

## **WILDAND/WILDLIFE PRESERVATION: THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST PROJECT**

**Meeting Place:**  
**August 27, 2010**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
**(Time & location determined later)**

**August 27 – October 10, 2010**

**12 semester system units (equivalent to 18 quarter system units)**

**Program Fee \$ 2495 plus \$150 Application Fee**

Thank you for your interest in our Pacific Northwest Project, an intensive field study set amidst an incredibly diverse and wild landscape. In this program team members will take part in first hand investigations of the Pacific Northwest, from the Puget Sound and its rocky intertidal zones to dense temperate rainforests, deep river canyons, high alpine meadows and mountain top glaciers. Together through back country field trips and research projects we will explore the natural history, biogeography, wildlife and cultural of this unique region.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Through this project, team members will engage in a firsthand examination of the Pacific Northwest's diverse ecosystems and the research techniques used to address current environmental challenges. We will spend six weeks trekking through the backcountry of breath-taking national parks and exploring the interconnected ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. Throughout the project we will collaborate with scientists from a variety of disciplines to address current concerns in terrestrial wildlife and marine ecology. We will also investigate the historical and current interactions that tie the people of this area to the land and its natural resources.

At a time when conflicts between ecosystem health, energy needs, economic development and resource use are more pertinent than ever, our program will tackle complex issues that impact people and ecosystems in our own backyard. By discussing and exploring current issues surrounding sustainable growth and conservation in the Pacific Northwest, we will gain a better understanding of the vital role each of us can play in shaping the future of America's valuable resources and ecosystems.

A major objective of this project is to provide team members with the skills, resources and professional network that will help them succeed as young professionals in the natural resource and environmental science fields. We will devote a considerable amount of time towards building a strong repertoire of wildlife and marine research field techniques and explore a variety of job opportunities and career options. By developing relationships with regional scientists and researchers, students will learn the necessary steps to become involved in environmental conservation at academic, non-profit and governmental institutions. In addition, the time team members spend living, learning, and observing the Pacific Northwest's natural environments will provide an excellent setting from which to explore a variety of related career paths.

### **PROJECT GOALS & ACTIVITIES**

Our project will begin with an orientation of the natural history and biogeography of the area as we travel the impressive Columbia River Gorge. From there we will head east to explore the semi-arid desert of Hell's Canyon, North America's deepest canyon. To immerse ourselves in the area, we will hike from high ridgelines down to the canyon bottom and then travel along the white water rapids of the Wild and Scenic Snake River.

Next we will head north to the boreal forest and alpine meadows of the wild North Cascades National Park. In addition to being one of the snowiest places on Earth, the North Cascades ecosystem is one of the most diverse on the planet. Together we will explore the jagged peaks, cascading waterfalls, and incredible wildlife of this vastly undeveloped remote area hosting over 300 glaciers and 400 miles of trails. While in the Cascades our team will work with the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, Conservation Northwest and HawkWatch International on a variety of research projects. As we hike the high Cascades we will conduct remote camera and hair snare surveys for black bear and bobcats in a genetic and habitat connectivity project, and aid in a raptor banding and migration monitoring project.

After leaving the North Cascades we will travel and explore the unique ecosystems of the Olympic National Park. From the wild rock strewn tide pools of the Pacific coast to the awe-inspiring temperate rain forests and glacier-capped peaks, this park contains a stunning array of plants and animals. The old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest are the most productive ecosystem on the planet and due to the high levels of rainfall, this park contains world record trees and some of the most spectacular temperate rainforests in the lower 48 states. We will hike up the rainforest valleys to incredible alpine meadows and mountain glaciers where we will assist the National Park Service and Washington Fish and Wildlife biologists in monitoring a newly reintroduced Pacific Northwest predator icon, the fisher.

The final section of the project will focus on coastal and marine ecology. We will begin by examining the interface between marine and terrestrial systems by following salmon runs from their spawning locations up stream to their point of origin at sea. Along the coast we will learn about the zonation, diversity and ecological roles of marine communities. With this foundation, we will travel through the Puget Sound to the San Juan Islands, where we will stay at a university marine research lab. In our time on the islands we will become acquainted with common marine species, learn a variety of marine ecology field techniques and hear from marine ecologists about current research and important questions relating to the marine environment.

Through our field studies we will have a unique opportunity to assess major issues affecting wildland conservation and management in the Pacific Northwest today, and discover techniques and strategies being used to meet these challenges. This program provides a special opportunity for on-site field investigations throughout the diverse ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. **Please note that previous field experience is not required to participate in our program. All necessary skills to conduct our ecological fieldwork will be taught onsite, enabling all of us to participate fully.** Through this project we will obtain knowledge about the ecology and conservation of the area, gain valuable naturalist and questioning skills and grow through our experience of being immersed in this land, both intellectually and personally.

