Appendix A – Campus Landscape

Appendix A.1 – Letter of Commitment

April 15, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
The ENVS 350 course has traditionally organized environmental service-learning projects on the Western State campus and in the Gunnison Valley. As the instructor for this course, I am prepared to commit to at least three years of maintenance projects on xeriscaping installed on campus (one project in the fall semester and one in the spring). In addition, when significant pools of volunteer labor are available from ENVS 100 courses, other Western courses, local public schools, or elsewhere. I would like to involve the ENVS 350 students in the development and installation of additional xeriscaping sites.
All of the projects would have two broad purposes: 1) to maintain as well as to design and install xeriscaping sites; and 2) to educate all project participants on the benefits and practical applications of native plant gardening and xeriscaping in general.
In addition to myself, this initiative has the support of the other ENVS faculty members.
Sincerely,

Assistant Professor, ENVS
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Resources:  
Colorado Master Gardener, Gardening Resource  
Website: http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/  

The Colorado Garden Show Grants and Funding  
Website: http://www.gardeningcolorado.com/  

Tree Campus USA  
Website: http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCampusUSA/
Appendix A.3 - Glossary

**Beneficial Landscaping:** Using different landscaping techniques to achieve all kind of benefits (e.g., decrease of maintenance costs, reduction of stormwater runoff, beautification of the landscape, preservation of endangered species, etc.). (EPA)

**Biodiversity:** A measurement of the number of species and the variety of life and its processes in an area. (EPA)

**Colorado Water Legislation:** Water users with earlier river water rights decrees (senior rights) have better rights in times of short supply and can fill their water use needs before others (those with junior rights) can begin to use water. The term “first in time/first in right” is often a shortened way of describing the prior appropriation doctrine. (Colorado.gov)

**Exotic Species:** A non-native plant or animal introduced from another geographic area. (EPA)

**Landscaping:** The design of outdoor space to serve the needs of people by planting, altering the contours of the ground and/or building structures like pedestrian ways, paths, picnic areas, etc. (EPA)

**National Forest Permit:** Free use permit obtained through the National Forest. For the permit to be for use it must have an educational component. (USDA)

**Native Landscaping:** Landscaping only by using native plants. (EPA)

**Native Species:** A plant or animal that originally occurred in an area. (EPA)

**Natural Landscaping:** Landscaping in a way that tries to capture the character and spirit of nature in a designed landscape by arranging plants in a community context similar to their arrangement in nature. May be planted exclusively with native plants or incorporate some small percent of exotics. (EPA)

**Noxious Weed:** Any plant which is determined by the Director, the Dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois and the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Illinois, to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property (Illinois Noxious Weed Law; 505 ILCS 100). (EPA)
**Organic Fertilizer:** Food, feed crops, and livestock grown within an intentionally-diversified, self-sustaining agro-ecosystem. (EPA)

**Stormwater Catchment System:** A waterbody designed to detain stormwater runoff and reduce flooding. (EPA)

**Synthetic Fertilizer:** Commercially prepared mixtures of plant nutrients such as nitrates, phosphates, and potassium applied to the soil to restore fertility and increase crop yields. (EPA)

**Weed:** Any undesirable or troublesome plant, especially one that grows profusely where it is not wanted. (EPA)

**Xeriscape:** A landscaping method developed especially for arid and semiarid climates that utilizes water-conserving techniques (as the use of drought-tolerant plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation) (Merriam-Webster)