INSTITUTE OF THE ROCKIES

45TH ANNIVERSARY

OUR TIMELINE

Public policy education association designed to enlist citizen interest and
involvement in critical issues in the northern Rockies to include all citizens
and tribal members. Created after consulting Governors Forrest Anderson
and Tom Judge as well as Senator Mike Mansfield and Judge Hal Bennett,
Missoula Commissioner Lud Browman and Central Committee members
of Missoula’s Republican and Democratic Parties. University of Montana
professors Ross Toole, Jules Karlin, Jim Lopach and Richard Chapman plus
the Honorable Robert Howard, national director for Indian Affairs, Office
of Economic Opportunity, formerly principal of Browning high school and
highly decorated marine in WW II.

1974  “Local Government Review”, our first project, funded by Badgleys,
Montana Committee for the Humanities [MCH], board members Arnold
Bolle, Audra & Lud Browman, David & Carolyn Leuthold, Leroy & Pat
Moline. Project coordinators: Steve Lenchner & Nancy Leifer; advisor Dr.
Allen Bjergo. 15 workshops held across Montana with a dozen co-
sponsoring organizations. Project stimulated by Montana’s new
constitution requiring elected committees in each county and city
government to meet every ten years to reconsider the purpose and
quality of existing governance.

1975-76  “Montana Energy Tomorrow”, funded principally by MCH, William H.
Edelman Family & in-kind donations by Cooperative Extension Service
through Professors Allen Bjergo & Verne House. Project coordinator,
Nancy Leifer, published a primer designed for workshop participants:
“Energy for All Our Tomorrows”.

“Missoula Tomorrow” and “Education Clearing House”: projects run from
a small house leased pro bono for two years to the Institute by Missoula
County Commissioners. Funding from the Edelman Family, MCH and local businesses and coordinated by Nancy Leifer. Volunteers Melinda & Fred Quivik, Byron Weber, Louis Apthekar & Peggy Nelson published “Education News and Views”, a journal exploring challenges and benefits of Montana’s small one and two room schools. Focus was on innovations by teachers who advanced science and arts at the elementary level.


1978 “Columbia River Watch” funded by National Endowment for the Humanities as well as State Humanities Committees in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. An additional grant supported Jean Walkinshaw and Wayne Sourbeer’s production of “Voices of the River” which earned a regional Emmy for KCTS, University of Washington.

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=voices+of+the+river%2bcolumbia+river&qpvt=voices+of+the+river%2bcolumbia+river&view=detail&mid=4C52199FC1F3DAA11F0B4C52199FC1F3DAA11F0B&&FORM=VRD GAR

1979-82 Horizon House continued the projects described above, while we began the design and fundraising for the Earth Covered Conference Shelter. Leadership by Professor John Means, Gary Decker and Jay Kirby led to a proposal to Bill Maclay who donated five acres along lower O’Brien Creek seven miles west of Missoula. In addition to donations from our directors noted above, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided a significant grant.
The Institute of the Rockies is as unique as the region and the people it serves. Simply put, the Institute is a non-profit educational association concerned with the future of the northern Rocky Mountain region.

It is a weave of people from all walks of life--their knowledge and ideas and energy woven into projects that help people understand increasingly diverse and complex public issues.

The Institute always seeks--through a process that transcends the political, economic and ideological interests of those brought together by Institute programs--to develop projects that have lasting impact on the present and future of our region.

Projects like the Columbia River Watch, which was designed to increase citizen awareness of what was being and could be done with the water of the Northwest--the highest quality, cheapest water in the world. The Columbia River Watch was funded by a $125,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, $40,000 from the State of Washington Commission for the Humanities to produce a film and smaller grants from Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and in-kind assistance from B.C. Hydro.

The Institute sent mailings to people with an active interest in the uses of Northwest water. These people included participants in Habitat II, a 1976 conference which took place in Spokane, conservation district supervisors, local government officials, tribal council members from sixteen tribes, extension agents, engineers, biologists, social scientists, poets, writers---in short, people from all walks of life.

