

Natural Areas in King County

Management of natural areas focuses on the protection of natural features and the processes supporting them. The rapidly changing environments in urbanizing King County and the range of possible impacts related to climate change create great challenges for Natural Area persistence. This field trip will visit small wetland Natural Area Preserves (NAP) and a large Natural Area Conservation Area (NRCA) managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources that are 20 miles from UW in Seattle. Sphagnum bog ecosystems, rare in very good condition, that support populations of rare plants and beetles will be visited at the NAPs. The Mount Si NRCA at 9,522 acres includes steep, rugged and mountainous terrain with habitat and a variety of wildlife native mountain goats, cougar, and black bear. The NRCA safeguards unique geologic features, examples of old growth forests, and sensitive plant species and is the most heavily used NRCA in the state. Viewing natural areas of differing sizes provide a face-to-face encounter with conservation biology in a changing world.

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Size Limit: 30 Price: \$0 carpool, rain gear and rubber boots are advised.