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Biology/Health/Wellness, Kendall Campus

Course: BSC1050, Biology and Environment

Course Description: This course provides students with an understanding and appreciation of how the natural world functions, how human attitudes and actions alter natural systems, thus creating environmental problems, and how sustainable approaches may resolve these problems.

Topic: The Precautionary Principle, governmental rule-making and the preservation of Biological Diversity

Objectives:

- To understand and explain how government agency-permitted human activities, particularly habitat disruption and destruction, have resulted in major ecosystem disturbances resulting in the loss of biological diversity in various ecosystems.
- To understand and explain how the application of the Precautionary Principle during governmental agency rule-making would change the degree and effect of habitat and ecosystem disturbances.

Lesson activities:

1. Read the text chapters on Loss of Biological Diversity, and the Precautionary Principle
2. Read any 2 of the 5 peer-reviewed research papers which cite particular governmental regulatory rules, their implementation and the consequences of their implementation.
3. Read the paper describing the use of the Precautionary Principle in governmental rule-making.

Products:

1. The students will prepare a side-by-side chart of a specific regulatory rule and compare it to the rule as it could be written if the use of the Precautionary Principle had been required.
2. Prepare a short paper in which the student compares and contrasts the effect of implementing a Precautionary Principle-based rule on the degree and extent of habitat loss and loss of biological diversity.
3. Take part in the class discussion of the damage to the Everglades as a result of implementation of agency rules in permitting land use in south Florida.

When this lesson is completed, the student will have an understanding of:

- The concept of the loss of biological diversity
- The concept of the Precautionary Principle
- The underlying effect of the use of the Precautionary Principle on rule-making

- The effect on habitat and ecosystem disturbance and loss of biological diversity as a consequence of the implementation of rules based on the Precautionary Principle