

Final Paper and Presentation

NRS 504

Learning Outcome

Effective natural resource professionals or researchers have the ability to present synthesized information, best practices, or research outcomes in both written and oral forms. They also can derive lessons or recommendations that apply to a variety of different situations. The final paper and presentation in NRS 504 provides opportunities for students to further develop the above skills by applying them to a wildfire risk management topic of their choice. Each student will produce a final paper. They also will create a presentation of their findings and conclusions that would serve a remote audience.

Due Date and Submission

By noon on Tuesday May 6

The final paper constitutes approximately 30% of your final grade in NRS 504. The presentation constitutes approximately 10% of your final grade for the class. There will be no exceptions to the due date. Late assignments will automatically lose a letter grade for every two days they are not turned in. Please submit a copy of your final paper and presentation to the professor via email by the stated due date above. Please remember to include your last name in the file name of your document.

Paper parameters

The focus of the final paper can take a number of forms depending on its utility to the student. For instance, some students may choose to produce a publishable literature review or synthesis paper on a topic relevant to wildfire risk management. Other students may choose to write a critical analysis of a risk management practice, or a synthesis of best practices relevant to a professional management issue (e.g. best practices for Community Wildfire Protection Planning creation, design of risk communication messaging surrounding evacuation). These more professional applications should follow the conventions of professional “grey” literature, policy briefs or technical reports. Other students may choose to write up existing data or research findings in the form of a publishable research paper. They could also write a proposal for a research project. However, the focus of the paper should cover some aspect of wildfire management, the human dimensions of wildfire, or wildfire policy.

Students should prepare a brief summary of their proposed topic to share with the professor for initial comment. That brief summary should be no more than 0.75 pages long and contain the following:

- The stated need for the information that will be presented in the paper
- A brief synopsis of existing literature and gaps in literature that substantiate the need for the project
- The objectives of the effort, or the research questions/hypothesis that will guide the effort
- The broad implications or applications of the effort to wildfire management

The professor will give feedback to each student regarding their initial choice of paper topic/focus. I would suggest getting this paper summary submitted sooner rather than later in the semester. You should plan to have **your proposal submission in by no later than 3/8/2025.**

The length of the final paper will be somewhat dependent on the form and focus that each student chooses. Papers will have a minimum length of 10 double-spaced pages (this does not include title page or references). Those students presenting a data-driven research paper, content analysis, policy analysis or review of best practices may require a longer page limit. The professor is happy to discuss the parameters of each assignment with students in an effort to maximize the utility of the assignment to your learning goals.

Presentation

Students will produce a pre-recorded presentation that outlines the primary findings, conclusions or lessons derived from their work. The presentation should take the form of a professional effort provided to agency/organization superiors, a seminar to organizational peers, or an academic conference presentation. What follows are requirements for the presentation:

- Verbal presentation of the content by the author that can be viewed at any time (i.e., recorded)
- Visual aids, including some medium for presenting a visual outline of paper foci (e.g., PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi, etc.)
- Approximately 12-15 minutes in length

Various free software or software available to UI students can be used to record and edit your presentation. Please ensure that the presentation meets professional standards in terms of timing, editing, and clarity of presentation.