



Spring 2008



Welcome to EarthTracks, the environmental education newsletter for Idaho teachers. Here you'll find news from Idaho's environmental education leaders and others interested in environmental education. We encourage your suggestions and thoughts.



IS IT EASY BEING GREEN?

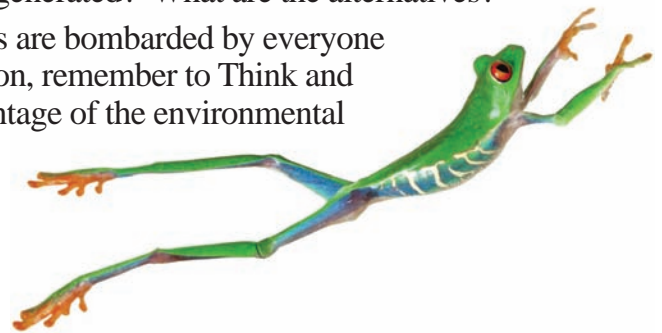
Kermit the Frog's song says it isn't, but based on all the "green" products promoted as earth-friendly these days, it looks and sounds easier than ever!

Can it really be that simple? As always, a little critical thinking is helpful. The "3 R's"—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—are good to keep in mind. They're listed in that order for a reason. Some people have added more R's like Rethink and Repair. Can you think of other good R's?

Being thoughtful is an essential first step in truly being "green." Here are some things to keep in mind when making decisions.

Do you need it? How is it made? Does it come from a renewable or a nonrenewable natural resource? How much and what kind(s) of energy were used to harvest, transport and process the natural resource? What energy was used to get the product to you? Is the product durable? Can/will you reuse it? When you're finished with it, can it be used by someone else? If not, is it biodegradable? Recyclable? All of it or just parts? Is it recyclable in *your* community? How much energy goes into recycling the product and what wastes are generated? What are the alternatives?

As you and your students are bombarded by everyone on the "green" bandwagon, remember to Think and Rethink. And take advantage of the environmental education opportunities in this newsletter!



Do you know someone who needs *EarthTracks*?

Anyone is welcome to subscribe. Send us your mailing address (email if you prefer an electronic copy). Contact any of the *EarthTracks* partners listed on the back page for more information.



Help us keep the *EarthTracks* list up to date. Please let us know of address changes, or if you're receiving duplicate copies.



Workshop Calendar

Feb 8-9

Focus on Lit with WILD, WET & PLT
– Kimberly
Project WET – Boise

Feb 22-23

WILD about Mule Deer – Jerome
Project Learning Tree – Boise

Mar 4-6

Project WILD – Lewiston

Mar 7-8

Project Learning Tree – Lewiston
Project WET – Weiser

Mar 14-15

WILD about Raptors – Boise
Project Learning Tree – Pocatello

Apr 11-12

WILD about Raptors – Coeur d'Alene
Project Learning Tree – Boise

Apr 18-19

Project WILD – Pocatello
PLT Ecosystem Benefits of Trees
– Coeur d'Alene

Apr 25-26

WILD about Early Learners – Boise
Project WILD – Nampa
PLT Natural Resources/Solid Waste
– Coeur d'Alene
IRRC Science on the Range – Rigby

May 1-3

Into the Watershed (WET) – Boise area

May 16-17

Project WET Wetlands – Boise area

June 5-6

PLT Wildfires & Weeds – Idaho Falls

June 11-12

IRRC Rangeland Weeds & Bugs
– Weiser

June 12-13

Focus on Lit with WILD, WET & PLT
– Boise

June 13-14

WILD about Elk – McCall

June 16-17

PLT Focus on Communities
– Genesee

More Workshops on page 3

Idaho Environmental Education Conference *Go Local: Exploring Your Backyard*



Idaho Environmental Education Association

*Idaho
Environmental
Education
Association*

February 29 & March 1

Owyhee Plaza Hotel, Boise

Local Experiences, Local Field Work, Local Resources & Local Involvement

- Professional Development Focus: “Inquiry in Your Own Backyard”
- Showcase of Student Work
- Environmental Educator of the Year Awards
- Presentations of Exemplary Programs
- Displays by Educational Resource Providers
- Field Trips

Conference Fees

\$75 IdEEEA members

\$100 non-members (includes a 1 year membership to IdEEEA)

\$30 student

Register on-line, by February 15, at www.idahoee.org or for more information contact Amy at IdEEEA (amy@idahoee.org)

Continuing education credit available

Two New Workshops for High School Teachers

\$100 Stipends Available!

Idaho Project Learning Tree received grants to support two new workshops specifically for teachers of grades 9-12. Each workshop offers \$100 stipends to up to 20 teachers. A graduate recertification credit will be available for each class. Each workshop features guest speakers, a field trip, proven high school level activities, and opportunities for student action projects.

