Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

Volume 9 *University Education in Natural Resources* Article 22

1-1-2002

Distance education in fire ecology

Mark Reed
Forestry Media Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/nrei

Recommended Citation
Reed, Mark (2002) "Distance education in fire ecology," *Natural Resources and Environmental Issues*: Vol. 9, Article 22.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/nrei/vol9/iss1/22

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Quinney Natural Resources Research Library, S.J. and Jessie E. at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Natural Resources and Environmental Issues by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact becky.thoms@usu.edu.

24 *Natural Resources and Environmental Issues* *Volume IX*

DISTANCE EDUCATION IN FIRE ECOLOGY

Mark Reed[1]

[1]Instructional Design and Media Production Specialist, Forestry Media Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. Tel.: 541-737-1345; fax: 541-737-3759; e-mail: mark.reed@orst.edu

ABSTRACT: Oregon State University is developing a new distance education course in Wildland Fire Ecology. Professors from the departments of Forest Management, Forest Science, Rangeland Resources, and Fisheries and Wildlife are involved, as well as guest lecturers from BLM, Forest Service, and USGS. Course delivery will be via videotape and Blackboard® Web pages. The six professors involved in designing the course initially were skeptical about the potential of distance education. However, they soon realized several advantages of this mode of education: being able to take students, via videotaped field trips, to many diverse biomes during any season of the year; bringing in a number of guest lecturers from different regions of the country; and developing case studies from different parts of the world. The instructors also realized some limitations, including the need to make text and graphics larger than usual so that they will be clear and legible on videotape. The course will initially be taught to a live class at Oregon State University during Winter quarter 2002. Students will be asked for constructive criticism of the video modules and Web pages. Feedback from this test group will be used to refine the course content for initial distance delivery in fall of 2002.