

# WFS 350 - WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2004

**Instructor:** Lisa Muller

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**Course Place and Times:** PBB 156, PS 114 TBA

**Prerequisites:** FWF 317 (Principles of Wildlife and Fisheries Management) AND EEB 250 (General Ecology)

**Objectives:** This course will provide the principles and methods for identifying and solving damage problems caused by vertebrate animals. Students will acquire sufficient knowledge of the biological, regulatory, practical, and social considerations necessary for making decisions to manage wildlife damage.

**Texts:**

Conover, M. 2002. Resolving human-wildlife conflicts – the science of wildlife damage management. CRC Press LLC. Boca Raton, Florida, USA.

ISBN: 1-56670-538-X

Hygnstrom, S. E., R. M. Timm, and G. E. Larson. 1994. Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage. University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service. Omaha, Nebraska, USA.

Available on-line at: [www.ianr.unl.edu/wildlife/solutions/handbook/index.htm](http://www.ianr.unl.edu/wildlife/solutions/handbook/index.htm)

**Guidelines for Successful Completion of this Course:**

Grades will be determined by a total of 300 possible points:

General Report	100 points
Mock Public Meetings	100 points each
<b>Comprehensive Final</b>	100 points

**Grading:**

A	90 -100%
B+	85 - 89
B	80 - 84%
C+	75 - 79%
C	70 - 74%
D	60 - 69%
F	0 - 59%

**Exam Format:**

Exam will be fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, essay and short-answer questions. Exam will cover the lecture material, field trips, and assigned readings.

**General Reports:**

You must locate one current (no older than December 2003) news article from newspapers or magazines and write a brief report. Scientific articles or research papers are **not** acceptable. The news article must deal with an area of wildlife damage management. The report must be typed and be no more than 500 words in length (about two double-spaced pages, not including the Title Page). Each report must adhere to the following format:

- A. Title Page: List your name, the title of the article, the author of the article (if mentioned), the source of the article (publication), and the date of publication.
- B. Brief Summary: Briefly summarize and describe the news article, the issues presented, and its relevance to this course.
- C. Your Opinion: Briefly evaluate and critique the article (i.e., Were there any apparent omissions from the article? Did it present a "one-sided" or a "balanced" viewpoint? What were the article's strong or weak points? What was your opinion of the article? etc.).

The written report will be graded as follows:

1. Report format, article selection, etc. 20 pts.
2. Writing, spelling, grammar, etc. 30 pts.

**Public Meetings:** You will be required to present 1 presentation at a mock public meeting on a wildlife damage management topic of your choice. You will give background on the species of concern, present the damage issues and give possible alternatives. You must handle questions from a wide variety of stakeholders.

**Field Trips:**

**2/13/2004: Bear and Hog damage in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park.**  
Outdoor field gear.

**2/27-28/2004: Mammal Trapping.** Anderson Co., Tennessee. Will need chest or hip waders. Plan on getting wet and muddy.

**4/22-23/2004: Beaver trapping and beaver dam removal** in Paris, Tennessee. Will need chest or hip waders. Plan on getting wet and muddy.

**Deer collection/deer damage to residential areas.** Need sharp knife and clothes to process deer.

**Class Attendance:**

Students are encouraged to attend all classes. There will be no make-up examinations without prior approval of the instructor.

**Wildlife Damage Management  
Course Outline and Readings (Conover 2002):**

1. Introduction to wildlife damage management (**Chapters 1 and 2**)
2. Who is responsible for wildlife damage management?
  - A. USDA Wildlife Services
  - B. TWRA
  - C. Private operators
3. Regulations for wildlife damage management
  - A. Federal laws
  - B. State laws
  - C. Local laws
4. Human Dimensions (**Chapter 15**)  
Decision-making for wildlife damage management
  - A. Societal responses to wildlife damage
  - B. Differences in attitudes toward wildlife
  - C. Stakeholders perceptions of wildlife damage
  - D. Cultural Carrying Capacity
  - E. Controversy behind management of human wildlife-conflicts
5. Economic losses and wildlife damage (**Chapter 5**)
  - A. Economic analyses of wildlife values
  - B. Why is it important to have accurate economic data about losses from wildlife damage?
  - C. Economic assessment of wildlife damage
6. Public health and safety concerns
  - A. Zoonotic diseases (**Chapter 3**)
  - B. Why do animals attack people? (**Chapter 3**)
  - B. Airline and highway safety and wildlife (**Chapter 3**)
7. Lethal Control (**Chapter 7**)
  - A. Effects of lethal control on population dynamics
  - B. Lethal control techniques
  - C. Euthanasia guidelines
8. Fertility Control (**Chapter 8**)
9. Wildlife Translocation (**Chapter 9**)
10. Behavior modification (**Chapter 10**)
11. Chemical repellents (**Chapter 11**)
12. Diversion (**Chapter 12**)
13. Exclusion (**Chapter 13**)

14. Habitat manipulation (**Chapter 14**)
15. Overview of control methods and materials for selected species
  - A. White-tailed deer
  - B. Geese
  - C. Beavers
  - D. Raccoons
  - E. Large carnivores
  - F. Pigeons, starlings, vultures
16. Course wrap up (**Chapter 16**) – **Developing an Integrated Approach**

## Wildlife Damage Management Calendar of Events 2004

<b>Date</b>	<b>Room #</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Friday, January 23	157 PBB	9:00-12:00	Course Introduction and meeting with Keith Blanton; USDA Wildlife Services
Friday, January 30	114 PSS	9:00-12:00	Topics 1-8
Friday, February 6	157 PBB	9:00-12:00	Topics 9-14
Friday, February 13	FIELD	8:00-4:00	Learn about Wildlife Damage Management Issues in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Focus on bears and hogs. Will need field clothing and lunch/snack.
Friday, February 27 Saturday, February 28	FIELD	8:30-5:00 8:30-1:00	Animal Trapping Lab in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Bring lunch/snacks both days. Will need waders and field clothing.
Friday, March 26	157 PBB	9:00-11:00	GENERAL REPORTS DUE Overview of control methods for deer, geese, beavers, pigeons, starlings, vultures
Friday, April 2	157 PBB	9:00-12:00	Public Meetings
Friday, April 16	157 PBB	9:00-12:00	Public Meetings FINAL EXAM
Thursday, April 22 Friday, April 23	FIELD	Leave at 2:00 on Thursday and return Friday night	Beaver control in west Tennessee. We will travel Thursday afternoon, spend the night, and learn about beaver control on Friday. Will head back to Knoxville, Friday night. Need overnight gear, food/snacks, waders.

