

Short Course ESM 296-2

Conservation Management in Practice: Lessons from the Front Lines

Course Description: This short course uses case studies, group discussion and lecture to survey and examine the practice and realities of conservation. Students will gain insight into the challenges faced in implementing conservation as a profession and how to accomplish tangible results, and will leave with resources, ideas and perspectives to help them pursue their goals and achieve impact. Different potential career paths will be discussed, with an emphasis on non-profit organizations and their activities. This course is designed for students considering a career in conservation who may not have extensive practical experience, or for those re-examining their career focus.

The Instructor: Michael O'Connell is founding executive director of Irvine Ranch Conservancy, an award-winning non-profit established by Irvine Company chairman Donald Bren to ensure excellent stewardship of the protected lands on the Irvine Ranch. He has spent 30 years in conservation including private consulting, public agencies, and in senior management positions with both large and small non-profit organizations. Mr. O'Connell has served on several governing boards including the Society for Conservation Biology, where he chaired the Policy Committee. He served five years on the Advisory Board of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and is currently on the Dean's Leadership Council of the Ayala School of Biological Sciences at UC Irvine and the board of the Crystal Cove Conservancy. Mr. O'Connell has authored a number of scientific, technical and popular articles and books, including *Reconciling Conflicts under the Endangered Species Act*, and *The Science of Conservation Planning*. He holds an AB with honors in geology from Carleton College and an MES in conservation biology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Reading:

Required Text: **Forces for Good** (Crutchfield & McCleod Grant – ISBN1118118804)

Suggested Text: **Whole Earth Discipline: The Eco-Pragmatist Manifesto** (Brand - ISBN0670021210)

Schedule:

- Monday:** Paths in Conservation (Government, Private Sector, Non-Profit)
Types and Functions of Non-Profits (size, orientation, mission, business models)
- Tuesday:** What Makes A Non-Profit Achieve Success and Impact?
Required Reading: Forces For Good (Crutchfield and McLeod-Grant)

Pragmatism and Idealism
Recommended Reading: Whole Earth Discipline (Brand)
- Wednesday:** Case Studies:
Large International Non-Profit
Small, Local Non-Profit
- Thursday:** Group Work and Presentation of Case Study Strategies
Pulling It All Together Part 1:
A Non-Profit Model for Maximum Impact
- Friday:** *Pulling it All Together Part 2:*
Maximizing Individual Success in Conservation
- Final Assessment:** Short Essay on Lessons Learned