

## **WHAT TO BRING TO UNDERC-WEST**

### **CLOTHING**

Expect a wide range of weather conditions. Days will range from sunny and +100°F to rainy and 35°F. Cold temperatures and frost is not uncommon when we are camping in the mountains (Yellowstone). Since you will be working outside every day, you must have clothing for a variety of conditions—i.e., rain gear and layers. You will want to wear long pants and boots when walking or hiking to protect yourself from the elements and venomous snakes.

Footwear (hiking boots or sturdy shoes are extremely useful)

Hat (to keep the sun off your neck and eyes)

Clothing layers (it is typically warm but can get cold in the evening, especially in the mountains)

Long trousers (if walking through grasslands they will protect you from venomous snakes and gnarly vegetation)

Leather gloves

Swimming suit (the Flathead River is about a mile from where you will be staying)

### **CAMPING GEAR**

You should bring your own sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and headlamp/flashlight. You may bring additional camping gear for personal camping trips while in Montana (camping stove, backpack, etc). It's a good idea to coordinate what additional camping gear you'll bring with classmates. The course provides tents that are used during the trips to/from Montana, and which can be checked out for personal use. UNDERC-West owns two tents that sleep 12 and two tents that sleep 3.

### **FOOD**

*On the Week-long Road Trip There and Back:* During the road trip we will be stopping for lunch and dinner. To increase efficiency at stops for gas we suggest that you pre-pack snacks to last for the entire cross-country trip. You should bring granola bars or other breakfast items, as we will not stop for breakfast along the way.

*While at UNDERC-West:*

Plan your food carefully while you are at UNDERC because it is 40 minutes to the nearest decent grocery store, and trips are usually made just once per week. Plan on easily cooked meals (prepared and eaten in an hour). Most of the day is spent in class and conducting research so you won't want to spend much time cooking. The kitchens are supplied with pots, pans, plates, utensils, etc. It is a good idea (less expensive and easier) to coordinate food purchases and preparation with others in your apartment/class.

We will be stopping at a supermarket on the way to UNDERC so that you can pick up supplies such as food, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies (dish soap, scouring pads, sponges, etc.) and trash bags. Because space in the vehicles will likely be at a premium, do not bring supplies and food that you could otherwise get at the store. Plus, there is no sales tax in MT.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

*Mailing Address:*

(Your Name)

University of Notre Dame

Environmental Research Center-West

55489 Moiese Valley Road

Charlo, MT 59824

*Telephone:* One landline with answering machine: (406) 644-UNDW (8639)

*Computers & Internet Access:* There is a student lab equipped with 2 computers. Each can access the internet. However, do not download MP3s, on-line movies, or constant stream items (on-line radio, video games, etc.). You will tie up the entire system and make others very unhappy! There is also wireless internet access, if you choose to bring your own laptop, which is highly suggested.

### **LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

*Housing:* UNDERC-West rental facilities include three structures. The “Dairy Parlor” is home to the Assistant Director, her husband and four cats. The “Double-Wide” sleeps six individuals in three rooms (thus, you will share your room with 1 roommate). The “Dog House” sleeps four individuals in two rooms. Although named the “Dog House”, the concrete walls and a large shade tree keep this structure quite pleasant during hot, summer months. Each living structure has a full bathroom and kitchen with dining and recreational areas but not as nice as the accommodations at UNDERC-East.

*Amenities:* Washers and dryers are located in each structure and are free of charge. There is a limited amount of sheets and blankets available at UNDERC-West and so it is highly suggested that you provide your own bedding (you could use your sleeping bag). The “Double-Wide” has a laptop, projector and screen that you can watch movies on in your spare time. You will be in Montana, so who really needs satellite TV, pool tables, or ping pong; go outside and enjoy nature (or better yet collect more data ;-).

*Bedding:* You will need to bring your own towels and bed linens (twin-size mattress). Storage areas (e.g. for personal effects) are at a premium, as is space in the vehicles on the way to UNDERC. DO NOT plan on bringing your entire wardrobe. You will potentially have shelves and a small space for hangers so plan accordingly.

### **OTHER**

- water bottles (enough to hold all the water you would need for a day.)
- insect repellent (the biting insects are not too bad in Montana. I never use the stuff.)
- sunscreen (mandatory, the sun is direct and intense in grasslands.)
- sun glasses (did I mention the sun is intense)
- binoculars (for use in recreation, research, and avian ecology module; can check out a pair if needed)
- camera
- pocket knife/multipurpose tool
- stamps
- notebooks, pens, pencils
- clock-radio/ipod
- cell phone (reception is not that bad, except in spots; I have Verizon and do fine)
- extension cord
- bear spray (if you plan on hiking in the Mission Mountains, Glacier, or Yellowstone; the class owns one canister)