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Fall Camp 2000

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Fall Camp 2000
September 4-22

Medicine Bow National Forest

Centennial, Wyoming

Being able to negotiate steep, rocky mountainsides was just one part of Dr. Colletti & Dr. Schultz's rigorous training regime to get campers in shape.
Along with being able to experience active logging sales in the Medicine Bow National Forest, students got the chance to talk to U.S. Forest Service employees from around the state which included ISU alum Brett Mason pictured taking a ring core sample.
Students and faculty learned about both the political and management aspects of urban forestry from Tim Buchanan, City Forester, in the city of Fort Collins, CO, including a visit to Colorado State University.
Right: students learn about the All Weather Product's Company and lumber preservative treatments in Loveland, CO.
Below: Aaron Kjeld and Nick Sandersfeld admire Big Horn Lumber's sling sorter and the entire lumber milling process in Laramie, WY.
During the first week at camp, ISU students and faculty enjoyed an environmental/forestry field day with local area 4th & 5th graders who were visiting the camp. Derek Mercer and Levi Laurion (top left photo) were somehow able to maintain order throughout the day, which included lots of fun and interactive activities for everyone.
The family of Olin, Scott and Don Simms, cattle ranchers near McFadden, WY, talk about the benefits of rotational grazing, water issues, holistic resource management and overall conditions of the land.

Shannon Baughman, ISU alum, from Denver Tree Specialists visited camp and along with Brian Jensen (ISU forestry student intern) gave a lesson on urban tree climbing. He also mentioned challenges and rewarding benefits when pursuing a career in urban forestry.
Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Pronghorn...... Recreation Wildlife

Right: US Forest Service.
Left: Wildlife Biologist Steve Kozlowski, and recreation specialist Hillary Cruikshank, inform the crew about environmental factors and human impacts that heavily influence decisions in the Medicine Bow region regarding the environment.

Right: Mitch Wilson, Mike McCauley, Spencer Wicks, Derek Mercer, Nate Gassmann, Aaron Kjeld, Brooke Arp and Ashley Green observe timber felling. Below: Students gather around to listen to an employee of Heggie Logging Operation, talk about harvesting technology, business issues and concerns in forestry.
The three weeks of forestry camp seemed to fly by. It was amazing to be in the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming during such a beautiful time of year as the aspens changed colors and winter began to set in. During the days we had class, our nights and weekends were spent at Saratoga, WY checking out the hot springs, fishing, hiking, camping, and visiting the bowling alley.

Aaron Kjeld takes a moment to appreciate nature and reflect on camp (?) while Mike McCauley and Nick Sandersfeld stay busy with a stream assessment.
Infiltration, macro-invertebrates and evapotranspiration were all concepts included in the stream visual assessment protocol, SVAP, led by Dr. Schultz on a chilly (?) fall day in week three.

Left: Karen Duey, Nate Gassmann and Megan Sweeney. Right: Derek Mercer, Levi Laurion and Randy Sedlock.

Little Laramie River
Above: Students "learning" at a Laramie park while waiting for another visit to a lumber company.

Left: Dick Schultz wanders along the North Platte River in the Wilderness of the same name on the western edge of the Medicine Bow N.F. Right: Sharon and Joe Colletti.
Above: Assessing fire effects.

Right: Dean Alexander with Bighorn Lumber has managed the logging end of business for 30 years.

Learning about soils with Dr. Williams high in the Snowy Range.

Before leaving camp near Centennial, WY, on September 22, the first snow storm of the season settled in. It made for an exciting morning when the vans got stuck on the way out of camp. All in all we had an awesome learning experience at Fall Forestry Camp 2000.

Camp Descriptions
By Brooke Arp and Joe Herring
Sophomores in Forest Ecosystems Management
Fall Forestry Camp 2000
Ashley Green
Sophomore in Natural Resource Conservation

Week 1

Finally arriving in Centennial, Wyoming after the long day of driving on September 3, 2000, was great. We stayed in Centennial on Sunday night, and then moved into the camp the next day. The cabins then became home for the next three weeks.

This first week was pretty exciting; we talked to the Laramie District Forester, Mike Sanders, taught 4th and 5th graders about forestry, and drove into Colorado. In Colorado, we talked to Pat Stevens, Prescribed Fire Technologist with the Rocky Mountain National Park, who was very enthusiastic about her job! Rocky Mountain National Park was pretty cool; there was still snow in a few places. Later in the trip we talked to Doug Will, Park Ranger at Boyd State Park, where we were camping. The next day we visited a treatment plant called All Weather Wood Products, and toured Fort Collins with the Fort Collins City Forester, Tim Buchanan. We saw the Colorado State University campus and saw the trees around the campus. After driving back to Wyoming, Saturday consisted of crawling out of bed too early and having class until noon. Then came hiking, fishing, sleeping, rock climbing, and wildlife watching.

Week 2

The second week started by visiting Lodgepole Products and Deerwood Homes. Both companies specialize in utilizing timber harvested from the Medicine Bow National Forest. We also visited Rob Roy Reservoir and talked with to Christie Schneider, Brett Mason, and Bob Thompson (the latter two are ISU Alumni). We saw clearcuts and watched a logging operation by Heggie Logging on a sale purchased by Big Horn Lumber. It was pretty obvious that Big Horn Lumber left the biggest impression on Rich Schebler, who seemed to be in his element whenever around lumber! We also drove all over the forest talking about wildlife and recreation in the area; we saw several large herds of Big Horn Sheep as we approached the North Platte River Wilderness. Then another Saturday of morning classes and the Weekend!

Week 3

This last week consisted of visits to several ranches in the area and learning about different ranching techniques. Several off-roading opportunities were enjoyed! We also learned about a community bat project with Albany, WY citizens and the Bureau of Land Management and forestry practices in Wyoming, on BLM lands and saw some recent burned areas on the western side of the Medicine Bow Mountain Range where Colletti's SUV decided to die. Of course, the closest town didn't know what a Honda Passport was so it took awhile to get the part. Colletti and Shultz had to drive back the next day to get it! On Friday, September 22, we woke up to a blanket of snow on the ground and took our final tests. After pushing the trailers out of the snow, we started back to Ames.