A workshop was organized and scholarships given to about one hundred of the most interested people who then met in Lewiston, Idaho. These leaders in turn put together twenty-five forums, twenty-two in the Northwest region, and three in Canada.

Nine thousand people participated in these forums in the United States, five hundred in Canada. A University of Washington film group produced an Emmy award-winning film, "Columbia, Voices of the River," that was seen by millions of television viewers.

And, through the efforts of the Institute of the Rockies, citizens of the Northwest, for the first time, reached a consensus that the public should have a greater voice in decisions that affect the water of the Northwest.

The Northwest Power Planning Council was established, assuring, also for the first time, direct citizen participation in BPA decisions. And, as a consequence of this type of citizen involvement,
there is a continuing and serious interest on the part of legislators to put control of the water of the Northwest into local hands, rather than in the hands of BPA and Corps of Engineer bureaucrats.

Once direct citizen participation in the issue was assured, the Institute of the Rockies felt that it had achieved its objectives: it had helped the people of the Northwest understand a complex public issue. And it had done it by bringing together about as diverse a group as is possible--people ranging from ledger-oriented businessmen to those with a romantic, mystical concern for rivers--and brought them together in such a way as to transcend individual political, economic, and ideological interests.

The Columbia River Watch has had, and will continue to have a lasting impact on the region. As will many of the other projects the Institute of the Rockies has organized and administered.

Our more prominent projects include:

-- **The International Wildlife Film Festival**, which celebrated its sixteenth competition this year. Under the leadership of Dr. Charles Jonkel, this was the first global wildlife film festival to attract the best documentaries, and has inspired a generation of wildlife biologists and naturalists to work with film in education the public about serious problems in preservation facing the entire world. Moving from the University of Montana in 1986, the Festival came under the Institute's sponsorship and was a major focus of its effort for six years, until the IWFF gained its own independent tax status.

-- **The Earth Conference Center**, an energy-efficient earth structure built on five acres outside the city of Missoula, Montana, constructed in 1982 to give the Institute a physical home and, at the same time, serve as an example of the economic viability of such a structure. The 2,000 square foot Center and accompanying acreage was a model for builders and was turned into a private home in 1985.

**MONTANA STUDY PROGRAM**

The Montana Study Program is a six weeks intensive English language course designed for Japanese students. We draw on the resources of a region that offers unparalleled recreation and outdoor life, some of the best educational facilities available, and many people who have the sound academic background and broad experience needed to teach in this program. In
terms of student/teacher ratio, subjects taught, homestay, and cost, this Program is the finest of its kind offered in North America.

Why Montana?

* A neutral place: with unsurpassed natural beauty, easy-going hospitality, cosmopolitan friendliness, where everyone can feel comfortable. Japan, Germany Taiwan, China, France, Thailand, Russia--it doesn’t matter the country, Montana is a place where global citizenship comes naturally.

* Ambassador Mike Mansfield, a Montana native, helped the State establish close business and cultural ties with Japan. Japanese students are no strangers to the people of Montana.

* Educational quality ranks among the best in the United States.

* Support facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, and airports are excellent.

* Despite a small population (800,000) Montana is cosmopolitan because people from all over the world visit, then chose to live here.

* One of the more crime-free areas in the United States.

* Often called ‘The Last Best Place,’ Montana has vast expanses of unspoiled nature, both wilderness mountains and plains, beautiful rivers, forests, ranches, and over a hundred friendly small towns.

The Study Program

*This is a six-week intensive language, cultural, environmental, and special education studies program. It runs from late July through the first week of September.

*Students are divided into groups of five per instructor. Each group is assigned a car or van driven only by the instructors.

*Residence is entirely with homestay families, normally two students per family.

*The Program provides instruction in the following areas:
I) About 200 hours of directed speaking, listening, reading, and composition through: IBM and Apple word processors, informal and formal writing, environmental training, special education for handicapped, small group discussion, live theater, map reading, dining out, and learning self-reliance tools.

2) About 50 hours of organized physical activity involving a variety of classes at sports and fitness centers, hiking, and swimming.

3) At least 100 hours of lecture and discussion concerning plants and animals of the region, wilderness, Native Americans and their reservations, special education for handicapped, family life, law enforcement, university student life, U.S. social, economic, and racial problems.

