The Practice & Theory of Sustainable Ranching:
A Supervised Internship at Bandy Ranch
NRSM 491 2 cr.
May 14-25, 2018
at Bandy Ranch
Open to all UM majors, undergrad & grad
$425 for housing, food & transportation + UM summer tuition.

Spend two weeks in the Blackfoot Valley herding cattle, monitoring pastures, learning about grizzly and wolf coexistence and exploring land ethics in the context of a working Montana ranch.

Instructors: Bryce Andrews and Gillian Thornton
Bryce has worked for a decade as a ranch manager and land steward in Montana, and currently serves as the Northern Field Director for the nonprofit group People and Carnivores. Gillian is currently pursuing an M.S. in Environmental Studies from UM and serves as the Energy and Sustainability Educator at the Clark Fork School in Missoula.

Contact: bpc.andrews@gmail.com or gillianethornton@gmail.com for more info and to get Consent of Instructor to register cfc.umt.edu/undergrad/summer-18
The Practice & Theory of Sustainable Ranching: A Supervised Internship at Bandy Ranch (NRSM 491, 2 cr.)

Course Description
This course will explore issues related to agriculture and land ethics in the context of a working ranch operation. Students will engage first-hand with the practical work of grazing, herd management, large carnivore coexistence, and pasture health while exploring the ethics of ranching in the context of agriculture in the American West. This is a field-based course, taking place at the University of Montana’s Bandy Ranch in the Blackfoot Valley.

Learning Objectives
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the key historical factors that have led to today’s dominant ranching practices in the West, as well as conflicts and collaborations that have emerged in recent decades. In other words, students will learn the context for sustainable ranching practices in the West.
2. Students will participate in the daily work of herd management and experiment with low-stress livestock handling.
3. Students will compare and contrast low-stress livestock management with conventional practices from the perspective of animal behavior, ranch productivity and environmental ethics.
4. Students will be able to identify the effects of rotational grazing practices on pasture ecology.
5. Students will become familiar with the best practices and tools for large carnivore coexistence.

Additional Information
Students will be housed in cabins at Lubrecht (with one camp-out on the Bandy Ranch). The $425 dollars in additional fees will cover all meals, lodging and transportation.