AggiEcology
Environmental stewardship for the entire university

Scott Shine
College of Natural Resources Senator

An outstanding opportunity currently awaits the College of Natural Resources. A report was recently released outlining what steps Utah State University can take to become a university dedicated to environmental stewardship and a leader in the West as a sustainable campus. This 300-page report is called AggiEcology.

The report is subdivided into 10 chapters: sustainability education, sustainability research, water, land, energy, food, material resources and waste disposal, built environment, transportation, and sustainable practices. Each chapter starts with an introduction, looks at successful examples around the world, outlines goals for Utah State, and then, recommends action. So where to go from here?

It is hard for anyone to argue against reducing water waste, building efficient buildings, improving understanding of the natural world, and providing healthy food. The main obstacle is getting the grassroots supporters, i.e. students, aware of this movement. President Hall has taken big strides by forming a committee and publicly stating a desire to become an "environmental university". Now it is the time for the rest of the university to voice support and demand action to uphold these claims.

The College of Natural Resources is in a particularly privileged condition due to the brilliance and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students that call the NR home. I may have a biased view, but I think we are the best college at this university and we have the ability to make that distinction even more clear than it already is.

Already six faculty members and an entire class were involved in putting together the AggiEcology document. Already the Quinney computer lab is the only one on campus to use 100% recycled paper. Already we are the most ecologically literate students on campus. Already we do the most research in environmental areas. Already we have the highest per capita amount of facial hair. Already we have the coolest dean.

So let's help the rest of this university by sharing our knowledge and supporting a movement that we all can relate to. Whether it is more support for environmental research, better land use planning, more efficient buildings, or organic options in the cafeteria, there is an issue that affects you. Ask yourself how to apply your passion to this movement and let everyone know, especially the administration.

If you want to contribute your great ideas, drop an e-mail to: scottls@cc.usu.edu. To view the whole report go to: http://www.usu.edu/about/president/ and click on AggiEcology.
IN INVOLVEMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The annual Wildlife Society field trip

Wes Jolley
Student Advocate

The Wildlife Society annually embarks on a service project during fall semester. It provides an opportunity for CNR students to escape classes, participate in a wildlife service project, and recreate in beautiful surroundings. The Wildlife Society’s fall trip usually goes to Yellowstone. This year we were unable to visit our traditional haunt, so we decided to journey to the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Seventeen students went this year, and we were happy to have Dean Busby come on the trip as our faculty advisor. We met at 4:00 am on Friday morning to start the drive, which took about seven hours.

We stayed at the Big Springs fire camp in the Kaibab National Forest. The camp is right next to Big Springs, one of only two springs on the forest district that produces running water. About a mile away, there is a fire lookout tower that provides an incredible view of the plateau from above the trees.

Saturday involved doing our service project at Timp Springs. We helped replace a fence designed to keep livestock away from the spring. Half of us worked on taking down the old fence while the other half put in the new fence posts.

After working it was time to finally get a look at the Grand Canyon. Our group ate lunch at the Timp Spring overlook, which provides a spectacular view of a side canyon to the Grand. We then drove to the North Rim visitor center to gawk at the actual canyon. It was difficult to comprehend how incredibly gigantic the canyon is. One little peak that appears to be about half a mile away is actually almost five miles distant. It is possible to see the South Rim visitors’ center, which is about eleven miles across the canyon. By car, one would have to follow 240 miles of blacktop to reach the South Rim.

It was a Wildlife Society trip, so of course we spent a lot of time looking for wildlife. Deer were abundant. We also saw and heard a fair amount of birds, including numerous stellar jays. A privileged few of us saw a Kaibab squirrel, an endemic species to the North Rim area. They have dark bodies, clean white tails, and large tufts on their ears. A squirrel does not seem like much to get excited about, but these are pretty cool looking squirrels.

Sunday was our final day. We had several stops planned on our way back to Logan. A short detour brought us to the Vermillion Cliffs, a marching line of rock dropping 1500 feet to the desert floor. Dean Busby had promised us a breathtaking view, and he delivered. We also stopped at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. I have seen sand dunes before, but these dunes were huge! We spent a couple of hours running and/or tumbling down the face of the dunes. The cooler weather kept the sand below the surface really cold; but that did not stop us from burying three people. I think that the sand dunes were my favorite part of the entire trip.

The Wildlife Society will be having more fun activities, and probably a spring trip. The Wildlife Conclave team will be going to Texas this March. For information regarding the wildlife society, contact the president Jake Bonham: jbonham@cc.usu.edu or public relations officer Garrett Savory: gasavory@cc.usu.edu. If you are interested in coming to Texas with Wildlife Conclave, contact me at wjolley@cc.usu.edu.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Logger’s Ball
A College Tradition
Friday, February 13th
Good Food, Live Music, and a Student/Faculty Talent Show.
Outdoor Equipment and other prizes will be raffled off.
$7/person; free if you bring a dinner dish for 12 people.
Signs with more information are posted everywhere.

ASUSU Elections
Student government *does* have an impact, and next year’s members will be elected in mid-March. Ignorance is the bane of democracy, so check out the ASUSU website (http://a-station.usu.edu/) to learn more about ASUSU’s purpose, current legislation, and available positions.

The College of Natural Resources will need a new senator for next year! Applications for running for office are due **February 19th**.

CNR Student Council
Serving on the College of Natural Resources Student Council is an excellent way to become involved in the college. There are a variety of council positions open for next year, including president.

Suggestion Box
Every month, a new question is posted at our suggestion box near the stairway in the atrium. The questions address your overall experience in the College of Natural Resources. Please answer them!