

COMBINE STUDY OF THE LAW WITH A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NATURAL RESOURCES

The Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources offers educational programs specifically designed to meet the needs of natural resources professionals and individuals interested in related disciplines. Programs are ideally suited to working professionals who seek credentials for job advancement, individuals considering a career change, and individuals seeking a graduate-level certificate of study in natural resources to complement other credentials. Courses are offered in both traditional classroom settings (on the Falls Church and Alexandria, Virginia, campuses) and around Virginia through the use of distance technologies such as two-way videoconferencing.

The Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources (CNR) and Appalachian School of Law (ASL) are now offering a fully-approved **Certificate of Graduate Study in Natural Resources**. The certificate offers ASL students the opportunity to expand and complement their studies while preparing for professional work in natural resource law. Appalachian School of Law students will be awarded the certificate upon completion of a minimum of 11 credit hours of graduate course work. At least 9 of these credit hours must be earned in courses offered by the CNR, and must include NR 5344 Natural Resources Law and Policy (3 credits) and NR 5724 Conservation Ecology (3 credits). Successful completion of the ASL seminar, Environmental Law (2 credits), also is required and is counted toward the 11-credit-hour minimum.

The College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech is a North American and world leader in research, education, and engagement. The College includes four outstanding departments (Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Wood Science and Forest Products, Forestry, and Geography) as well as the Virginia Water Resources Research Center and the Conservation Management Institute. The College's departments are among the very top rated in the country. Graduate programs include the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Master of Forestry, Master of Natural Resources, and Doctor of Philosophy. The CNR maintains a program in the National Capital Region that serves working professionals.



HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Beginning spring semester 2009, Appalachian School of Law students will have local access to courses offered through the Virginia Tech Master of Natural Resources (MNR) program. The first two courses to be offered will be Natural Resource Law and Policy (NR 5344) and Conservation Ecology (NR 5724). ASL students will register for both courses online and participate in NR 5344 via video conference facilities on the ASL campus, and in NR 5724 via the internet. All ASL students are welcome to enroll, regardless of whether they plan to complete the requirement for the certificate. Additional courses will be offered at the rate of at least one per semester (fall and spring). Summer semester courses also are likely.

Appalachian School of Law students may take individual courses to develop specific competencies. Alternately, students may complete 9 credit hours of selected Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources courses and, when combined with the ASL seminar in Environmental Law, earn the joint Certificate of Graduate Study in Natural Resources. The certificate will be noted on the student's Virginia Tech transcript. Students are expected to begin work toward the certificate while enrolled in ASL but may complete the requirements after graduation. Distance learning courses can make this possible regardless of location. After earning the Certificate of Graduate Study in Natural Resources, students may combine this work with additional courses and a paper to earn a Master of Natural Resources.

ASL students enrolled in the VT courses receive full student privileges for use of resources such as the VT library and computer systems. Tuition is paid at the VT extended campus rates (currently \$487 per credit hour for Virginia residents and \$885 per credit hour for non-residents plus fees). A one-time application fee of \$25 is required. Initially, ASL students are admitted through the Commonwealth Campus program. If desired, students may later apply to a graduate degree program such as the Master of Natural Resources.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND FACULTY

NR 5344 Natural Resource Law and Policy

Course Description: Natural resource management has a governing framework of laws and policies. Knowing and understanding these myriad laws – which can be overlapping and even contradictory – and the historical and philosophical underpinnings of these laws – are essential to the natural resource manager and conservation professional. This course will look at specific laws, with an emphasis on wildlife, fisheries, forests, and public lands,



Michael J. Mortimer

but more importantly, it will give students the tools needed to find and understand the laws relevant to particular resources. The emphasis will be on U.S. federal law, but will also touch on international, state, and local law. In addition, the course will include an overview of the legislative and regulatory processes that have an enormous impact on the implementation of resource management and conservation programs.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Mortimer is currently the Director of Natural

Resources Programs for Virginia Tech's National Capital region. Most recently, Dr. Mortimer served as the Director of Forest Policy for the Society of American Foresters in Bethesda, Maryland. Before coming to the Washington, D.C. area, Michael was a faculty member in Virginia Tech's Department of Forestry, and formerly served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation representing all of its forestry-related programs. His primary professional and research interests center around public land management, environmental conflict resolution, and administrative processes, and he is the author of more than 40 scientific papers, book chapters, technical reports, and popular articles addressing various natural resources issues.

Dr. Mortimer received his Ph.D. in Forestry from the University of Montana's School of Forestry, his law degree from Penn State's Dickinson School of Law, and his B.A. in both Biology and English from Washington & Jefferson College.

NR 5724 Conservation Ecology

Course Description: Human activities are having a cumulative effect on the natural systems upon which life depends. Future land management impacts will likely entail unprecedented change in environmental conditions. More integration of the traditional natural resources fields will be required to develop innovative approaches to sustain resource development. Conservation Ecology provides insights to the many benefits and services that nature offers and explores strategies for management options to sustain ecological integrity and the production of goods and services. It is an emerging interdisciplinary approach to harmonizing the interactions between people and nature at ecosystem scales. The course is designed to explore the knowledge, theories, and research related to the total environment in which we practice conservation. Emphasis will be on the synthesis and integration of knowledge, skills and abilities that are needed as conservation issues become more complex. A problem-based learning format will require students to actively participate in their own learning by researching and analyzing real-life problems to arrive at "best" solutions. The instructor serves as a cognitive coach by modeling inquiry strategies and guiding students in exploring relevant contact.



David L. Trauger

Instructor: Dr. David L. Trauger is Associate Dean for the Graduate School in the National Capital Region. David had a 40-year career with various federal agencies, including Chief of Wildlife Research with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Senior Staff Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. He has authored more than 80 scientific papers, technical reports, book chapters, popular articles, and other publications.

Dr. Trauger received a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management, an M.S. in Wildlife Biology, and a Ph.D. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University.

How to register:

To register for fall 2009, **before July 1**, visit our website <http://www.vto.vt.edu/gradmit/index.php?stp=2> to complete the Online Application for Admission into the Commonwealth Campus. There is a \$25.00 application fee. **After July 1st**, visit our website <http://www.vto.vt.edu/> to download and print the paper application for Expedited Admission. This will only admit you for one term and you will need to reapply for the next deadline to continue to take classes.

The following people are available to answer your questions:

Angie Starr, Coordinator, Enrollment Services, astarr@vt.edu, 540-231-1264

Michael J. Mortimer, Director of Natural Resources Programs, mortimer@vt.edu, 540-538-3762

Robert J. Bush, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, CNR, rbush@vt.edu, 540-231-8834

