



2023-2024

EXECUTIVE SEMINAR IN NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP

Responding to Uncertainty and Change With New Partnerships and Approaches

The Executive Seminar in Natural Resources Leadership (ESP) is a case-study based professional program run by Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government that helps mid-career natural resource leaders explore and expand leadership competencies and establish pathways for career-long leadership learning and development.

Each year, the program visits communities throughout the west to connect with local leaders wrestling with their own natural resource challenges. Through presentation, conversation and guided study—and peer-to-peer sharing and teamwork—cohort members deepen their sense of leadership, build networks of support, and witness many different styles and approaches to solving complex leadership challenges.

High Desert Partnership: Collaboration in Southeast Oregon's Harney County

October 16-20, 2023 Burns, Oregon

In southeast Oregon's remote Harney County, the non-profit High Desert Partnership has established a table and process around which agencies, landowners and communities of interest create collaborative approaches to working together in support of natural resources, community vitality and the region's youth. It wasn't always that way. The partnership operates at a landscape scale across boundaries to bring together disparate views, interests and agency missions to help partners deliver results for southeast Oregon. During this week, we'll explore the origin and process of the High Desert Partnership, leadership lessons from its almost 20 years of operating, and the work of the collaboratives it has formed now helping partners make progress on forest management and fuel reduction; wetlands and bird habitat; rangeland wildfire response; and rural community economic vitality.

A Lingering Legacy: Cleaning up Portland Harbor Superfund Sites

February 26-March 1, 2024 Portland, Oregon

Well over 100 years of heavy industrial activity and municipal sewage discharges in the lower reaches of the Willamette River have resulted in a toxic mix of substances present in river sediment, waters and uplands known today as the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Designated by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2000, Portland Harbor is unique in

that more than 140 potential responsible parties have been identified as having contributed to the problem in a 10-mile stretch of the river between the Broadway Bridge and Sauvie Island. A unique federal-state partnership has formed to address human health and environmental risks, mitigate contaminants, and engage with tribes, local communities and others. During this week, we'll spend time with local leaders to explore the history, regulatory responsibility, environmental justice issues, clean-up science and community engagement needs associated with this complex Superfund site and the partnership that is pursuing the work.

Returning the National Bison Range to the Salish & Kootenai Tribes of Montana

May 20-24, 2024 Polson, Montana

On December 28, 2020, the United States Federal Government transferred ownership of the National Bison Range within Montana's Mission Valley and heart of the Flathead Indian Reservation to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. In January 2022, complete operations of the 18,000 acres were transferred to the Tribe from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of Interior. The move followed years of tribal advocacy and readiness for the transfer and crucial enabling legislation both in Montana and in the U.S. Congress. Today, the nation's largest buffalo herd and the habitat it occupies is cared for by the tribal people who have lived here since time immemorial. For this case we'll travel to the Flathead Valley in springtime to hear from tribal leaders, elders and natural resource specialists, elected leaders, cooperating state and federal agencies and others to explore the complex history of the Bison Range, the agreements and negotiations around its transfer, the cultural significance to the tribes, and the challenges and opportunities for stewardship of the Bison Range today.



Registration & Cost

The 2023-2024 program fee is \$10,500, or \$4,000 per individual case. Participants may register for the full program or any one of the individual cases. All participants are encouraged to join the final Capstone session in June at no additional cost.

Capstone Session

PSU Campus, June 20, 2024

The capstone session integrates the leadership lessons learned over the course of the program with the practical challenges participants face in their agencies. Participants come prepared to discuss issues from their own work experience and apply principles from the year's cases to these issues. This summative learning experience also allows the cohort to connect and network, and transition into their role as ESP alums.

More About ESP

Recurring themes include understanding the role of civic capacity, collaborative governance, empathy, engaging diversity, leadership self-awareness and situational awareness, operating in uncertainty and ambiguity, and coping with risk.

A total of four seminars are held during the program year. Three seminars of approximately one week each are held on site to explore each case. A fourth one-day session is held on the Portland State campus to conclude the program with a review of leadership principles, techniques for policy resolution, and a summarization of insights gained by the participants.

**REGISTER BY AUGUST 18TH:
WWW.PDX.EDU/CPS/ESP**

Executive Seminar Program Team



DOUG DECKER | PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Doug served as Oregon State Forester from 2011 to October 2016. During his 29-year career with the agency he led the development of the Tillamook Forest Center, and acquisition of the 70,000-acre Gilchrist State Forest in Central Oregon. Doug's three decades of experience in all aspects of natural resource policy, and his credentials as a collaborative leader of a complex state agency, as well as being an alum of the Executive Seminar Program, allow him to bring insight, practical experience and a passion for communication and learning to program participants.
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PAUL MANSON | ACADEMIC LEAD

Paul is a Research Professor with the PSU Center for Public Service. For the past decade he has combined research interests in environmental policy with and pedagogical skills to provide training for natural resource professionals across the US. Paul's research focuses on public opinion and governance challenges around critical issues facing the West, including wildfire, disaster resilience, and coastal and marine management. Paul is committed to a co-production model of training - a model that recognizes the power of academic research and practitioner experience to create opportunities for innovation. Paul holds a PhD in public policy and affairs and a Master of Public Administration from PSU.



JOSH METZLER | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Josh is a Programs Administrator at PSU Center for Public Service. He supports various programs such as the US Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program, Executive Seminar Program, NOAA Fisheries Emerging Leaders Development Program, and the Initiative for Community and Disaster Resilience. Josh was born and raised in Japan, and moved to Oregon in 1999. He earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at PSU in 2013.
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