

Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma and Certificate Program

ER390 - Selected Project

(Revised 2005)

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General: The expected time commitment for this course is approximately 100 hours, to be spread over 1 year or less. Must be an actual restoration project in any field of restoration. All RNS students must complete a final project to obtain their diploma or certificate.

Intent: The final project brings together the knowledge and skills you have acquired through the program and by applying them to a real restoration situation in your area of specialization. It should reinforce what you have learned. The project has two main goals:

1. To demonstrate a positive contribution by you to ecological restoration.
2. To provide a written report that provides a basis for evaluation.

Selecting a Project: There are several ways of selecting a project. One way is to contact the RNS program, as we are involved in several restoration projects that may offer a suitable topic. Contact Val Schaefer for suggestions. Another way is for you develop your own project, preferable one that is part of large and active restoration program. The project you choose must be a practical application in the restoration field and must be one in which you participate!

Assessment: Will be based on a Final Report approved for publication as a technical report of Restoration of Natural Systems. Your report should be approximately 5000 words long, plus references and any figures, tables, drawings, photographs and appendices. Reports may be sent to external experts for review.

Registration steps:

1. Obtain approval for the project from the Faculty Coordinator (see next section).
2. Register for ER 390 during the term in which you expect to complete your report. Fees are due in the term in which you register. If you are unable to finish your project within the term in which you register, no further fees will be assessed but you cannot graduate until a grade is submitted.

To obtain project approval:

1. Complete a two-page outline, and have it signed by the Faculty Coordinator or designate. This outline must include the location and objectives of the project, and a schedule of student's role in the project (an example format for your two-page outline is below).
2. Written permission or invitation of project agency or project coordinator(s). Permission should briefly describe relationship of student's project to overall project. Budget for project should be included, as appropriate.

(please turn over)

Suggested headings for a project outline: (not all of these may be relevant to your project)

Title: (Include the topic and the location of your project, e.g., The restoration of Garry Oak Ecosystems through prescribed burning in Toomuch Municipality)

Date prepared: When did you prepare the project outline?

Background or Rationale: Why is this project being proposed?

Purpose or Goals and Objectives: What will project accomplish?

Location/Study Area: Provide the location of your project, such as the nearest settlement, and the biogeoclimatic zone or ecoregion.

Cooperators (individuals or agencies or both): Provide the name of the associated or sponsoring agency and the key contact name, phone number and email address.

Approach: How will your project be conducted, e.g., a brief description of methodology?

Timetable or Schedule: Timetable for major steps in your project and the estimated completion time.

Deliverables: Describe the nature of the products you will produce for your project, e.g., a final report, a video, a manual, etc.

Estimated budget: Provide a brief outline of the costs associated with completing you project. In some cases, a budget may not be necessary.

Benefits: What benefits will your project provide the associated or sponsoring agency, or the field of restoration in general.