### **TEAM LOGISTICS**

Our field studies will be conducted in a variety of environments: we will hike and backpack through backcountry wilderness, establish basecamps in a number of remote locations and lodge at two different research stations. During the course we will travel by car from location to location throughout the Pacific Northwest. Once at our destination we will either set up a base camp and make daily hikes to adjacent field sites or we will backpack through the area, making camp each evening in a different location. Almost all of our time will be spent traveling, camping and living outdoors, rain or shine. Over the course of the class we will engage in several extensive and sometimes rigorous backcountry journeys in rugged and spectacular landscapes. Since most of our meals will be camping/ backcountry meals, each student will be responsible for their own food.

Many students have dietary restrictions and/or preferences. By providing your own food, each person can choose what they want to eat. While traveling between locations we will have access to laundry and shower facilities as well as be able restock on food and equipment for our next destination.

Developing self-confidence in a new and challenging environment is an important part of the program. Beyond academics, students will find opportunity for personal growth in the daily rituals of cooperative group living and learning. This program is an intensive and exciting endeavor, incorporating field observations and journaling, lectures and group discussions, backcountry hikes, and exams. We expect students to arrive in the Pacific Northwest excited and prepared for a rewarding academic, social, and physical challenge.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The project begins in Portland, Oregon on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and ends in Seattle, Washington on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Students may schedule flights to and from either airport, as buses and trains travel between the two cities throughout the day. Students may also arrive in Portland with their own vehicle. Transportation costs and specifics will be determined by the availability of participants who are able to use their own vehicles for class carpooling. For this carpooling option, the team will need 3-4 participant cars, and vehicle availability will be taken into consideration as applications are reviewed. Those students who use their vehicles during the class will not have to pay fuel costs and therefore pay a lower in-country expense. If we do not have enough vehicles to carpool, other transportation will be arranged but in-country expenses may increase slightly due to a higher transportation cost for the class.

All reasonable efforts will be made to follow the activities outlined above; however please understand that travel arrangements can remain tentative until the traveling actually takes place. Weather conditions, road closures and project logistics require that team members be flexible, patient, and prepared to adapt to unexpected situations.

### **ACADEMIC CREDIT**

Students will receive 12 semester units (18 quarter units) awarded through California State University Monterey Bay Extended Education. While students usually encounter no difficulties in transferring credit to their home campus, applicants should check with their advisors prior to enrolling. Our staff will be happy to explain the program in further detail to the applicant's advisor, if necessary. The Pacific Northwest field studies program gives credit in three courses:

- ENVS 370, Environmental Wildlands Studies (4 semester system units)
- ENVS 371, Environmental Field Survey (4 units)
- ENVS 372, Wildlands Environment and Culture (4 units)

Letter grades (or pass/no pass, on request) are based upon the breadth of our endeavors. Students receiving academic credit will be evaluated on the basis of: 1) active participation in class and field activities; 2) examinations; 3) field journals; 4) seminar discussions; 5) independent research project/paper.

Team members are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner. The Wildlands Studies Program reserves the right to require any student to withdraw from the program if their conduct is detrimental to or incompatible with the interests, safety, or welfare of any course participants.

### **PROJECT COSTS**

Program Fee:	\$2495 plus \$150 Application Fee due August 1, 2010. Enrollment on a space-available basis after the fee due date until the program is full.
Estimated In-Country Expenses:	\$1400 per person covers accommodations, land/sea transportation and fuel, instructor travel, field activities, permits, readings, group supplies and material/research costs.
Food Money:	\$300
Personal Spending Money:	\$200 (this varies according to taste – but don't be caught short)

The in-country fee is due August 1, 2010. If you cancel from the program no earlier than 6 weeks but no later than 3 weeks before the program begins, you are entitled to a 75% in-country fee refund. If you withdraw within 3 weeks of the program's start, and you cannot be replaced from a waiting list, your group fees are non-refundable. This policy is necessary because much of the group expenditures must be paid and/or committed to before the program takes place. For those of us on a limited budget, additional personal expenses can be held down with careful planning.

Students should inquire at the financial aid office of their home campus regarding the use of their loans or grants for this course. CSU Monterey Bay Extended Education/ Wildlands Studies are not responsible for non-refundable airline or other tickets or payments or any similar penalties that may be incurred as a result of any course cancellation or changes.

### **PRE-PROGRAM MAILINGS**

Detailed information regarding gear/food, meeting plans, group expenses payment, medical recommendations and academic preparations will be sent to all team members in a subsequent logistics letter about 8-10 weeks before the project initiates.

### **PROJECT LEADERS**

**Adam Dillon** is an ecologist who has conducted research on a variety of wildlife projects throughout North and Central America. His main focus is wildlife ecology and conservation with an emphasis on mammalian carnivores. He instructs Wildlands Studies projects in New Zealand, the Pacific Northwest and previously in Belize.