

Course Outline - NRRT 610

Course Number:	NRRT 610
Course Title:	Natural Resource Management and Tourism
Credits:	2
Terms:	Fall
Prerequisite:	None
Grading:	Traditional

Course Description: Tourism is now the world's largest industry. Every type of tourism activity, ranging from a trip to a state park to a Caribbean cruise, from a California theme park visit to a safari in a national park halfway around the world, has an impact on and depends on natural resources at local, regional and global scales. The satisfaction and enjoyment of tourists, the long term success of tourism enterprises and destinations and the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people that depend on tourism directly or indirectly for their livelihoods likewise depend on critical natural resources and processes such as clean air and water, food security, abundant biodiversity and minimizing risks of natural disasters and threats to human health derived from poor resource management. The potential for tourism growth, diversification and sustainability at any destination is linked to how natural resources are being currently being used locally and globally and potential future changes in land, sea and natural resource use and condition. Global warming is already having impact on tourism destinations ranging from ski resorts to coral reefs to beach destinations. That risk, which is likely to grow, also needs to be considered in tourism planning.

Course Objectives: Students will gain an understanding of:

- The dependence of tourism on sustainable natural resource management
- The types and extent of tourism impacts on natural resources
- The impacts of poor natural resource stewardship and climate change on tourism activities and destinations
- Methods for reducing the ecological footprint of tourism activities and destinations
- Methods for increasing tourism's contribution to natural resource conservation and management and improved human welfare and livelihoods

Main topics to be covered in this course include the following:

- What is tourism's impact on natural resources?
- How is tourism affected by other types of land and natural resource use?
- How can we plan and manage tourism enterprises, products and destinations to reduce impacts on natural resources?

- How can we increase the positive impacts of tourism on resource conservation and local economic welfare?
- How might global climate affect tourism and how can the tourism sector reduce its contribution to global climate change?
- How can tourism contribute to sustainable local agriculture, fisheries, and forest management and bolster local livelihoods through procurement policies that favor local sustainably managed and harvested resources?
- How can we build awareness of tourists, tourism industry employees and entrepreneurs to reduce tourism's ecological footprint and expand its potential contributions to natural resource conservation and human livelihoods?