

Overview of Independent Study Course

Semester Activity: Research on the history and geography of forest management in central New Mexico.

Semester Products: (1) Bibliography on forest management in New Mexico and the Southwest.
(2) Research paper on the current management priorities for the near-urban forests in central New Mexico, putting these priorities in historical context.

Proposed Schedule:

Week of 6/7	create bibliography, bibliography due 6/11
Week of 6/14	readings in forest management, schedule interviews
Week of 6/21	readings in forest management, schedule interview
Week of 6/28	finish readings, progress report due 7/2
Week of 7/5	conduct interviews
Week of 7/12	conduct interview
Week of 7/19	write paper
Week of 7/26	finish paper, paper due (by email) no later than 7/29

Bibliography: At the end of the first week, submit a bibliography by email that includes a complete list of all potentially relevant readings in the history and geography of forest management. The bibliography should include sources on the general history of the U.S. Forest Service, as well as more detailed sources that focus on the U.S. West, the Southwest, and New Mexico. At a minimum, the bibliography should include at least 5-8 books, and 10-15 journal articles.

Progress Report: At the end of the first month, submit a progress report by email that includes a detailed description of works in progress. This will likely include (1) an outline of topics for your paper, based on readings complete, (2) a list of confirmed and prospective interviewees, and (3) a list of interview questions.

Research Paper: The final semester product is a 7,500-word research paper (approximately 17 double-spaced pages, not including images or bibliography), which is due by email no later than July 29. This paper should:

- (1) Provide a historical overview of forest management priorities and practices throughout New Mexico and the Southwest, based on in-depth reading of secondary sources, such as books and journal articles.
- (2) Identify and explain current management priorities for the near-urban forests of central New Mexico, based on direct interviews with forest managers and other administrative personnel.
- (3) Discuss the geographical patterns that have emerged over time in the management of New Mexico's forests, showing how management priorities and practices for the central New Mexico forests compare and contrast with management priorities and practices in other forest areas.
- (4) Provide a sophisticated analysis that explains how the management priorities and practices for central New Mexico's forests compare and contrast with the larger historical context of Southwestern forest management.