SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:  
PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT FIELD TRIP for PAPER #1  
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This message is to all students of the Environmental Management 1 class who did not attend the Cape Cod field trip on October 6th, and who have not already sent me an alternate field trip proposal and/or paper topic. This includes distance students and in-class students, as well as graduate students and undergraduate students who fall into this category.

I have received many messages from students asking about the first written paper that is due on October 16th. Here is my collective response.

This is what you still need to do:

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1.  CHOOSE A FIELD TRIP

Choose a marine/wetland environment to visit.

In keeping with the course content being taught so far by Prof Buckley, the point of the first field trip is to simply experience and write about a special marine/wetland environment fist hand (talk about the local geology, topology, water systems, indigenous plants and animals, etc), and then to muse about why it is so very critical to protect it (preserve aesthetics, prevent erosion, minimize property loss, diminish loss of biodiversity and special breeding grounds, etc), as well as to consider how protection can be achieved (operationally, scientifically, politically, legally, etc).

Generally speaking, the exercise is designed simply to get you oriented and thinking about broad marine/wetland ecology management concerns/issues as illustrated by the site you visit, and to elicit your ideas, observations and responses on these issues.

Examples of Appropriate Sites:
The Fens, Boston
Boston Harbor
Boston Harbor Islands
Charles River - basin and banks
Neponset River* (see note below)
Fresh Pond, Cambridge
Walden Pond, Concord
Quabbin Reservoir, Central Mass.
Crane's Beach - Ipswich, Mass
your local beach
your local lake/pond
your local river/stream
your local water supply
etc

* Note to students in the Boston Area:  
Undergraduate student Cana Crosby will be leading an independent trip to the Neponset River on Sunday, October 12, 2002, accompanied by her husband who is a geologist. There may be opportunities for other students to join Cana on that trip. If interested, please contact Cana and Ben Crosby at mountain@mit.edu. Students who pursue this trip
may have their paper deadline extended one week to October 23, provided that they notify
me this week of their intent to pursue this topic.

What happens if it is not possible to pursue a marine/wetland topic?  
Other topics may be acceptable with prior approval. Also, attendance at a lecture, 
seminar, conference, or exhibit preferably related to marine/wetland environment issues 
may be substituted for a field trip if necessary.

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2. NOTIFY ME OF YOUR INTENT

I will let you know if the field trip is acceptable content for your first paper, and 
will try to provide suggestions for expanding, improving or even changing your topic if 
needed. Some people have chosen topics that are too narrowly focused. If possible, 
please broaden your thinking to discuss larger concerns and management issues, as 
relevant to your local site, of course.

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3. VISIT THE SITE

Your should observe your site for at least two hours. Two-four hours is ideal and all 
day is exceptional!

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4. WRITE YOUR PAPER

The paper should be about 4-6 pages, double spaced. If you want you may follow the 
simple outline I described above, that is:
   A. Description of Area
   B. Reasons for Concern
   C. Protective Actions

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5. SUBMIT YOUR PAPER on TIME

All papers will be due on October 16th, unless you have prior agreement from me that you 
qualify for a special deadline extension.

If possible papers should be printed and handed to me in class on the night of October 
16th. If this is not possible, then papers should be emailed to me either on or before 
October 16th. Microsoft Word format for the PC (not the MAC) will be accepted.

THAT'S IT!
Good luck and, most of all, have fun!

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