**Sustainable Solutions Workshop**

**March 2015 homework – due April 10th**

1. GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TEAM

* Plan to meet as a Team

To get started, we have “appointed” so if your name appears for your team, it’s your job to connect with other team members and as a team, decide when, how and how often you will connect during this 6 month workshop.

* Decide on a Team name, and
* Determine meeting times to discuss and complete future homework.
* For this month’s homework, develop **one** team power point slide (you can upload photos, tell about your expertise, interest and/or hobbies). Submit this slide to Marie Bourgeois ([zanowick.marie@epa.gov](mailto:zanowick.marie@epa.gov)) by April 10th so it can be included in the April webinar.
* Identify who on your team will speak about your team when showing the slide during the webinar. This will serve to introduce the workshop participant to each other.

**Challenge Team #1:** How does Nature adapt to seasonal changes in precipitation and drier conditions?   
Team Lead for assignment #1: Ina Nez Perce

**Challenge Team #2**: How does Nature communicate?  
Team Lead for assignment #1: Jayne Michaud

**Challenge Team #3**: How does Nature collect, store, and distribute water with minimal energy?  
Team Lead for assignment #1: Craig Stevenson

**Challenge Team #4**: How does Nature manage disturbance?

Team Lead for assignment #1: Raina Turner

2. READINGS:

Biomimicry Primer

“Connecting with Nature”

3. EXPERIENCE NATURE

Our ability to find and learn from Nature’s mentors depends upon our observation skills. As children, we naturally connected and observed nature. In order to (re)connect and to (re)remember how to do this, each month you will be given on iSite exercise.

We recommend you keep a journal of these observations. Spend some time exploring by yourself to find a spot that looks good to you and a place you can visit every day. It could be a tree in a parking lot, a window box, or some remote forest site, called your iSite. If possible, visit this site at least once a day, every day, ideally at different times and under different conditions and at least once per week. This may include dawn, dusk, mid-day, mid-night, during different weather events. Plan to stay at your iSite for about 20-30 minutes. Make observations using all of your senses and write notes and/or make sketches based on the suggestions in the articles you read. A new iSite exercise will be provided each month.

March iSite exercise:

What relationships do you see? How about patterns? Sketch them.

What are some adaptations (behavioral or physiological) that you see in response to abiotic or biotic pressures?

Can you see ways that life is shaping its environment (rather than the environment shaping life)? Rather than asking “what is the organism doing” ask yourself “how does this behavior fir the environment and what will the organism do next?

What gradients do you see? What boundaries/edges do you see? How do the gradient and edges fit together?