

**ENVS 102 Field Activities in Environmental Science
Fall 2006, Fridays, date, location and time TBD**

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Course Description:

The Field Activities in Environmental Science is a series of field trips selected by the class. At the first class meeting (Friday, August 25, we will discuss the field trip options and the class members will vote on which field trips to schedule. We will also discuss everyone's schedule to arrange the field trips with minimal conflicts. I will then call the appropriate contacts and arrange the time and dates of the field trips. Most field trips will be on Fridays.

Some of the field trips will be worth more points than other field trips. We will schedule a total of 16 points worth of field trips (an equivalent of one for each week of a 16-week semester). Most semesters end up with five or six scheduled field trips.

Attendance at the field trips is mandatory if you expect to pass this class. If you have an immovable conflict, contact me so that we can make other arrangements (either an alternative field trip or a written assignment). These alternative plans must be made PRIOR to the field trip otherwise you will be out of luck.

This class is a lot of fun. We have a broad selection of possible field trips, all of them somehow related to environmental science.

Text, Assignments and Exams:

There will be no textbook or exams for this class. Prior to each field trip, you will have a brief assignment which will prepare you for the field trip. After each field trip, you will be assigned to write up a laboratory report (format listed below). These laboratory reports be due one week after the field trip. Drop completed laboratory reports in my office at TAB310.

I anticipate that we will finish the field trips well before the end of the semester. Some of the field trips must be scheduled early in the semester due to weather concerns.

Expectations:

My expectation is that you will attend all of the field trips and engage in the field trip by asking questions or making meaningful comments. I expect your laboratory reports to be concise but to relate to me what you gained from the field trip.

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated based on your preparation and participation in the field trips and your

write-up.

Field Trip Options:

Idaho National Laboratory Tour (all day, cannot be on a Friday)

Wind Farm Tour

Taughphaus Park Zoo Lecture on Biodiversity (must be done by late September)

Idaho Falls Sewage Treatment Plant (mandatory)

Island Park—Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch, Big Springs, Mesa Falls and Warm River Springs
(must be done by early September, takes all day)

Cress Creek Nature Trail (let's do this before hunting season)

Idaho Falls Gem State Power Plant

Camas National Wildlife Refuge

Charcoal Kilns and the Hahn townsite (all day—history of mining)

Water Quality Sampling Talk and Demonstration (either DEQ or USGS)

Local Recycling Plant

Local Waste Transfer Station

Craters of the Moon Geology Talk

Nature Conservancy Sage Grouse Trip (somewhere in the Lemhi's)

Silver Creek Tour (preserving trout habitat)

Mud Lake Wildlife Refuge

Septic System Lecture and Visit

Teton Valley Visit (handling growth and changing land use)

A laboratory report must be completed and handed in for each field trip.

The report should be typed and follow the format below. If you have other topics you would like to discuss in the report, additional sections can be added.

The la report is due one week after the trip. It can be emailed to me or dropped of at my office in TAB310.

Your Name:

Date of the Field Trip:

Topic of the Trip:

Location of the Trip:

Name of the person we spoke to:

Questions you had prior to the trip:

Information you gained from the trip:

Questions that still remain in your mind or things you would like to know more aout on this topic:

How this topic relates to Environmental Science:

Your rating of the value of this trip: Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Ideas on how a field trip on this topic or like this could be improved in the future: