Human Dimensions and Civic Engagement in the Natural Resources Classroom

Pat Stephens Williams, Ph.D. and Ray Darville, Ph.D.
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture,
Stephen F. Austin State University
George Mehaffy, Ph.D., AASCU
Human Dimensions

The study of that interface where humans and natural resources meet.
Civic Engagement

"Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference."
American Democracy Project

• Initiative of AASCU campuses that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of AASCU.

• The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

• The Stewardship of Public Lands
Implementation

• Introduction to Outdoor Recreation and Human Dimensions

• Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

• Why issues in the classroom?

• Why Yellowstone?
People Skill Set

- Group Dynamics
- Collaborative Project Building
- Effective Meetings
- Written and Oral Communications
- Agency/Entity Representation
- Public Impression
- Job Expectations
Public Skill Set

- Public Disclosure – Policy
- Public Meetings – Planning
- Public Meetings – Self-preparation
- Public Meetings – Management
- Audience Analysis
- Discourse Communities
- Media Management
- Effectiveness Measurement
Issue Skill Set

• Identification of Issues
• Exploration of Multiple Perspectives
• Research on Science-based Support
• Education on Agency History
• Education on Community and Regional History
• Exploration of Alternative Solutions
Awareness of Multiple Perspectives

Logistics of Interpersonal Communication

Dynamic Issue Exploration

Logistics of Public Communication

Tool Preparation

Practice
Tool Preparation

• Self-preparation
• Clear instructions
• Clear evaluations
• Support materials
FOR 251 Recreation and Human Dimensions

Spring 2009

Dr. Pat Stephens Williams
(Dr. Stephens)
Awareness of Multiple Perspectives

Logistics of Interpersonal Communication

Dynamic Issue Exploration

Logistics of Public Communication

Tool Preparation

Practice
Practice

- Issue Choice
- Agency or Public Division
- Collaboration
- Research
- Debate and Review
- Media Trial and Review
- Issue Presentation
- Evaluation of the Process
- Reflection and Transference
Student Responses