

Melynda Coble Harrison

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Education

MS, 2001, **Environmental Studies**, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR.
Project Title: *Natural History Essays from the Wind River Range, Wyoming.*

BS, 1996, **Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation**, Humboldt State University, Arcata CA, *cum laude*.
National Student Exchange program, 1994-1995, University of Montana, Missoula, MT.

Experience

Freelance Writer 2001-present
Creating, researching and writing stories for newspapers and magazines, including High Country News, Big Sky Journal, Big Sky Magazine, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Outside Bozeman and Montana Parent. Please visit www.melyndacoble.com to view selected clips. Writing online educational modules and materials for organizations such as Center for Invasive Plant Management and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP).

Professional Guide December 2004-present
Off the Beaten Path, Bozeman, MT
Yellowstone Safari Company, Bozeman, MT
Guiding distinctive journeys throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecoregion. Interpreting natural and cultural history, teaching and leading recreational activities, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking, assuring client's travel is smooth and trouble free. Exceeding expectations with every trip.

Recreation Program Manager March 2003-June 2005
City of Bozeman Recreation Department, Bozeman, MT.
Created and expanded year-round programming for all ages. Developed staff manual and staff training program. Hired, trained and supervised instructor staff. Responsible for all Department marketing and increasing awareness of recreation benefits. Partnered with many community organizations to increase programming, provide support for other groups and plan and implement events. Grew recreation programming from a small aquatics program into a vital and exciting program in its own right. Created budget proposal for City Commission, tracked and maintained budget.

Curriculum Developer August 2003
Montana Watercourse, Bozeman, MT
Researched and developed river-based science lesson plan for Missouri River curriculum.

Program Developer/Special Events Coordinator/Instructor March 2002-March 2003
Montana Outdoor Science School, Bozeman, MT

Developed programming and educational materials for middle school residential summer program in Yellowstone National Park. Planned and led staff training, supervised field instructors. Researched and wrote grants. Organized and coordinated fund-raising and outreach events including a community festival for 600 attendees.

Curriculum Developer

November 2002-March

2003

Center for Invasive Plant Management, Bozeman, MT

Researched and developed curriculum for K-12 teachers incorporating science, math, English, social studies and art, revolving around the theme of invasive plants in the West.

This was a contract-based project. Please view at

www.weedcenter.org/education/educationmatrix.htm.

Graduate Teaching Fellow

September 1999-June

2001

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Designed and led discussion and lab sections to undergrads in: Environmental Studies and the Social Sciences, Geology, Ecology, Forest Biology, and Human Reproduction and Development.

Cross-Country Ski Instructor/Naturalist

Winter 1998-99 and

1996-97

Teton Pines Nordic Center, Jackson, WY

Vail Associates, Vail, CO

Taught Nordic and skate ski lessons, led backcountry ski and snowshoe nature trips for middle school students, college students and adults. Responsible for guest safety and enjoyment.

Instructor/Naturalist

1992-

1998

Naturalists at Large, Ventura, CA

Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Foundation, Malibu, CA

Vail Nature Center, Vail CO

Sequoia Natural History Association, Sequoia National Park, CA

Conejo Valley Unified School District Outdoor School, Thousand Oaks, CA

Created and implemented science curriculum. Taught science, natural history and team building to school age children in an outdoor environment. Facilitated high and low ropes courses as well as propped initiatives. Certified teenagers and adults in Community First Aid and CPR. Responsible for daily operations at nature center including leading educational hikes and programs for school-age children. Maintained educational gardens. Created and conducted interpretive cave tours for 10-70 people. Staffed a nature center for children and led walks and campfire programs. Led spelunking trips.

Wilderness Trip Leader/Caving Specialist

Summer 1996

Greenbrier River Outdoor Adventures, Bartow, WV

Led backpacking and caving trips for teenagers. Established guidelines and made critical group decisions concerning safety and logistics. Led mountain biking and community service activities. Aided with rock climbing and white water rafting. Co-led caving program and toured all summer groups through local caves.

Day Camp Counselor

Summers 1992 and 1995

Conejo Valley Recreation and Park District, Thousand Oaks, CA
Planned weekly programs, led hikes and campfires. Responsible for 10-14 children in an outdoor setting. Worked with others to create a safe and stimulating environment.

Wilderness Ranger (GS-4)

Summer 1993

Mammoth Ranger District, Inyo National Forest, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Educated visitors on low impact camping and natural history. Traveled in the back-country on ten day tours. Maintained trails and campsites.

Publications, Conferences, and Special Qualifications

- ❖ *Volunteer, Stafford Animal Shelter, 2006-present.*
- ❖ *Big Sister through Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, 2005-present.*
- ❖ *Treasurer-Montana Environmental Education Association, 2004-2005.*
- ❖ *Newsletter Editor/Board Member-Montana Recreation and Park Association, 2003-2005.*
- ❖ *Presented at Montana Environmental Education Association 2004 & 2005 Annual Conference.*
- ❖ *Leave No Trace Train the Trainer, Bozeman, MT. 2004.*
- ❖ *Project W.E.T. Teacher Training, Bozeman, MT. 2003, 2004.*
- ❖ *Volunteer, Montana Outdoor Science School, Bozeman, MT 2003-present.*
- ❖ *Volunteer, The Network Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Bozeman, MT. Spring 2002-2005.*
- ❖ *Presented at "Crossing Boundaries: The Third Annual Environmental Joint Campus Conference", University of Oregon, Eugene, OR. 2001.*
- ❖ *Volunteer, Friends of Buford Park, Eugene, OR. 2000-2001.*
- ❖ *Field Botany, Teton Science School, Summer, 2000.*
- ❖ *Volunteer, University of Montana Women's Center, Missoula, MT. 1994-1995.*
- ❖ *Wilderness Medical Seminar, Arcata, CA. 1994.*
- ❖ *Cross-Country Skiing and Winter Mountaineering class, Humboldt State University. 1993.*
- ❖ *Project Learning Tree, Humboldt State University, CA. 1996.*
- ❖ *Sharing the Joy of Nature training, Humboldt State University, CA. 1991.*
- ❖ *Volunteer, Youth Education Services, Humboldt State University, CA. 1991-1993.*

Honors, and Awards

- ❖ *National Recreation and Parks Association-Young Professional of the Year, 2004.*
- ❖ *PIHRA Sons and Daughters Grant, PIHRA Foundation, 2001.*
- ❖ *Donald Barker Research Fellowship Award, 2000.*
- ❖ *Dean's List, Humboldt State University, 1991-1996.*