

15 University of MONTANA credits



LANDscape and LIVelihood Fall Field Semester



Landscape and Livelihood Fall Field Semester
NORTHWEST CONNECTIONS
P.O. Box 1309
Swan Valley, Montana 59826



Community | Conservation | Education

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P.O. Box 1309, Swan Valley, Montana 59826
www.northwestconnections.org | 406 754 3185

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The Place

Tucked between Missoula and the Blackfoot Valley to the south and the Flathead Valley and Glacier National Park to the north, the upper Swan Valley is home to about 500 year-round residents. The Valley is bounded by wilderness areas on both sides and provides habitat for grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine, goshawks, eagles and many others.



a detailed field journal. You'll appreciate your own handiwork after learning and applying practical skills taught by experts whose livelihoods depend on them. And many of the people you'll learn from have earned their credentials in the field by working as trappers, self-taught naturalists, loggers, ranchers and conversation professionals.



The Program

The Field Semester focuses on a landscape where people live and make their living. While surrounded by wilderness, the Swan Valley's non-wilderness



Active Learning

We look for students who won't shy away from hard physical or academic work. We begin with a 9 day backpacking trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Students learn and work primarily outdoors. There's no time for nodding off in the back of a huge lecture hall. We expect that you'll be physically and mentally engaged in everything from querying guest speakers to chopping wood, from forest inventory assessments to cooking for your classmates. The whole Semester is hands on.

valley bottom provides rich resources and crucial habitat linkages for an abundance of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The best hope for conservation of these critical low-elevation lands is active participation in management by the human communities inhabiting the area. The Valley becomes a workshop where students learn conservation and restoration skills in the context of a specific place and its human community.

A Non Traditional Approach

The Field Semester is a major departure from a typical academic experience.

Lab isn't just once a week. You'll work outdoors every day keeping



Community Interaction

We don't believe you can, or should, learn about the land in isolation from its human community. Homestays in the Swan and Blackfoot Valleys introduce you to families in our community and give you a sense of daily life in rural western Montana. There are also opportunities to chat over dinner or play guitar with local residents. Community members become part of our instructional staff as well, many of them take on mentoring roles for students during the Independent Study course.



Learn More

Contact us at 406 544-1319 or sarah@northwestconnections.org.

Landscape and Livelihood

A Field Semester in Community Based Conservation

August 30 to October 28, 2010

15 semester credits are offered through the University of Montana.

- Biogeography of Northwestern Montana (GPHY 391 or EVST 392)
- Watershed Dynamics (RSCN 345)
- Forests and Rural Communities (RSCN 346)
- Conservation & Community Research Project (EVST 383)
- Field Skills (EVST 282)

COST

Includes tuition, Wilderness First Aid certification, full room and board, all course readers and all transportation during the Semester.

\$7800 - In State

\$9800 - Out of State

APPLICATION

- Federal financial aid and Americorps education vouchers are accepted.
- Scholarships are available.
- Priority status will be given to applications received by April 1st. (You do not need to register separately with the University of Montana).

For more information about applying to the Field Semester, visit www.northwestconnections.org

CONTACT US

Email us at sarah@northwestconnections.org or call 406 544-1319.



Integrating science, community and education to conserve and restore working landscapes.

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Comments from previous L&L students:

“Living in the Swan and learning about this place and community so intensely forced me to learn about myself and eventually led me to find a common theme about my life that I can take with me and continue to develop.”

- Sam, Northland College

“Being immersed in real world learning situations has been the most amazing, educational and satisfying experience of my life.”

- Will, University of Vermont

“Intense, interactive, and inspirational.”

- Asha, Dalhousie University, Canada

“It is a completely life-changing experience that opens your eye not only to issues in Northwest Montana, but around the country as well.”

- Emily, Iowa State University