Distance learning is effective because Ecampus students are unique. Within the natural Sciences degree program there are many students that have extensive background in natural resource fields. Several of them are taking courses here at Oregon State for professional development reasons. This is not the case for the on-campus student body. The experience and knowledge that the students bring to the course is extremely valuable for all the students taking these classes. They call our attention to natural resource issues that are occurring across the nation and they also have working knowledge of natural resource politics and law which they contribute in class discussion. Through collaborative learning students are able to learn as much about natural resource issues from their fellow students as from the text and from the lecture videos. In addition Ecampus students tend to be older than on-campus students and have widely varying life experiences to share with the class. I’m always very pleased to have parents and teachers in my course. Parents and teachers are motivated to learn about natural resource conservation, not only for themselves but for their children and for their students as well. Ecampus students are also often returning students and I’ve found that returning students are very motivated and excited about learning and that’s less common with the on-campus student body who are mostly younger students. The enthusiasm of returning students is contagious and it creates a really positive and inspiring learning environment in Ecampus courses.