

Conservation in altered landscapes: biological, social and institutional perspectives

26-30 March 2001

Murdoch University

(Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Education Centre 3.106)

A five-day short course for Bushcare Officers and others involved in providing conservation advice and extension in southwest WA.

The course aims to provide the theoretical background to ecosystem and landscape management, from a variety of perspectives, and concrete examples of how this can be translated into practical on-ground application. The course contains a mixture of lecture, workshop and practical material. All background literature and presentation material will be provided as part of the course.

Course presenters:

Richard Hobbs (Coordinator)

Sue Moore

Fionnuala Frost

Chris Clarke

Ken Wallace (CALM, Narrogin)

PROGRAM

Monday 26 March

Ecosystem and landscape management – principles

Presenter: Richard Hobbs

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and introductions
- 9:30 – 10:30 Introductory exercise: Let's manage a landscape!
- 10:30- 11:00 TEA/COFFEE
- 11:00 – 11:30 Course objectives
- 11:30 -12:30 Ecosystem dynamics and management
- 12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH
- 1:30 – 2:30 Principles of landscape ecology
- 2:30- 3:30 Moving to real landscapes: group discussion
- 3:30 – 4:00 TEA/COFFEE
- 4:00 – 5:00 Coupling ecological and social systems

Tuesday 27 March

Management and restoration in practice

Presenters: Richard Hobbs, Ken Wallace, Chris Clarke

- 9:00 – 9:30 Review of Monday's activities
- 9:30 - 10:30 Conservation in WA landscapes
- 10:30 – 11:00 TEA/COFFEE
- 11:00 – 12:30 Goals, threats and approaches Ken Wallace
- 12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH
- 1:30 – 2:30 Exercise: what do we value in landscapes?
- 2:30 – 3:30 Landscape restoration: hydrological perspectives Chris Clarke
- 3:30 – 4:00 TEA/COFFEE
- 4:00 – 5:00 Landscape planning and integration

Wednesday 28 March

Presenter: Fionnuala Frost

- 8.30 - 9:20 The environment in which management and restoration practice will occur:
Social, biological, economic and political.
- 9.20 – 10:00 Presentation: Policy environment, policy instruments and public rights.
- 10:00 – 10:30 TEA/COFFEE
- 10.30 – 12:00 Workshop activity
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH
- 1:00 – 1:45 What is capacity? Whose capacity, yours, theirs and ours!!
- 1.45 – 3:00 Workshop activity
- 3:00 – 3:30 TEA/COFFEE
- 3.30 – 5:00 Experiences in other settings - Interactive session.

Thursday 29 March

Presenter: Fionnuala Frost

- 8.30 – 8:45 Learnings from yesterday.
- 8.45 – 9:30 Interdisciplinarity - What is it and why is it needed in landscape management
and restoration.
- 9:30 – 10:00 Values and principles from different perspectives.
- 10:00 – 10:30 Feedback
- 10.30 – 11:00 TEA/COFFEE
- 11:00 - 12:00 Developing an interdisciplinarity framework.
- 12:00 – 12:30 Report back
- 12.30 – 1:30 LUNCH
- 1.30 – 2:15 Describing the direction and needs for landscape management and restoration
programmes
- 2.15 – 3:00 Models applied in landscape management.
- 3:00 – 3:30 Afternoon tea
- 3.30 – 4:15 Workshop activity
- 4.15 – 4:45 Report back
- 4.45 – 5:00 Key learnings

Friday 30 March

Communication: putting it all into practice

Presenter: Richard Hobbs

9:00 – 10:00	Exercise: Values and perceptions
10:00- 10:30	Communication: when, where and how?
10:30 – 11:00	TEA/COFFEE
11:00 – 12:00	An example from Living Landscapes
12:00 – 1:00	Exercise: let's communicate!
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH
2:00 – 3:00	Pulling it all together: can we do things better?
3:00 – 3:30	TEA/COFFEE
3:30 – 4:30	Course summary and wrap up.
4:30 – 6:00	CLOSING DRINKS

Course learning objectives

Participants come to this course with a wide range of expertise and experience. The course aims to provide a conceptual framework for conservation in altered landscapes and mechanisms for using this in practical on-ground situations. The course covers a range of issues for which there are no hard and fast answers, but aims to provide a better understanding of the issues and to point to potential approaches for dealing with them.

Course participants are first introduced to the ideas of ecosystem and landscape management, which are then related to concrete examples. The particular issues facing conservation managers in Southwestern WA are discussed, and relevant goals and approaches are examined. Policy issues and the importance of social processes are highlighted, and the relevance of values and perceptions discussed. Finally, effective communication is presented as an important conservation tool.

By the end of the course, the participant should have achieved the following:

1. An understanding of the theoretical background to ecosystem and landscape management, including recent developments in these areas
2. An understanding of adaptive management and its use in conservation
3. An understanding of the importance of social, economic and policy factors in conservation management and planning
4. An understanding of the importance of values and perceptions in shaping attitudes and behaviours
5. An increased ability to communicate effectively with others and to influence conservation outcomes through effective group processes.
6. An understanding of how the above elements can be incorporated into practical on-ground application.