

2010 - 2011 School Year

Dear Potential Wilderness Seminar Student:

Thanks for your interest in the Wilderness Politics seminar. We got a good response to our mailing.

An information packet is enclosed for your information.

If you would like to reserve a spot, please pay a \$100.00 deposit to the Business Office on the second floor of 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. That way we can be sure to reserve a spot for you.

Please let me know if you have questions, would like additional information, or would like to meet with me individually.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Holmes  
208 Lubbers Hall  
(616) 395-7543 (office)  
(616) 896-9764 (home)

NOTE: Email: [Holmes@hope.edu](mailto:Holmes@hope.edu)





### **GENERAL NOTES**

1. The \$950 course fee includes room, board, wilderness trips, and land travel to and from Holland, Michigan.
2. Credit is for the Senior Seminar (4 hours) Political Science 365 Wilderness Politics (3 hours). We will emphasize the role of governmental agencies in the context of the interdisciplinary material.
3. The Social Science II core economics/political science requirement can be met if you ask for special permission. The Senior Seminar requirement can be met if certain conditions are met. It is not possible to meet both requirements at once.
4. Please stay in touch with Dr. Holmes and let him know about your current interest and clarify any details of the program.
5. Hope tuition is set by the College, and is not included in the course fee.



THREATENED COLORADO WILDERNESS:  
THE HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS PROJECT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST  
July 31 – August 20, 2011  
Meeting Place: Vail, Colorado  
4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 31  
Vail, Colorado Transportation Center Lobby  
Leave Holland, MI at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29  
Return to Holland, MI on Sunday, August 21

Thank you for your interest in our Wilderness Project. Our research will take us deep into one of Colorado's most magnificent wilderness areas, the Holy Cross -- a Rocky Mountain wildland prized for its scenic beauty, wildlife, and free flowing streams. Here we will document and analyze first-hand a problem of major environmental concern: the potential impacts of a water project on fragile wilderness -- a project that can divert scarce water supplies from back country habitats, and bring man's construction scars to the pristine wildland. This conflict relates to the growing controversy over "federal reserve" water rights in wilderness areas. In the larger sense, it relates to the future of the Southwestern U.S.

## **PROJECT GOALS**

Our research comes at a particularly important time since political pressure for water diversion is mounting from three fronts: Vail and the rapidly growing Colorado recreational industry; the populous Front Range cities around Denver to the east; and the potential oil shale industry to the west.

Our backpacking team will investigate and assess this growing Colorado water conflict on-site in an area where each of the pressures is involved.

Additionally, we will candidly interview public officials, land managers, water developers, and conservationists whose mandate it is to equitably resolve this controversy.

Through our field explorations and interviews, we will endeavor to determine if water needs can be satisfied with minimal impacts to wilderness.

Reports prepared by previous teams have been influential in the decision-making process regarding whether to build the \$300 million Homestake II Water Project in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Information gathered by the teams used in an appeal to the Chief of the United States Forest Service and to two Corps of Engineers studies. Teams produced a videotape to stimulate an awareness of the issue, several reports communicating important wilderness issues, impacts, and alternatives that now are being considered. Earlier teams drafted a preliminary report proposing a wildland scenic river legislation for the wilderness portion of the project area. Another team promoted a website which will enable citizens to explore important issues related to wilderness and water. We made important suggestions for the White River National Forest Plan. We have encouraged citizens to make independent analyses of water issues and encouraged decision makers to think in broad terms when analyzing projects. These reports helped make

people in the cities sponsoring the project, as well as those framing the alternatives, aware of the issues. Last year's seminar team worked to encourage wild river status for Cross Creek.

The 2011 team will work under the direct supervision of Dr. Jack Holmes, vice-chairman of the Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund, who has been involved with the issue for several years. He is a member of a team of authors who completed three editions of a national government textbook published by McGraw-Hill and is anxious to work with students who are interested in the multi-disciplinary nature of wildlands issues. Jack has experience as an administrative aide to a U.S. Congressman and has directed a multi-disciplinary honors semester in Washington, D.C. eleven different times.

The variety of activities of the group as well as the expectations for participants require that team members either enroll for credit or be willing to complete all course activities and requirements.

