Pre-lab assignment
Lab Topic 25 Ecology I: Terrestrial Ecology
Biology 213
Spring 2003

Labs will not meet in Weniger, the week of May 12. Instead we will meet at Oak Creek.

You will work as teams of ecologists to determine the components of a riparian ecosystem found at Oak Creek, which runs through the OSU campus. Each team, composed of 6-8 students, will sample one plot, thus providing three or four replicate samples, depending on the number of teams. Within teams, each student will have specific assigned responsibilities.

Following the field sampling, you will share results with other teams next week during lab, make calculations, pool and analyze data, and develop a model of the ecosystem. You will turn in a report of findings as your writing assignment for the term.

Directions: Go west on Campus Way, cross 35th Street, and continue until you see a green metal gate on the left. Wait for your lab instructor there. If you come to the covered bridge, which crosses Oak Creek, you know you have gone too far. It is about a 20 minute walk from Weniger. A map will be posted outside the Weniger lab door.

Wear appropriate clothing. We will have lab rain or shine. Bring rain gear or umbrella if you do not have rain gear. Sandals are not suitable for the trail as it can be very muddy. Shorts are not advisable as there is poison oak and some thorny vegetation.

- Distinguish between the following: primary producers, consumers, herbivores, carnivores. Provide examples for each of the categories, using examples found in Figure 25.1: fungi, millipedes, eagles, foxes, squirrels, foxes, caterpillars, trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.
- Carefully read the procedures for your assigned field study so that you will be prepared ahead of time for the data collection. Will you be collecting your data from a plot? ________ If so, what size is the plot? ________ On what organisms will you be collecting data? ________
- Go to the following web page: http://www.orst.edu/dept/oakcreek. Select Issue Statements, and then select Riparian Conditions In Oak Creek. Read the following selected subtopics:
  1. Environmental Question or Problem
  2. Current Institutional Units Responsible for Management
  3. Riparian Conditions in Oak Creek: EPA/Ag Reach (from 35th Street to Harrison Street) (This is the area where the BI 213 class will be collecting data.)
  4. Priorities for Actions
5. Possible Alternatives to be Considered: EPA/Ag Reach
6. Some General Comments Regarding Restoration of Riparian Areas, Wetlands, and Stream Channels

- Write a paragraph summarizing what you learned from these selected topics.
- Optional reading: Select *About Oak Creek* and read *The Historical Record of Oak Creek, Benton County, Oregon* by Patricia Benner.