4) A two-day wilderness trip, by horse or backpack, led by naturalists.

The heart of the program is the five-student group. Only when in the computer composition lab, in the physical fitness center, in the special education program, and on the wilderness trip will a larger group of 10-15 be formed.

The instructor picks up the student each morning at the homestay family, and for most of the next eight to ten hours the group has the freedom to go anywhere, learn anything the instructor thinks is appropriate, and then return each student to their family in the evening. Except for lunch, most meals will be with the family.

All instruction is in English, and the homestay families are selected because they want to give additional help with conversation at the end of the day and on weekends.

Instructors are mostly high school and middle school teachers, experienced and recognized in their community as being superior. Most have an advanced degree and are certified by the State of Montana, some are university faculty, and all have special competencies that give the Program an extraordinary resource pool.

Citizens of the World

The program is foremost designed to improve competency in the English language; beyond that, we seek to give students knowledge of issues that affect the entire world.

The Institute of the Rockies, through the Montana Study Program, offers an opportunity to learn about the natural world, as well as about human problems that affect us all, throughout our lives. In the coming years, students who concentrate on understanding, controlling, and preserving the natural world will be sought after. Knowledge of the natural world, and of human conditions affecting handicapped and the aged in the West and Japan, is already deemed crucial to the function of government and business.
The Institute of the Rockies

The Institute of the Rockies is an educational association founded in 1974. Our purpose is to address issues affecting the future of the region by advancing knowledge of global problems. We have conducted hundreds of workshops, retreats, seminars and programs since that time.

We are governed by a board of directors, who are elected by the members at an annual meeting. Membership is open to anyone, the cost is $25; the board reviews and critiques projects at quarterly meetings. Projects, such as the Montana Study Program, are managed by one or more directors through an advisory committee of experts in the field. Much work is accomplished by volunteers. Our not-for-profit tax status requires annual reports to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Global citizenship is a term we take seriously. How can we become global citizens and still care for our immediate families and communities? How can we improve the quality of our children’s lives? How can we enjoy economic development, yet conserve our natural resources? How can we maintain freedom, and yet manage the lives of six billion human beings so as to avoid war? We believe answers to these issues are found through a process of learning about each other and about nature. Join the Institute of the Rockies. Become a citizen of the world.

The Institute is as unique as the region and the people it serves. Simply put, we are concerned with the future of the Northern Rocky Mountain region and the global issues that affect us. We are a unique weave of people from all walks of life--whose ideas and energy are woven into projects that help people understand increasingly diverse and complex public issues.

The Institute always seeks--through a process that transcends the political, economic, and ideological interests of those brought together by our programs--to develop projects and institutions with lasting impact on the region. Projects like:

* Through the International Wildlife Film Festival, now in its 16th year, the Institute bridges gaps between natural scientists and citizens in our comprehension of environmental issues.

* The Columbia River Watch, which was designed to increase citizen awareness of water issues in the Northwest--

* Energy conservation programs including--
1) The Earth Conference Center, an energy-efficient concrete structure built into a mountain side, designed as a model with economic applications for both homes and commercial buildings--

2) The Energy Bind, a statewide series of forums and seminars to assist local businesses, governments, and families conserve energy and maintain quality of life--

* Northern Rockies Economic Development, an on-going series of conferences that have included--

1) Coal Tax Investment, a series of seminars that provided intellectual discourse for the coal tax trust fund, a crucial feature of Montana public finance--

2) Silicon Valley Tour, a three-day seminar for local and state leaders who met with investment counselors, engineers, and corporate managers to find opportunities for high-tech transfer into the Northern Rockies--

3) Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital, a conference that discussed future trends, their impact on the region, and policy alternatives, attended by leaders from three states--

4) Art and the Law, a series of seminars designed for artists, legal experts, and arts agency personnel to review the legal rights of writers and artists, thereby improving their opportunities and careers as businesses--

5) The Chemical Agenda, a set of seventeen forums held in Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to discuss week control and related health issues--

6) Flathead Irrigation Project, a study of energy and water management alternatives in the Flathead Valley of Northwest Montana--

7) The Big Open, a set of conferences designed to consider the economic impact on ranch families and local communities if high plains range land reverted to natural habitat for wildlife hunting, photography, and recreational tours.

* Educational and Cultural Programs

1) Cultural Revitalization in Montana, a project for libraries and librarians to enhance awareness of local heritage--

2) Native American Seminars, a series on tribal and off-reservation problems designed to discuss, review studies, and recommend programs to deal with youth alcoholism--

3) Horizon House, a meeting place for educators and futurists concerned with the process of learning, in schools, through ‘learners exchanges’, and by application of alternative approaches to local planning--

4) The Education Clearing House, an program designed to support innovations in public schools throughout the region--
5) Montana and Missoula Tomorrow, two programs designed to bring business leaders, educators, government officials, and consultants together in a series of forums to consider alternative futures for the state of Montana and the Missoula community--

6) Local Government Review, a set of forums held throughout Montana to discuss the costs and benefits of alternative forms of city and county government--

7) The Artists and Writers Retreat, an 80 acre parcel of land located in the beautiful Swan Valley, donated to the Institute as a conservation easement for purposes of environmental education--

8) The Future of Democracy, a two-day retreat to honor Clarence Streit, a Montana writer who devoted his life to promoting freedom through democracy--

9) Montana Treasures, an ongoing series of programs designed to honor creative artists, writers, educators, business and government leaders who have made a difference in our lives through the quality of theirs--

10) The Montana Study Program, a six-weeks intensive English language and culture program designed for Japanese and Asian students--

Most of these projects have run their course, many in a year or two, while outside funding permitted; however others endure because of extraordinary commitment and support. Our members make the difference. Our association is regenerated with each new project. Join us in this unique endeavor.

Institute of the Rockies

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Missoula, Montana 59807

Montana Study Program

The Montana Study Program is a six weeks intensive English language course designed for Japanese students. We draw on the resources of a region that offers unparalleled recreation and outdoor life, some of the best educational facilities available, and many people who have the sound academic background and broad experience needed to teach in this program. In terms of student/teacher ratio, subjects taught, homestay, and cost, this Program is the finest of its kind offered in North America.

The Home-stay Family

In 1991 fifteen Japanese students came to Missoula in the Institute of the Rockies’ pilot program. This year 120 students are enrolled and will study in four Montana communities.
success of the pilot program was based on two principles: a very low teacher student ratio (one to five), and ‘home-stay family’ residence for each student. In both cases, we seek experience and quality that will insure success.

Home-state families are crucial to our concept of intensive instruction in both English and culture, and students expect to share in the daily routine of living. They not only dramatically improve their comprehension and speaking ability, but they become familiar with American life.

Each morning the instructor picks up your student, and delivers her (or him) in the late afternoon. Home-stay families are asked to provide breakfast (cereal or fruit so students can easily help themselves), evening meals and a few brown bag lunches each week.

The students are mostly women who are 19-20 years old, English majors, and are each selected for their maturity and intelligence. They expect to participate in your routine, outside of their class time, and they want to learn some cooking and local cuisine. You should expect them to pickup after themselves and be neat.

Home-stay families will have four to five weekends with their guests. Activities appropriate to a family are very desirable: movies, bike rides, hiking, camping, road trips-- whatever you plan try to include them. Of course this is not an indoctrination program in politics or religion, so use common sense in this regard.

Students arrive with their own pocket money and are expected to pay for their recreational activities.

Home-stay families receive an honorarium to help cover your costs of $350 per student, and up to $50 for gas and travel expenses.

The Institute of the Rockies is looking for families who are deeply interested in cultural exchange, and who would value this as an opportunity to further and promote world peace. We hope to have a few students this year from Thailand and Burma, in addition to Japan, and the complicated process of travel arrangements requires us to seek commitments from you as early as possible.

If you think you would like to be a home-stay family, or an alternate, please call one of us, according to the community in which you live. We will set up an interview at your earliest convenience. Or if you have questions about the program or the Institute of the Rockies, please call one of us.
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<tr>
<td>Kalispell</td>
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