Multidisciplinary 1-credit course at Chico State engaging students in applied research activities using the local watershed as a model for exploring complex, real-world natural resources management issues.

4 days, 1 overnight camping at Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve

**Focus:** Health and sustainability of the watershed from its headwaters to the confluence with the Sacramento River

**Headwaters**
- Aquatic bioassessment
- Water quality
- Forest management

**Mid-watershed: Ecological Reserve**
- Geology
- Streamflow, water quality
- Aquatic bioassessment
- Herpetology
- Manzanita gall survey
- Prescribed burning

**Lower watershed: Campus**
- Streamflow, water quality, groundwater

**Confluence with Sacramento River**
- Riparian restoration, salmon habitat

**Student feedback**
Students unanimously felt more confident engaging with peers from other majors on natural resource management issues. They enjoyed using multidisciplinary research techniques and learning hands-on. This experiential learning opportunity allows students to build a sense of place, using the watershed to weave in learning about the cultural, environmental, and social issues of the region.

**Acknowledgements**
Funding: Student Learning Fee awards, Governor’s award, College of Natural Sciences. Facilities and staff: Ecological Reserves, Aquatic Bioassessment Lab, Earth and Env. Sciences. Photo credits: Jason Halley, Maurice Ledoyen. Student assistants and faculty make this tour possible! Todd Greene created this tour, Dave Hassenzahl provided the vision and support.