## **TEAM ACTIVITIES**

Our 2011 research will be coordinated from a base camp at my summer home, in a remote area near the Holy Cross Wilderness, 19 miles southwest of Vail. Orientation sessions will be held on Sunday, July 31 and Monday, August 1 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A group get together and supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. Interviews in Western Colorado will be August 2-3 and in Eastern Colorado August 4-5, Sunday, August 7 through Wednesday, August 10 (inclusive) students will be a backpacking examination of the Holy Cross Wilderness. Fishing opportunities, it should be mentioned, abound during these back country trips. While East Lake Creek is today one of the least used areas in the Holy Cross wilderness, it also is a potential major component of future water project plans. Thus, our trip to this region is both timely and environmentally significant. From our base camp day trips can be made to several high lakes, a remote abandoned mine seen by only a few people each year, a section of East Lake Creek recently rerouted by a giant avalanche and mudslide, and an area where Indian relics have occasionally been located. Above all, this trip will afford the team an opportunity to think about and discuss the issues of wilderness and water projects in a pristine setting. Each student will have an exit conversation during the trip.

Term projects will be worked on August 11 - August 13. A second backpacking trip to Cross Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness will be offered from Sunday, August 14 to Friday, August 19. Here we will wander on game trails across alpine meadows, examining first-hand on untrampled land marked by its undisturbed wildlife habitats and wild streams. In this wildland setting, we will assess the interaction of wilderness and pressing water issues. A feature of particular interest, in view of the possibility of water diversion, will be the pristine upper stretches of East Lake Creek and its several lakes. These lands have been targeted for major water diversion systems to water needy Colorado Springs and Aurora developments. Alternatives to this and water dynamics will be studied.

## **BACKPACKING**

Typically, our backpacking research days will start early to allow us time to examine a cross-section of the wilderness. We are developing a course of study for each day. Ongoing field discussions and tutorials will guide our investigation. Evenings will provide time for team discussion, sharing discoveries, or just plain relaxation.

## **TEAM LOGISTICS**

The course fee includes room, board, and transportation via van from Holland. Sometimes students are expected to produce their third meal for the day when we are on the road.

August in the Holy Cross area usually means warm days and cool nights. There always is some possibility of rain, and some snow could remain if we have a rough winter. We will use routes which will minimize exposure to any remaining snow and will not require technical climbing. It is particularly important that you bring one change of clothes, including a winter jacket, which will sustain you in a wet environment with possible overnight snow and temperatures in the upper 20s and lower 30s. Also bring clothes which will be comfortable in temperatures up to the lower 80s. Well broken-in shoes are a must. If we are prepared for everything, we'll all have an enjoyable time. A suggested equipment list is attached.

Opportunities abound for the use of free time. Our base camp is next to the Holy Cross Wilderness and 19 miles from either the resort community of Vail or the mining community of Leadville. Our interview week should allow some time for exploring the Denver area and the oil shale country around Glenwood Springs. The meeting place at Vail, Colorado is readily accessible.

Our plan is to leave Holland via van on Friday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. Orientation will be on Sunday, July 31. Western Colorado interviews will be August 2 and 3. Denver interviews will be August 4 and 5. The first trip (East Lake Creek) will be August 7-10 (Sunday through Wednesday). Time for writing papers August 11 through 13. The second trip (Cross Creek) will be August 14-19 (Sunday through Friday). Depart for Holland Saturday, August 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Those who register for this project can have mail sent to them at P.O. Box 219, 1219 Homestake Creek Road, Red Cliff, Colorado 81649 and can be reached through (970) 827-5207. UPS packages can be sent to participants at 1219 Homestake Creek Road, Red Cliff, Colorado 81649. Use of a Vail address will delay receipt of letters and packages since it is a very busy post office with many rules.

Topographical maps (Southeast Eagle County Colorado or detailed Mount Jackson, Grouse Mountain, Minturn, and Holy Cross Quadrangles) for the area are available through the U.S. Geological Survey, and a forest map can be obtained from the Holy Cross District Forest Ranger, Minturn, Colorado 81645 (please call 970-827-5715 to determine cost). Your clipping of readings about various political controversies over wilderness in your home or college area for the next few months would help place our research into a national perspective, but it is not required.

Readings for the course will be mailed to students in early June. Students who wish to maximize their enjoyment of Colorado are advised to read this packet in advance. Team members will be evaluated on the basis of field work, interview participation, discussion participation, and contribution to our group report.

We look forward to your joining us this summer. Together we will develop a new understanding of Colorado Wilderness, and hopefully, contribute to the resolution of important problems facing our wildlands.

Please feel free to direct your questions to me at the Department of Political Science at Hope College, Holland, MI 49423 until May 20. The telephone number there is (616) 395-7543.

## **PROJECT LEADER**

Dr. Jack Holmes, Professor of Political Science, Hope College, Michigan. With backgrounds in field research, government service, and land use politics, project leader Jack Holmes and his resource assistants bring a strong interdisciplinary focus to the study of these Colorado wildlands, and draw our attention to the interwoven aesthetic, ecological and political dimensions that lie behind wilderness issues.

