

# Natural Resource Economics

## University of Colorado at Boulder

Instructor: Matthew Benton  
Class Time: TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Classroom: EKLC E1B20  
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Course Website: <http://webfiles.colorado.edu/bentonm/www>  
Office: ECON 414  
Office Hours: TR 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. and by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course is an applied microeconomic theory approach to resource policy analysis. Economics is the study of efficient use of scarce resources and naturally extends to the application of natural resources. We will discuss the normative criteria for decision making (for both the present and the future) when faced with resource constraints in an attempt to maximize society's well-being. We will then discuss different types of natural resource systems (i.e. energy, forests, fisheries, minerals, water) and how the theory can be applied to each in their own ways to ensure that the resource is being used in the optimal manner. Other key topics will include sustainability and the impact of population and economic growth on the environment.

### TEXTBOOK & ADDITIONAL READING

Tietenberg & Lewis. *Environmental & Natural Resource Economics*.  
Addison-Wesley, 1996. ISBN 0-201-54229-7.

## ECON 3535 -- FALL 2009

### GRADING

**Your grade for this course will be based on two midterms, homework, a term paper,**



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### *Disability Policy:*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

### *Religious Observance Policy:*

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

### *Classroom Behavior Policy:*

Students and faculty each have responsibility for m