

## **FW3180 Geomorphology, Landscapes, and Ecosystems**

### **Presentations of a Non-Local Landscape**

**Due: Week of October 15, 2007**

You are to give a 5 to 7 minute presentation on the relationships between vegetation, landform, morphometry, soils and geology for a non-local landscape (i.e. not one we have examined in class). You should highlight the distribution of ecosystems across the landscape and the primary factors controlling this distribution. You can simply draw the landscape on the board and describe the ecosystems or you can give a brief Powerpoint Presentation.

You also should prepare a one to two page description of the landscape, describing the ecosystems occurring and the geomorphic factors controlling their distribution. A figure illustrating the positions of the ecosystems in the landscape and the associated key morphometric or geologic factors should be included. It can be scanned from a publication, taken from a website, or drawn by you. In all cases, a proper reference for the source (or source material if hand drawn) should be given. Try to have at least 2 references.

The landscape could be at any scale of your choosing. You might choose something on a local scale, similar to the ecosystems of the Huron Mountains or those in the glaciated landscape immediately surround the Ford Center. You also might examine larger, regional landscapes, such as: elevation gradients up and over major mountain chains; an examination of the precipitation gradient from forested areas of Minnesota out into the Great Plains, including ecosystems which follow rivers bottoms out into the plains; or an examination of ecosystems that occur as one moves from the barrier islands and ocean shore into Coastal Plain and then Piedmont provinces. Local landscapes can often be very interesting, but regional landscapes are sometimes easier to find information on. There are many possibilities for each.

When looking at the ecosystems present, you can examine either natural or introduced vegetation. Master's International students, for instance, might wish to look at the distribution of vegetation in a country they hope to be assigned to. In such cases, the relationship between landscape features and the crops grown on them might be just as interesting as that occurring for natural vegetation.

You may search the web using electronic database searches available from the MTU library, such as Agricola or Web of Science/Web of Knowledge. Good keywords include "landform", "ecosystems", and "topography". Try to find articles available electronically. Other options include interlibrary loan (a PDF will be sent to you in several days), or having Mike go to the library to copy a critical article for you (last resort).