

**PREDATOR/PREY: A DYNAMIC
RELATIONSHIP IN THE WEB OF LIFE**

JUNE 15, 2018

**COURSE LEVEL: III COURSE #: S3040
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER**



INSTRUCTOR: JEFF CONNOR

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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

TIME: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A story exists all around us as we walk through the woods. Animals use the same area we do, but often go unnoticed since much of their activity occurs off trails, at night, or early/late in the day. Do you know how to read the signs they leave behind? If not, this class is for you. We will study predator/prey dynamics that include a scientific method for addressing questions via a non-intrusive field technique. The overall goal of this class is to provide participants information on reading signs left behind by predators and prey and to improve situational awareness (for safety as well as understanding the animals that live in the places you visit). The class will also provide a better understanding of community ecology and dynamics within the predator/prey complex in Rocky Mountain National Park. As citizen scientists, we will use a scientifically tested sign census along a 20m x 100 m (or something comparable) transect. Information we collect will be added to a park dataset collected by other citizen scientists.

COURSE LEVEL: III

Participants will have up to two-mile moderate hikes among lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, aspen and ponderosa pine in the lower elevations of the east side of the park.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Jeff is a retired natural resources specialist who worked for 35 years in the federal government. Jeff worked for 25 years in Rocky Mountain National Park where he was involved with wildlife and vegetation management. In 2012, Jeff and other park staff started a Citizen Science Program that has an ecological relationship with the Estes Park and St. Vrain school systems, and a school in Monteverde, Costa Rica, which is part of the Agua y Paz Biosphere Reserve.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Respect for individual ideas will be observed. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 8:00 AM** Welcome/Introductions
- 8:30 AM** PowerPoint presentation about predators and prey and the concept of commonality
- 9:30 AM** Visit a mixed lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, aspen and ponderosa pine forest and willow; do a sign transect.
- 11:30 AM** Drive to Upper Beaver Meadows: eat lunch, and visit aspen and ponderosa pine groves.
- 4:00 PM** Wrap-up discussion at the Field Institute with an emphasis on the following:
- What predator signs did we see?
 - What prey signs?
 - What species would you call common, uncommon, rare?
- 4:30 PM** Depart.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- Your favorite mammal guide that includes information on tracks and scat
- Binoculars
- Camera

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

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| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map and compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses and sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | |
| ▪ Sack lunch, snacks, water | ▪ Extra layers of clothing | |

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee.

Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 unit) or \$25 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at www.RMConservancy.org. Participants must enroll in all courses of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.