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ECOSYSTEM PRESCRIPTION PREPARATION: A ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH!

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ABSTRACT: Forest Resources Management majors, during their junior year in the professional forestry curriculum at the University of Tennessee, participate in a field camp, Forestry Spring Block, for the entirety of the spring semester. Courses range from woodland surveying through silviculture and forest measurements. The final course, a capstone course, involves the development of an ecosystem prescription on a designated woodland. During the spring field camps, 2000 and 2001, the students were invited to the Manitou Experimental Forest (USDA Forest Service) north of Woodland Park, Colorado, to develop their ecosystem prescriptions. Four scenarios were used: pre-Columbian restoration of uneven-aged ponderosa pine; emphases on wildlife management or wildfire protection in a wildland/urban interface; wilderness recreation; and timber management in uneven-aged ponderosa pine. Students gathered data, completed analyses, used FVS and SUPPOSE models to project stand development, and drafted their prescription. On the last day each crew made a PowerPoint presentation to the audience for review and discussion. The presentation will relate some of the teaching and learning experiences of the students and the faculty.