April 18-19. *Ecosystem Benefits of Trees in the Places We Live.* Coeur d'Alene. Explore the ecological and economic roles that trees play in our communities. Meet urban foresters and others who work to maintain this valuable resource. Hours: Friday 4-9:30 and Saturday 8-5.

June 18-19. *PLT Hot Topics. Climate change and Idaho ecosystems.* Boise. Learn from Idaho land managers and scientists. Grapple with the myriad challenges facing our ecosystems and the natural resources we depend on. Hours 8:30-4 each day.



Idaho Falls students experience Water Awareness Week

Idaho Water Awareness Week 2008

Water Awareness Week is a fun and educational statewide program for Idaho 6th graders. Watch for announcements through your local school district or contact Catherine Chertudi at cchertudi@cityofboise.org, 208-384-3912.

Water Awareness Week in action

Idaho Falls BLM environmental educators Shannon Bassista and Deycie Luke led a relay activity stressing Leave No Trace principles for 250 sixth graders at the Water Awareness Week Water Festival in Idaho Falls. The 2007 festival attracted over 850 area students.

The BLM activity, "The Scoop on Poop," demonstrated proper river etiquette while recreating on the South Fork of the Snake River. Students were encouraged to prepare before they go, stay on the trail, use fire pans, respect wildlife and other visitors, leave what they find and to pack out their trash. The highlight of the activity was when students were given a tootsie roll and a portable toilet and had to race their classmates to 'pack it out' successfully in an inflatable kayak.

Workshop Calendar

June 17-18
Project WILD – Boise

June 18-19
PLT Hot Topics – Boise

June 19-20
IRRC Resource Guide Workshop – Meridian

June 23-24
Project WET – Genesee
WILD about Elk – Stanley

June 23-27
IRRC Rangeland Ecology – McCall

June 24-27
Idaho Water Camp – Pocatello

July 7-8
WILD about Salmon – Boise

July 10-11
WILD about Salmon – Boise
PLT Wildfires & Weeds – Council

July 14-18
WILD in the Yellowstone Ecosystem – Harriman State Park

July 15-18
Idaho Water Camp – Treas. Valley

July 22-25
Idaho Water Camp – Coeur d'Alene

July 29-30
WILD about Early Learners – Boise

July 30-31
PLT Wildfires & Weeds – Boise

Aug 5-6
WILD about Early Learners – Moscow

Aug 6-7 (tentative)
Water Awareness Week (WET) – Boise

Aug 13-14
PLT Wildfires & Weeds – Bonners Ferry

Sept 19-20
WILD about Raptors – Boise

Sept 26-27
WILD about Zoo Boise – Boise

See workshop descriptions and updated schedules at

PLT: www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm

WILD: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/project_wild/

WET: <http://boise.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=33434>

IRRC: www.idahorange.org

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Idaho Water Camps

These popular workshops consist of two days of water education curricula and two days of field trips. Interdisciplinary curricula includes *Project WET: Healthy Water, Healthy People* and *Conserve Water*. Teachers will gain a better understanding of their local water resources, issues and management, and connections with local water resource professionals.

Two credits available at each Water Camp. Watch for dates to be announced for Water Camps in Pocatello, Treasure Valley, and Coeur d'Alene. There is a \$75 registration fee if registered before May 1 and \$100 thereafter. Sponsored by the Idaho Water Education Foundation and Idaho Water Resources Research Institute at the U of I. Contact Project WET.

Into the Watershed, May 1-3

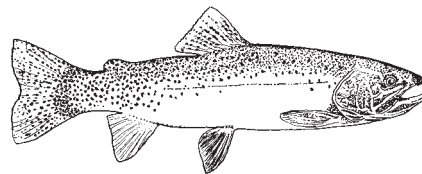
The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Center offer this 2 ½ day workshop for secondary teachers. Held at the Reynolds Creek Watershed, it features upland, stream, riparian, and water quality monitoring techniques. Curricular materials (*Healthy Water, Healthy People* and *Watershed Manager*) support the focus on managing watersheds and linking schools with local grassroots watershed projects. Dates: May 1 (evening in Boise), 2, 3 (field study). Cost: \$50/teacher plus credit cost. Scholarships may be available. Contact Project WET.

Project WET Idaho Scholarships

Project WET Idaho, with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, is working to secure funds to 1) support educator participation in water education workshops, 2) assist teachers in supplying their classrooms with water education materials and equipment, and 3) assist educators or schools who are developing water education site projects and/or programs that will benefit their communities as well as their school. If approved, funds will be available by March 1. Contact Project WET for application information.

