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Integrating Ecology and Information Technology: Conserving Natural Resources

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Status Report

Original goals.

The goal of this project is to develop an interdisciplinary course on spatial analysis and the conservation of natural, environmental, and ecological resources. The proposed course is to be taught in conjunction with an independent research project so that students can participate in both field-based and classroom activities.

Progress to date.

Research (summer/fall, 2009).

- Changed the research focus from the Hudson Highlands to Rockefeller Preserve
- Developed relationships with two Rockefeller Properties
- Researched and purchased equipment to support the project (cameras)
- Finalized the research design
- Built the student research team
- Begin the investigation of field sites for fall/winter data collection
- Begin the collection of field data
- Develop data plan for both information and spatial analysis

Interdisciplinary Course

- Continue to finalize course topics
    - Conservation of Biodiversity
    - Ecosystem Processes in the Landscape
    - Disease Ecology, Causes of Landscape patterns
    - Data Organization and Representation in Environmental Sciences
    - Geospatial analysis

Next Steps

- choose a foundational text book for this class
- refine the potential list of topics and finalize syllabus
- integrate our field research into the course curriculum

Revisions to project goals

- Research area changed from Hudson Highlands to Rockefeller Preserve
- Course offering may be changed from Spring to Fall 2010

Fall 2009/Spring 2010	-	Curriculum Development
Fall 2010	-	Course offered
December, 2010	-	Project Poster Session
January 31, 2011	-	Final Report

Test Tracks (human) made of one of the research areas (Kykuit)