

San José State University  
Environmental Studies Department, College of Social Sciences  
**ENVS 173, Forest Ecology and Conservation, Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** Dr. Will Russell

**Office Location:** Washington Square Hall 115E

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Email:** [will.russell@sjsu.edu](mailto:will.russell@sjsu.edu)

**Class Days/Time:** This class will meet every Friday at a field location from 10:30 am until approximately 4:00 pm  
*1<sup>st</sup> class 8/25 will meet in DMH 353*

**Prerequisites:** ENS framework and practical tools necessary for understand and conservation of local forest ecosystems. Topics covered succession, wildlife, diversity, natural and human disturbance management.

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Prerequisite: ENVS 01, ENVS 10, or upper division standing.

Misc/Lab: Lecture 3 hours students will gain a basic understanding of forest community interaction; natives, endemics; invasive exotic species and community types. In addition, the course will focus on historical and current forest management practices; impacts of timber management on forest ecosystems; and forest restoration. Field observation, and hands-on field techniques will be emphasized.

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### Do-not-do List

1. Do not pee in the creek!
2. Do not drink water from the creek (see #1)!
3. Do not eat any berries, mushrooms, or other forest organisms without explicit instructions from the instructor!
4. Do not approach wildlife (deer, skunks, yellow jackets, rattlesnakes, etc.)!
5. Do not cut trail!
6. Do not play amplified music in the wilderness.
7. Do not make personal phone calls during field trips.
8. Do not harass people in your carpool!
9. Do not bring guests (family members, partners, fiends, etc.) to class field trips.
10. Do not experiment with mind-altering substances during the field trips. Save the party for later – we need to keep our wits about us!

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

***Field Notebook:***

Each student will keep a field notebook to be turned in on the final day of class. The notebook will be neatly handwritten (if I can't read it, I can't grade it). The notebook must be hardbound or spinal bound, and will include the following:

- Notes from in-class, and field lectures
- Drawings and descriptions of all plants (and other organisms) identified in the field.
- Responses to all field activities

***Class Participation:***

Attendance on all field trips is an essential part of the class. Please be respectful of your classmates by listening quietly when the instructor, guest speakers, or student presenters are speaking. We are a big group, often on a narrow trail, it is very difficult for students to hear when extraneous conversations are competing. *Please do not come to class if you have a fever or feel like you might be getting sick!*

**Grading**

## Tentative Course Schedule – ENVS 173, Spring 2025

**-Check for updates before heading to field sites!**

Date	Topic	Field Trips/Home Labs	Readings	Assignments
1/24	Course Introductions Class Logistics			

