Large-Scale Ecosystem Management

Course Coordinator: Rosalie Chapple
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Course code: IEST5008
Eligibility: Postgraduate
Credit weight: 6 Units
Mode of study: On-campus (3 days) and field trip (3 days) intensive. Distance mode not available.
Dates: November 24-December 1 (6 days 9am-5pm, Mon-Tues on campus, Wed-Fri field trip Blue Mtns, Mon on campus)
Room: TBA

What do environmental (natural resource) managers “manage”? This short intensive course explores this question and the interdisciplinary nature of large-scale ecosystem management in the context of a protected conservation area. Natural resource management is complex, based on significant uncertainty, and presents a wide range of challenges. At the site level, active management of threats is important for conservation goals to be met, and management needs to balance ecological needs with economic, political and socio-cultural imperatives beyond the protected area boundary. This course uses as a case study the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA), a million hectares inland of Sydney.

Students go into the field in the Blue Mountains for three days with professionals from conservation agencies and with local ecologists and members of local Aboriginal communities, to confront on-ground management challenges. Problems are explored using an interdisciplinary problem orientation framework and social process mapping.

Topics explored include:
- Protected areas, biodiversity conservation & adaptive management
- Bushfire management
- Introduced species
- Visitor management
- Indigenous co-management
- Public engagement

No prior knowledge of ecosystems is required. Students are required to participate in bush-walking and a level of fitness is required. There is a fee of $140 for the field trip.

Likely assessment: Group presentation 20%, Individual report 40%, Essay 25%, Participation & Journal 15%


Draft course outline: SEE HERE