Students will keep a journal for this class. You will journal every week during the term, starting with Week 1 (Jan 4) and ending with Week 10 (March 11). You will turn in your journals twice for grading: 1) on January 21 (after 3 weeks of journaling); and 2) on March 11. The January 21 deadline is a preliminary evaluation of your journal; you will receive feedback to help you improve your ability to summarize current events and your opinions about these events. Both submissions will be graded. Late submissions will be deducted 10% for every day they are late and I will not accept any submissions that are > 3 days late.

You will journal on 2 current events each week; 1 national event and 1 international event. The purpose of the journal is to: 1) stimulate you to keep abreast of national and global natural resource issues; 2) enhance your reading and writing skills; and 3) provide an additional study tool for the class material. I will ask you to verbally share some of these events with the class on occasion, and I may periodically ask you to bring your journals to class so I can do a quick check that you are keeping up to date.

General Format for current event journaling (also see example below):

1. Review 2 newspaper articles (no opinion blogs – a newspaper article in a newspaper known for investigative journalism) on two different natural resource events each week. One event should have a US focus and one event should be international in scope with little or no US involvement. The events can describe a local situation but it must have national or international significance to natural resource issues. I also expect you to read articles on a variety of natural resource topics, e.g., don’t just read papers on global climate change.

2. Indicate the Entry Week on the left hand side (E.g., Entry Week 1-10). Below this, enter the date you are making the entry. You may journal on each current event on a separate day of that week or on one day.

3. After recording the date of your entry, provide a citation for the current event that includes author, date of the article, title of the article and source (e.g., The Guardian). I need enough information so that I can locate your source on the internet). In the first paragraph, summarize the current event in your own words (include enough information so that I can understand what it is about). In a second paragraph, summarize your personal thoughts related to the event. The later might include why it is of interest to you and if it would be of interest to the FW325 class. You could also comment on if you think the article is an unbiased presentation of the situation or is biased and explain why you think it is biased. This is your opinion and you will not be docked for disagreeing with a journalist.

4. Number your journal pages consecutively. Leave a space between current events entered for a week and between weeks.

5. All articles that you journal on must be written within 2 weeks of the week you are journaling.
6. Your “journal” must be electronic and not handwritten (for ease of grading). You must turn in a hard copy to me. Please use size 12 font, leave 1.25-inch margins and use 1.5 line spacing. Since you will be using a computer I expect you to spell check your work. Each weekly entry should be < 2 pages.

7. Have fun with this!!