

**COLLABORATORS:**

**MSU STUDENTS:**

*Fall 2011:* Alex Smith, David Williams, Jerud Pummel, Kevin Ceci, Kluane Weibel, Milenka (Kali) Jirasko

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**LOCAL GROUPS/INDIV:** Swan Valley Innovations

**LOCATION:** Condon, MT

**PROJECT TYPE:** Site Analysis, Master Planning

**DATE:** 2011-12



The Montana State University School of architecture Community Design Center was asked to analyze the feasibility of building a biomass-driven business and education campus in Condon, Montana. A team of 6 students participated.

Condon, Montana, is an ideal location for a sustainable biomass-driven education and business campus. The campus will be located on Section 31, a forested square-mile piece of land adjacent to the community with high potential for development as a community campus. The campus will be initiated and managed by Swan Valley Innovations (SVI).

This remote region of Montana has a strong history of forestry and logging. The proposed campus is driven by the concept of harvesting forest biomass previously burned or discarded as unusable. The idea is to recover this biomass and, through selective milling processes, develop projects that add value while creating jobs that use sustainable forestry practices.

Included in project planning are biomass milling and product manufacturing; energy production by direct combustion and/or gasification, education facilities, housing for visitors and workers, a community center and a heritage center, co-operative retail and small-scale business incubator, community food production, and a campground.