We plan to have an assistant leader to help with the trips.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT** 4 credit hours of IDS. There are possibilities for counting this as Social Science II or as Political Science. See Jack Holmes (208 Lubbers) for details.

**HIKING TRAILS** Moderate to strenuous. Be prepared for a few four to six-mile days.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### Essential Items

1. Pack - A good waist belt is essential so the weight can be carried on the hips instead of the shoulders. Many folks bring a lightweight day pack as well for fieldwork.
2. Sleeping Bag - Goose down or polarguard is preferred. Make sure your bag will handle the 15 degree temperature range.
3. Boots - Should be low-cut (6-8") with vibram or equivalent soles, sno-sealed,\* well broken in and good condition.
4. Foam Sleeping Pad - Ensolite or some closed cell material. Should extend from shoulders to hips.
5. Tent and Ground Cloth - Polyethelene or coated nylon (lightweight). You need something over you in case of rain or snow. Bring lightweight (5-8 lb.) backpacking tent and ground cloth if you have one. If you do not have a tent, we will arrange for sharing. A rain fly-sheet should be with your tent.
6. Rain Protection - Rain jacket. Material should be Gortex, foamback or good coated nylon, not just 60-40 cloth or plastic. Make sure it is waterproof, not just water repellent. Buy some sealer and seal all seams in your rain gear. You will also need a pack cover. You can buy one, make one, or use large garbage bags.
7. Trousers - Chafe-free, rugged and in good repair - one pair. Take a pair of shorts or cut-offs for appropriate trail and weather conditions. No jeans; they are all cotton and retain water.
8. Shirt – Blended, quick drying and long-sleeved (for sun and mosquito protection). Fleece or windstopper or vest for cool times. Avoid cotton.
9. Underclothing - 2 sets, blended fabrics are best. (Cotton alone can get and stay wet.)
10. Socks - Many people prefer to wear a heavy wool outer sock with a blended cotton undersock. If you have not had much experience, I recommend starting with this system. You will need two sets of each.
11. Lightweight Tennis Shoes - For camp wear, if desired.

12. Stocking Hat and Cap or Visor - For sun protection; wool mittens. Stocking hat keeps you warm at night.
13. Toilet Articles - Soap (biodegradable Ivory or Fels Naptha), toothbrush and paste, white toilet paper.
14. First-Aid Kit - Should include 12 Band-Aids, a few gauze pads, small roll of adhesive tape, small tube of antibiotic ointment, moleskin for blisters, aspirin or other pain-killer, candle. Bring enough of any prescription medicine.
15. Bandanas - 2, for sun protection, first aid, towel, bathing suit, pot holder, bandage, patching materials, flag, or substitute Teddy Bear. Much too valuable to blow your nose on.
16. Small Flashlight - One with two "AA" cells. Some prefer to carry small headlamps. Extra batteries and bulb.
17. Upper Body Protection - There are three weather elements with which we have to cope: rain, wind, and low temperatures (possibly snow). There are several ways to resolve this trilema. A warm, but lightweight down jacket or comparable synthetic jacket is essential (students from last year's group urged me to underline this one). Layers are also helpful. You can add on as it gets cold and remove as it gets warm until you have the right combination. A good raincoat can double as wind protection.
18. Pocket Knife - Unpretentious and effective. Should not weigh over 3 oz.
19. Eating Utensils - Tablespoon and/or "spork" (combination spoon and fork), stainless steel sierra cup, cook cup.
20. Miscellaneous - Matches in waterproof container. A sturdy field notebook.
21. Sun Protection - Sunglasses and sun lotion including lip aid and sunscreen (PABA, glacier creme, pre-sun, zinc creme).
22. Insect Repellant - Cutters 1 oz. creme type (a couple of bottles) or another brand that works for you.
23. Water Bottle - One quart plastic water container or canteen (wide mouth).
24. Compass - Silva compass is one of the best. We can share.
25. Backpacking Stove - In most areas this could now be considered a major essential item due to scarcity of wood, fire danger and an effort to minimize our impact on the environment. Kerosene (Optimus) and white gas (Svea, MSR, Primus, Peak One) are good. Bring one if you have one. We can share.

26. Rain Chaps - Something to put over your pants in case of rain. Rain pants tear too easily. Get chaps only or buy expensive Gortex pants.
27. Clothes - Have some clothing suitable for interviewing officials in their offices.
28. Good gear places on the internet. Sierratradingpost.com, rei.com, and northernmountain.com.

\*How to Sno-Seal Your Boots: With new boots, first oil them a couple of times with shoe grease, shoe oil, mink oil, or something like that. Then, heat the boots in front of heater, smear sno-seal all over the boot, let soak in. Do this five times at least for new boots; heat and let soak in each time. Bring along a small container of sno-seal.

