**Biomimicry Workshop 2012**

You have all worked hard on this class – what a great effort! I hope that these homework assignments have helped to direct your team to discover solutions to your challenges and learn how to use the biomimicry methodology. Almost done! Just one more task after the in-person session, to record your results and insights in a case study report.

**Class 6:** Life’s Principles continued, evaluation of challenge solutions and communication of biomimicry

 **Intent of Class:** Have a deeper understanding of biomimicry’s Life Principles, how to use Life’s Principles to evaluate your solutions, and learn how to communicate biology to engineers and use biomimicry language in your work.

**Homework: A) Identify facts about the San Luis Valley ecosystem B) Continue work on your challenge, research nature and abstract strategies C) Develop a schedule to complete your case study D) iSite E) optional power point on communicating to engineers F) optional interview with Janine Benyous.**

**Homework is due at the in-person session September 11-14**

**A) Identify facts about the San Luis Valley ecosystem:** Each team has been assigned a few facts about the San Luis Valley to research and report on. Don’t spend a lot of time on this and if you are not able to find out the facts assigned, we can ask the biologist at the Great Sand Dunes Park when we are there. This is a way to become more familiar with the ecosystem you will spend some time it. If you are not going to the in person session, be sure to share your answer with one of your team members who is going.

**B)** **Continue work on your challenge, research nature and abstract strategies.** Continue to look for strategies on how Nature performs the function(s) of your challenge by observing Nature, accessing AskNature and other biological resources. Nessly is a great researcher, she is working for you until August 17th, so take advantage of her expertise. You may also want to include information on how Nature does not do your function – for example, if you look up information on how nature communicates and find a study about communication strategies that don’t work in Nature, this may be relevant to solving your challenge. Don’t forget this is just the first step; you must also read the article or review your observations to abstract the strategy for your function (s). You will need to have your research complete by September 10th for the in person session. Be sure to document what you have discovered. **Remember to bring a file with hard copies of your research papers to the in-person session so that Taryn can refer to them if necessary. You will NOT have access to the internet while at the park.**

**C) Develop a schedule to complete your case study:** As a group, we all want to find out how each team has solved their challenge. We will discuss on the next webinar how to communicate these ideas to each other (schedule one more webinar on October 25th?) and how to share them with the public. The first step is to write your case study – a short write up similar to the style used by EPA to communicate the case studies from the GSD and TRI projects is good. Nessly and I are documenting the overall process and methodology, so we need interesting stories and the results from each team. Develop a schedule and outline on how your team will complete this task. The date for completion needs to be November 4th so that we can use and distribute the information at the CU Bioneers downlink panel (if our proposal is accepted for presentation). We will discuss these schedule at the in-person session, so be sure to provide this schedule to the team member(s) attending the session.

**E) iSite:** Continue your iSite: If you have developed a thoughtful and/or unique approach to

iSite observation, record this and share with the group.

**D) Optional power point on communicating to engineers** I’ve included a link to a recorded power point that I made for the Biomimicry Institute classes which provides information on how to communicate biomimicry to engineers and some important leverage points to include nature based solutions into engineering designs. It is about 12-15 minutes long.

**E) Optional interview with Janine Benyous:** This is not a “true” interview, but rather comments that Janine made to the Biomimicry 2-Year Certificate Program 2011 class and her responses to questions asked by the class. Good information if you are interested.

**Note:** I will be discussing how EPA is communicating with biomimicry language in the August webinar and have included links in the homework email to 2 Forest Service documents where biomimicry language is used to communicate about sustainability and connect the foresters to the resource they protect.