Instructor / Assessor: David Rossiter

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessed:
GEOG SLO #4 – analyze space, place, landscape, location, and human-environment interactions for the purposes of explanation and prediction

Course Assessed:
ENVS 441 – Society, Space, and Natural Resources

Achievement of GEOG program SLO #4 was assessed by evaluating all final essays for the spring 2013 quarter class. In all cases (29), students engaged the assigned topic (resource conflict) by organizing discussion around one of more of the SLO analytical themes. In 80 percent of the papers, students deployed some detailed analysis of place or human-environment interactions in approaching their topic. In two thirds of the papers, students demonstrated a facility with spatial and locational analysis in making sense of their topic.

This assessment points to the need to further assist students in developing the analytical skills expected in the SLO, particularly around the concepts of space and location in the analysis of natural resource conflicts. To this end, the instructor will take the following actions for the winter 2014 class:

• Direct instruction in geographical analysis in essay writing;
• Provide examples that highlight different analytics – place, space, location, etc;
• Build a draft component into essay assignment for earlier instructor feedback; and
• Other methods as instructor determines.