Course Description – Lake Ecology

- Learn about the biotic and abiotic factors that influence lake dynamics; we will specifically address lakes within Yellowstone National Park
- Understand and perform field sampling and taxonomic and genetic identification techniques in the laboratory
- Synthesize and apply learned skills and knowledge in the classroom grades 5-12

MSU educators, National Park Service resource managers, and other agency professionals will be joining the class to provide a multi-disciplinary perspective. The course will take place in Yellowstone National Park and on the MSU campus.

Students will be responsible for reading materials contained in a course packet and additional materials handed out throughout the course. Students should be prepared for short hikes (1-4 miles) and any type of weather while in Yellowstone National Park. Participants will camp in Yellowstone National Park for two nights. Camping equipment can be rented inexpensively thorough REI in Bozeman. A class schedule, camping equipment list, and course reading packet will be available prior to the course through D2L.

Instructor

Stephanie McGinnis, MS. Stephanie’s professional interests as an aquatic ecologist are focused on the conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems. Stephanie received a B.A. in both Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado and her M.S. in Biological Sciences from Montana State University. She is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Montana Watercourse and the Assistant Director of the Montana Water Center.

Prerequisites

A minimum of 2 years successful science teaching experience; enrolled in the Master of Science in Science Education degree at MSU, or by instructor approval; participants must hold a bachelors degree.

Target Audience

5 to 12 grade teachers with two or more years of successful science teaching experience

Required Books/Materials

- All required reading materials will be provided by the instructor on the class D2L site.