**TERM PROJECT – ZOOL 3500**

For this exercise, you will be conducting an in-depth investigation of a significant conservation issue. There are some possible pursuits along these lines which will be discussed in class. In essence, you will:

(1) Determine a major management issue in a particular area for a species

(2) Fully investigate the aspects of this matter, and

(3) Provide an oral presentation (with a PowerPoint). A report will accompany the presentation.

An example should be helpful here. You’ve decided to examine the management and conservation of bison in Yellowstone National Park. You would start by studying the history of this species in the western U.S. and in the park. Then, you would learn about its current status (e.g., numbers, population trends, ecology) in and around the park. You would soon realize that there are several issues involving this species in that region.

For example, many ranchers surrounding the park are worried about brucellosis in bison being transmitted to their livestock. How is this being handled by Yellowstone National Park personnel and officials in Montana and other surrounding states? What roles, if any, are played by those opposed to a potential reduction in bison numbers? And **ultimately**, how might the “average citizen” (you and your classmates included!) get involved in the decision-making about this subject?

There are several critical pathways in your pursuit of such material. Using the bison example, one must first engage in a thorough examination of the pertinent literature and other information (e.g., the Yellowstone National Park website). It would then be critical to communicate with, and conduct interviews with the park scientist(s) and other officials concerned with this animal’s management. Next, one should engage in similar investigations and dialogue with the other agencies and “stakeholders,” such as Montana’s livestock commission and groups opposed to bison “culling.” Finally, your report, again, should focus on how a concerned individual could provide input to those involved in the management and conservation of the bison – in the park and its surrounding areas.

Following is a possible list of parks, agencies, and organizations from which your study should proceed:

Yellowstone National Park

Grand Teton National Park

Bryce Canyon National Park

Zion National Park

Capitol Reef National Park

Arches National Park

Canyonlands National Park

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Antelope Island State park

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (e.g., sensitive species management)

Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area

The Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve (The Nature Conservancy)

Timetable

January 28: Proposals due. This should be at least a 2 paragraph abstract of the topic you plan to pursue, and how you will do so.

January 24 – February 27: Intensive investigation phase; to include discussions with Dr. Zeveloff, immersion in background of subject, interviews with key individuals, write-up, etc.

February 27: Preliminary drafts due on project. Following discussions with Dr. Zeveloff, there will be returned for revisions and preparation for class presentations.

Week of April 15 and 22: Presentations. All projects in final form are due on April 19.

More to come on all of the above!