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship (F480A1) summer field course is anchored in experiential learning. The course will offer extensive interactions with ranch managers and experts in the many different fields of natural resource management that contemporary ranchers encounter on a day-to-day basis. Students will visit and stay at a variety of working ranches in the Rocky Mountain West and see first-hand how operations are tailored to support ecosystem processes, foster lasting protection of the land, and achieve economic sustainability.

The course will consist of two 10-day field sessions hosted at ten ranches in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Together, the ranches represent a variety of ecosystems that characterize the Rocky Mountains. Field visits to each ranch will highlight the unique opportunities and challenges in modern ranch management and land stewardship.



In this field course, students will be introduced to:

- **Different grazing strategies developed for cattle and bison, and see how grazing plans are designed to help protect biodiversity, enhance soils and conserve water resources**
- **Ecology of western forests and see how they are managed for timber, wildlife habitat, fire risk and carbon sequestration**
- **Collaborative partnerships with state and federal wildlife agencies to re-establish and protect threatened and endangered wildlife, such as bighorn sheep and the Rio Grande cutthroat trout**
- **Riparian habitat restoration projects designed to protect critical headwaters and understand how water rights influence land use decisions**
- **Long-term conservation planning through easements, carbon cap-and-trade, and other programs and incentives**
- **Methods on vegetation sampling techniques used for monitoring response to management treatments and natural processes, such as grazing and fire**
- **Basic elements of hunting programs and game management strategies, agricultural practices to conserve water, alternative energy development and mineral rights, ecotourism and guest services, ranch financial operations, and more**

The course is designed to introduce students to the variety of ways in which ranches address similar challenges. Students may not become experts in all covered topics, but they will be exposed to established practices and emerging ideas to build a toolbox of techniques and programs that will help them have successful careers working with Western ranches. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of the range of career paths available in ranch management.

Course Information

Course Number: F 480A1

Available for Degree and Non-degree Seeking Students

4 Credits

Food, Lodging and Transportation Included

Dates: July 14 - July 23 and July 28 - August 6, 2019

*** Students are required to attend both sessions.**



Course Instructors

Bill Romme

Paul Evangelista

Bob Sturtevant

Tony Vorster

Additional Course Information

Tony Vorster : anthony.vorster@colostate.edu

<https://sites.google.com/view/csu-western-ranch-management/home>

Non-degree Seeking Student Information

<https://summer.colostate.edu/summer-only-students/>

Guest Instructors

Lesli Allison— Executive Director, Western Landowners Alliance

David Anderson— Director, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

JJ Autry – Manager, JE Canyon Ranch

Amanda Benton – Forester, Vermejo Park Ranch

Lance Bernal – Wildlife Biologist, Vermejo Park Ranch

Les Dhaseleer– Natural Resource Manager, Vermejo Park Ranch

Joel Dunlap – Manager, Bar NI Ranch

James Fischer – Forester, Trinchera Ranch

Tim Haarmann – Manager, Banded Peak Ranch

Gus Holm – Manager, Vermejo Park Ranch

Joel Lemons – Assistant General Manager, Vermejo Park Ranch

Linda Nagel – Department Head, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, CSU

Chris Pague – Conservation Ecology, The Nature Conservancy

Ron Rivale— Resource Specialist, Colorado State Land Board

Ty Ryland – Manager, Trinchera Ranch

Kate Schoeneker— Wildlife Biologist, US Geological Survey

Rick Smith – Riparian Specialist, Vermejo Park Ranch

Derek Sokoloski – Southeast Area Manager, Colorado State Forest Service

Julie Sullivan – Owner, San Juan Land and Livestock LLC

Aaron Swallow – Environmental Manager, Trinchera Ranch

Cindy Villa – Rangeland Ecologist, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Sarah Wentzel-Fisher— Executive Director, Quivira Coalition

George Whitten – Owner, San Juan Land and Livestock LLC

More to be announced



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