

The Pine Butte Guest Ranch

Education Program provides an opportunity to expand the learning experience beyond the physical walls of the normal classroom. Instructors immerse students in a world where they're motivated physically, emotionally, and intellectually. Learning is hands-on and based on discovery within a magnificent and challenging outdoor world. The following is a sample of possible courses.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

Explore habitats created by the meeting of mountain, forest, wetland and prairie. The Front is the last place in the lower 48 states where grizzly bears still roam the prairies. Get to know a landscape rich in native flora & fauna through daily walks, hikes and horseback rides.



CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

Conservation affects small towns differently than big cities. Learn about the culture and concerns of rural communities and their role in conservation of the Rocky Mountain Front. Visit a Blackfeet language immersion school, discuss local food networks with ranchers, and explore traditional and renewable sources of energy.

The Pine Butte Guest Ranch **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

BEARS AND OTHER BIG ANIMALS

Spend a week in the realm of the largest terrestrial carnivore in the Continental US: The grizzly bear. On our quest for the bears, expect to see pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose and other denizens of this rich habitat. Learn the ecology and natural



history of these beasts as we follow them across mountains and prairies.



PLANTS & PEOPLE

Explore the local flora from the perspective of the native peoples who have lived and thrived in our region for many thousands of years.

Much of their material culture and a significant amount of their food and medicine were derived from local plants. We'll gather traditional foods, learn some plants' medicinal uses and try our hands at natural crafting. A truly unique course on plants and people.

BUSHCRAFT

Ever want to walk into the mountains and live without a ton of modern equipment? Bushcraft is the art of wilderness



living with only a few well-chosen items in the pack. Interact with the land using simple tools and traditional methods. Learn about wild plants, new uses of a knife, axe, saw & fire, building shelter, track animals and craft natural materials to survive in the wild.

WINTER ECOLOGY

Plants and animals in the northern latitudes have evolved some very special mechanisms for surviving the long winter season. Spend a week in their snowy world tracking wildlife, using traditional winter living skills and learning how climate change could affect the Front over time.

FIRE ECOLOGY

Wildfire is the dominant force of change in Western forests and prairies and as such, plays a critical role ecologically. See firsthand how the land has responded to the fire burned in 2007 and compare them to places that have been untouched by fire for over a century. We'll consider the effects on flora and fauna over time as well as the conservation and social-political challenges of living in a fire-dependent landscape.

AN IDEAL SETTING

The Pine Butte Guest Ranch is located on the Rocky Mountain Front – a spectacular landscape where the prairie meets the mountains. This intersection of habitats results in a treasury of plant and animal life, and is a superb place to study Natural History, Conservation, Ecology, and Outdoor Education.



For more information on our programs, travel options and accommodations at the Pine Butte Guest Ranch contact:

Jim Culver
Ranch Manager

David Cronenwett
Education Coordinator

THE RANCH AND ITS PHILOSOPHY

The ranch has ten cozy cabins set along the Teton River – each with its own fireplace and bath. The main lodge offers an inviting fireplace and lots of comfortable seating for group discussions. We also have a separate classroom building.

As part of The Nature Conservancy, we're dedicated to more than keeping our guests comfortable. In order to reduce our environmental footprint, we use solar heat for hot water and to warm our greenhouse. As much as possible, we buy food from local producers – including what we grow in our greenhouse.

Accommodations for these courses will vary with the season and needs of the group.



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The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive