The University of Montana’s Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy for assistance improving the state environmental policy act, he turned to his students.

The Natural Resources Conflict Resolution certificate program teaches eight to 10 graduate students and professionals each year how to assemble the right people with the best available information to build lasting solutions. This requires technical and scientific understanding as well as knowledge about people’s needs, interests, visions and cultures. Students learn negotiation, facilitation and collaborative decision-making. They study core theory and case studies and role-play stakeholders: ranchers, county commissioners, conservationists.

For the capstone practicum, students working on the Montana Environmental Policy Act conducted interviews, convened and facilitated meetings with stakeholders and reported their findings. Montana state agency directors will present responses to their suggestions during the 2013 state legislative session.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, uwy.edu/ent/haubsc.hool/

The University of Wyoming’s Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources draws faculty from across the campus to offer majors and minors in environment and natural resources concurrent with other degrees, from painting to law to range- land management. Students learn in the Tébirs, Spain’s Canary Islands and elsewhere as well as in the classroom. Roughly 100 undergraduate, 50 graduate and 10 law students are enrolled, with numbers growing. The curriculum emphasizes understanding issues from different stakeholder perspectives.

University of Arizona Institute of the Environment, environment.arizona.edu

The University of Arizona’s Institute of the Environment helps people live sustainably in and and warming environments, steward dryland ecosystems, maximize solar energy potential, conserve and reuse water and adapt to a changing climate.

Doctoral students can pursue a minor in global change, and graduate students can join the Institute’s Carson Scholars Program, a network of graduate students and faculty conducting interdisciplinary environmental scholarship and problem-solving and communicating science.

EDUCATION

Oregon Natural Resource Education Program, oregonforestry.oregonstate.edu

This year, 95,000 kids will better understand Oregon forests, wildlife and climate change after 1,100 teachers got hands-on training in engaging kindergarten through 12th grade students with natural resource material. The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program at Oregon State University helps schools integrate the topic throughout grade levels, pairs teachers with scientists who bring them into the field and trains faculty at seven Oregon universities to provide natural resource material to teachers in training.

Fourth graders at Timber Ridge School, for example, hung hummingbird feeders and carefully documented which species came to which feeders, under what circumstances. Their data went to ecologist Matt Betts, along with data from school kids in seven Oregon communities. The program strives to produce students who are environmentally literate, equipped to make informed decisions that will sustain Oregon’s forests, wildlife, water, and land into the future.

Teton Science School Graduate Program, tetsoscience.org

With a campus inside Grand Teton National Park, the Teton Science School Graduate Program prepares its students to facilitate place-based experiential learning and teach field ecology. Graduate students take classes and practice teaching, spending a lot of time in the snow and sagebrush with K-12 learners. Each year, 15 to 20 graduate students participate, earning academic credit valid for master’s degrees at five Western universities or Antioch University.