

Agenda for Gates of Lodore on the Green River

**Check out our website at: coloradorivertrip.com
5 graduate credits through Colorado School of Mines
June 26-July 5, 2011
\$2025. with tuition. \$1815. without tuition**

Day 1: After meeting at the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, we will learn about the geology of west and of the Uintah Mountains, the pathway of the Green River, and a little history of the area. After a tour of the Flaming Gorge Dam, we will learn about environmental impacts of the dam and what is being done to protect the four species of endangered fish downstream. This is entitled “Damn the Dams or Are You Thirsty?” We will then begin our scientific research about the water quality and pollution along the Green River by conducting a water study in the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. After the river study, we will drive across the Uintah Mountains Anticline to Manila, studying the fascinating geology of this anticline. Following Sheep Creek Geologic Drive, we will see the strata on the north side of the anticline, the immense fault and unconformity. This is some of the most intriguing geology of the west.

Day 2: We will raft along the Green River from the Flaming Gorge Dam to Little Hole through Red Canyon. This is a controversial site of some of the best trout fishing in the west. The trout flourish in the cold, clear water below the dam. This cold water is the demise of the warm water native endangered fish. At Little Hole, we will conduct another water quality and environmental research station. The Red Canyon area burned during the drought summer of 2002 and offers a great place to learn about plant succession after a fire burn. We will then drive to our campground at Indian Crossing in Brown's Park.

Day 3: Today, we will canoe through the upper level of Brown's Park Wildlife Refuge, studying the impact of the Flaming Gorge Dam on the habitat of native species and learning the fascinating cattle ranching history of the area. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid often used this area as an escape hideout. Along this beautiful section of the Green River, we often spot moose, deer, river otters, beaver, osprey, bald eagles, herons, and a multitude of marsh waterfowl. After we return to camp, we will conduct river study #3. During this research, we are studying water pollution, water quality, flora, fauna, geology, macroinvertebrates and learning to use Vernier probes.

Day 4: As we canoe past Swinging Bridge, we will learn the history of Ann and Josie Basset and the cattle wars of Brown's Park, the geology of the area, and more about the wildlife of the refuge. After our canoe trip, we will drive over the Uintah Anticline to Vernal .

Day 5: This is an adventure day of touring Dinosaur National Monument studying the geology, dinosaur fossils, and Fremont Indian culture of the area. One of my

favorite sites is the famous McKonkie Ranch, where hundreds of Anasazi and Ute petroglyphs cover the sandstone cliffs. Other choices for exploration include, a tour of Fantasy Canyon with its bizarre erosional formations, a drive to overlook the convergence of the Green and the Yampa Rivers and Dinosaur etc. We will spend this night at a motel in Vernal and prepare for our rafting excursion.

Day 6: We will meet our outfitters and depart for the white water rafting section of the class.

Day 6,7, 8, 9, 10 While white water rafting down the beautiful Lodore Canyon, where the Green River carves its way through 44 miles of chasms and canyons and descends 650 feet, we will conduct further river studies learn about exotic species, geology, endangered species, water use in the west, and ancient natives who lived and died on the banks of the Green River. The cliffs can reach 1,500 feet, with more geologic time exposed in the formations than almost any other place in the west. The Uintah Mountain Quartzite, which forms the basement rock is over 1.1 billion years old. The Mancos Shale at the summit of the canyon walls is only 65 million years old. Class will end at the Split Mountain Campground take out point during mid afternoon on day 10

Our research project includes finding out how the river changes as it passes through the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and runs downward through Dinosaur National Monument. We will test water pollution, water quality, and macroinvertebrates which are excellent indicators of water quality. We will collect data on the flora and fauna along the river and will also study the fascinating geology of Dinosaur. You will learn how to use CBL probes, a GPS, scientific equipment and a complex weather machine.

A deposit of \$500. will reserve your place on this white water adventure. If you have questions, please email Melanie at melaniephe@aol.com or call 719-252-1789.