Summer 2010 Internship
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative

Project: Update NRCC's *Conserving Greater Yellowstone: A Teacher's Guide.*

Description: *Conserving Greater Yellowstone,* produced in 1990 by NRCC, is a teacher's guide to activities that use the science of conservation biology to introduce students & educators to the biology of species extinction and habitat disturbance in the area commonly known as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). This curriculum is aimed at high school biology courses, but can be adapted for younger or older students as well.

Conserving Greater Yellowstone contains 8 distinct lesson plans covering a range of topics, including extinction, habitat, policy, disturbance, critical resource issues, and the future of the GYE.

Tasks:
- Conduct a macro-level assessment of *Conserving Greater Yellowstone*. Which of the lessons plans can be revised or deleted all together? What new issues may be appropriate for lesson plans today? What topics can be added?
- Update all of the materials (articles, worksheets, maps, etc.) that are associated with the Teacher's Guide. Evaluate the current materials for usefulness, and find updated information & data suitable for inclusion in the Guide.
- Update each section with new research in the GYE that has occurred in the past 16 years. Notably, the previous edition has no mention of wolves or wolf ecology. A new section of curricula could potentially be added here looking at effects of species reintroduction & rehabilitation of ecosystems.
- Research the possibility of creating online resources to complement the print version of the Teacher's Guide.
- Add technological lessons to each section of the Guide (i.e, use Google Earth and GIS to create simple layers illustrating the political boundaries of the GYE).
- Include internet resources for educators in each section, as well as updating print resources with best available information today.
- Consult with local teachers & environmental educators on the development of the new curriculum. Design field trips & new research projects.
- Create a comprehensive list of additional media, such as movies, television programs, or radio shows with relevance to the GYE which may be used as supplemental materials in classroom lessons, or which can be used in classrooms that cannot easily plan field trips to sites within the GYE.
- Design comparative projects so that the curriculum is widely applicable, even to students living outside of this region.

Skills:
- A keen interest in environmental education
- Good communication and writing skills
- Some knowledge of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem
- Experience in experiential learning settings
- Self-motivation and creativity
- Some knowledge of new technology opportunities in education, such as Google Earth/GIS and other online resources.