

Teaching a Large Field Course in the 21st Century



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State
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NR 220 - Natural Resource Ecology and Measurements

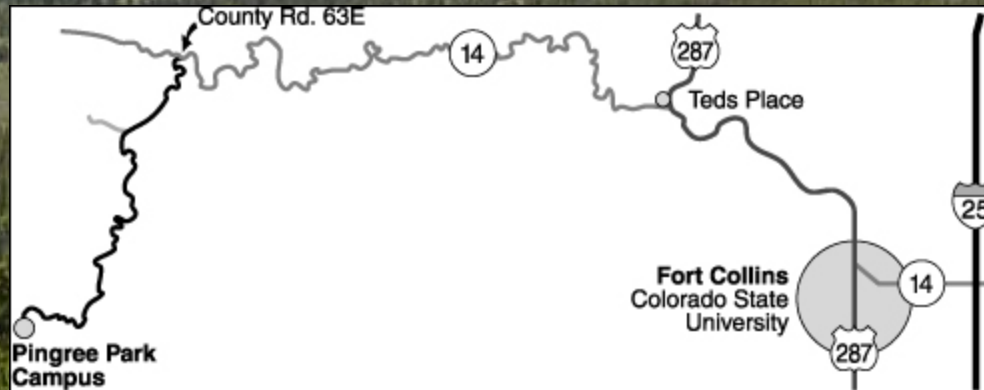
- ▣ 4 weeks
 - ▣ 2 sessions each summer
 - ▣ 112 students per session
- ▣ 5 credits
- ▣ Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra



5 Instructors & 4 TAs Each Session



Where in the World is Pingree Park ?



A Quick Tour ...



CO

University

The Lodge (Dining Hall and Office) and the “Store”



Elegant Dining



Luxury Student Accommodations



The “Old” Schoolhouse



The “Old Classroom”

1924



The “New” Classroom



The “Best” Classroom



Week I - Survey of Biota and Environment / Basic Field Skills



- Trees and Shrubs
- Grasses and Forbs
- Wildlife species
- Watershed
- Map and Compass



Week 2 - Natural Resource Measurements



Range



Forestry



Recreation



Wildlife



Watershed



Weeks 3 & 4: Biotic Community Studies



Lodgepole Pine



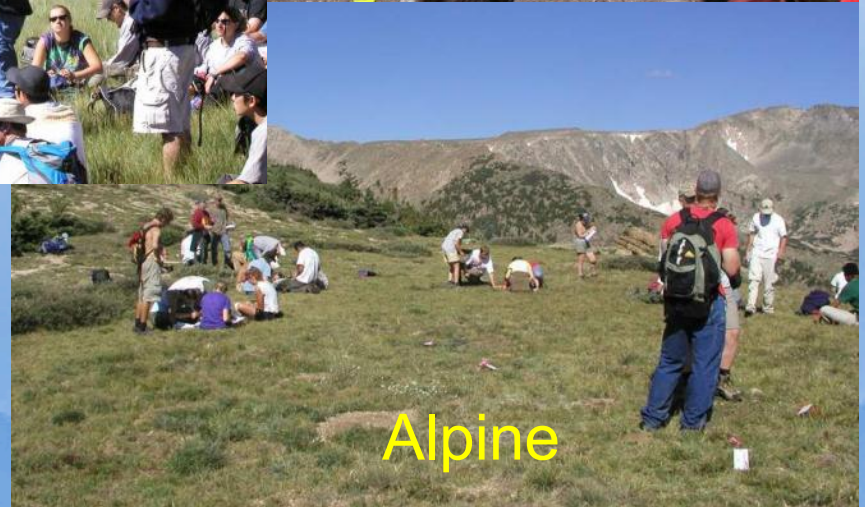
Spruce-Fir



Ponderosa Pine



Mountain Shrub



Alpine



Structure

- 4 weeks; 19 days of contact (M – F only)
- Some days entire class together all day
- Some days class split into 3 groups & rotate to different discipline each day of that week
- Typical day is 1-2 hours in classroom, then outside until 4-5 pm

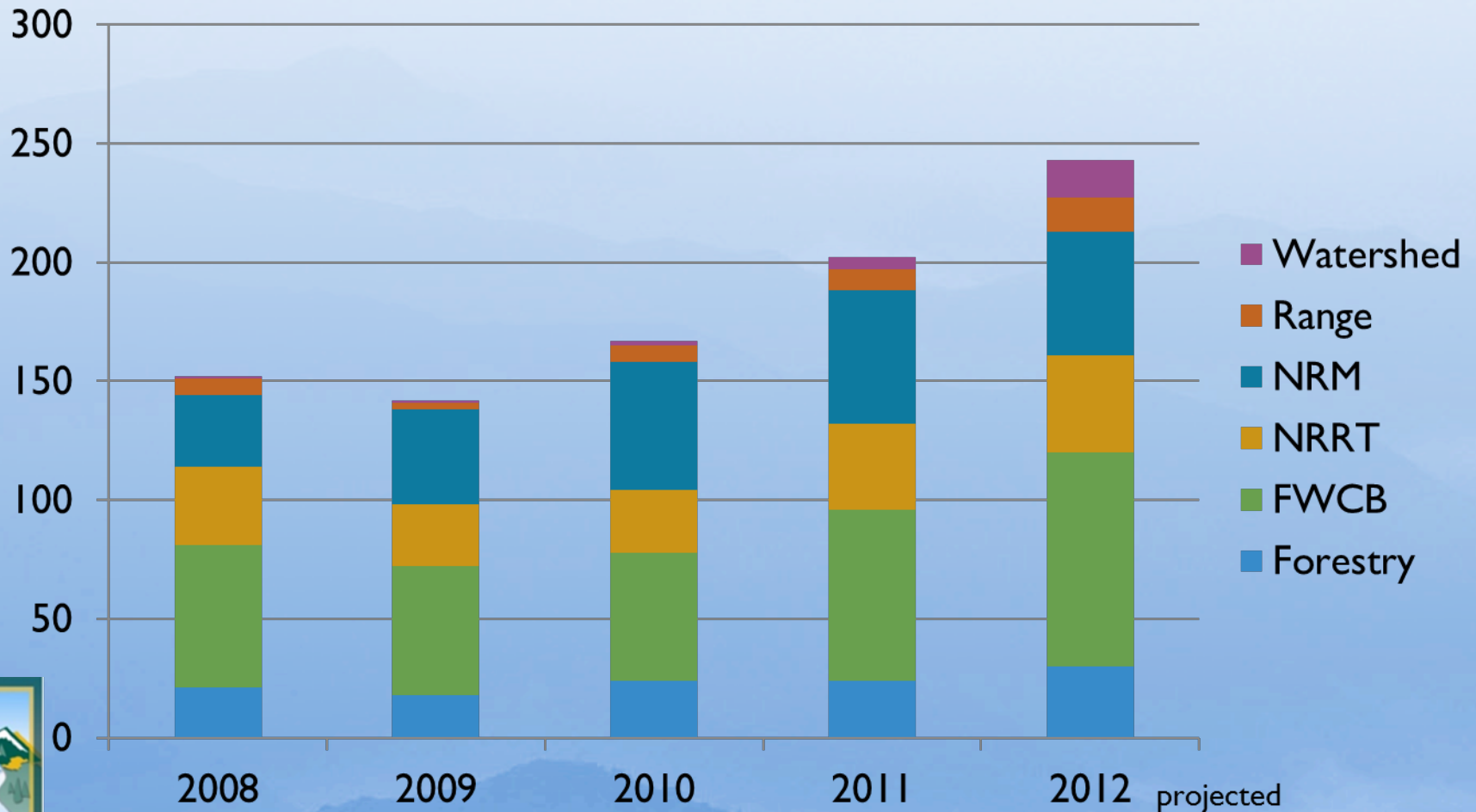


Challenges

- ▣ Maintain quality with increasing enrollment
- ▣ Meeting needs of disabled students
- ▣ Affordability for students
- ▣ Housing capacity
- ▣ Changing technology



Course Enrollment History 2008-2012



Solutions

- ▣ Increase number of faculty? TAs?
- ▣ Restructure teaching rotations?
- ▣ Add another section? (meet 6 days/week)
- ▣ Charge higher course fee?
- ▣ Build more student cabins and classrooms?
- ▣ Increase wi-fi capacity? iPads? iPods?



Questions?



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