WILD about Trout in the Classroom

Are you interested in providing a fun, hands-on science learning opportunity for your students? By raising trout eggs in a classroom aquarium, your students have the opportunity to observe trout development, monitor water quality, and learn ecological concepts including lifecycle, habitat, and adaptation. A new course, WILD about Trout in the Classroom, has been developed to teach you everything you need to know to successfully raise trout in your classroom. Participants receive the new Trout in the Classroom Teacher's Manual. Teachers are responsible for securing a sponsor for the purchase of aquarium equipment. Suggestions for this are shared at the class. For more information, contact Amy Parrish at 287-2833 or visit www.fishandgame.idaho.gov.



Idaho State Tree Poster

A poster featuring the western white pine tree can be yours for \$15, including shipping costs. To see the poster, visit www.idahoforests.org. Order the poster from Idaho Forest Products Commission at the website, or contact the PLT office.

National EE Week

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities! Visit www.eeweek.org to learn more and to register as a partner.

**April 13 - 19
2008**



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WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

WILD About Elk

Idaho is home to the third largest elk population in the country. Are you interested in learning more about these majestic critters? Two opportunities await you! We will once again be offering WILD about Elk in McCall. This year, a second class, will be offered at Camp Perkins in Stanley, Idaho. Both classes will give you the opportunity to learn ways to incorporate lessons into your curriculum. An elk burger, an elk viewing field trip and antler art are other highlights of this one credit workshop!

Rangelands

New Secondary Teachers Resource Guide and Workshop

June 19-20th Teacher workshop held in conjunction with Idaho PTTE Summer Conference, Meridian, Idaho

Secondary science and agricultural instructors: we have a teacher resource designed just for you! The UI Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission invite you to a 2-day workshop about the *new* Rangeland Management Teacher Resource Guide.

Ready to use in your classroom next fall, the five-module guide will be previewed on June 19-20, 2008. Dr. Karen Launchbaugh will introduce new concepts of teaching and incorporating range into your curriculum. Included are lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, lab ideas and more. The peer-reviewed modules include an introduction to rangeland, plants, site survey, grazing and habitat management and rangeland issues. One UI credit available.

A \$50 non-refundable fee reserves your spot. Drink, snacks and lunch on Friday are included. Contact Jodie at the IRRC.

Rangeland Ecology Workshop

June 23-27

UI Field Campus, McCall

Nearly half of Idaho is classified as rangeland! Learn more about this abundant resource and how to bring it into your classroom. This interdisciplinary workshop provides hands-on assessment techniques, field trips, and resource materials in a great location. UI professor Dr. Karen Launchbaugh leads the workshop. Additional presentations by rangeland managers from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Department of Lands.

Learn more about predator/prey interactions and spend one day examining Idaho's wolf population and related issues. Teachers in past years rate this workshop as one of the best. The hands-on field experiences are truly unique!

Topics include plant ecology, plant/animal interactions, livestock/wildlife interactions, noxious weeds, and management tools. All materials, curriculum and activities are linked to the Idaho Content Standards. Added bonuses...take home materials to use in your classroom.

Early registration (before 3/30) is \$125; after 3/30, \$150. This non-refundable fee covers all materials, field trips, meals, and four nights lodging at the field campus. Space is limited ~ first come, first served. Three UI continuing education credits are offered at \$86/credit, payable at the workshop. Contact the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission or register on-line at www.idahorange.org. Click the teacher resource tab for additional resources and opportunities. Contact Jodie at IRRC.



Teachers at 2007's Rangeland Ecology workshop with an anesthetized wolf being collared by the Nez Perce Tribe and USDA Wildlife Services.

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Science on the Range in Rigby

April 25-26, 2008
Friday evening thru Saturday afternoon

How do plants and animals make their 'Home on the Range'? Are you interested in learning about Idaho rangeland ecosystems, population dynamics and the role of herbivores...while getting hands-on experience in soil texturing and plant collection? The UI Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management and Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission offer this opportunity to learn about the science of Idaho rangelands.

Each teacher receives classroom activities and lesson plans and the interactive CD, *Home on the Range*. All materials are linked to the Idaho Content Standards. One UI continuing education credit is offered at \$86/credit.

A \$50 non-refundable fee reserves your spot at this workshop. Drink, snacks and lunch on Saturday included. Contact Jodie at IRRC.



Sustainable Forestry Tour for Teachers June 25-28

A Trip of a Lifetime!



Teacher in the grips of a harvester

All tour travel and expenses are paid by a variety of generous sponsors. VIP treatment. 2 credits available. Explore beautiful forests, go on mill tours, network with educators, eat often and well! See the full-circle process of making products out of trees while sustaining forest ecosystems. To learn more and apply for a spot on the tour, visit www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm or contact IFPC at the PLT office. Based out of Lewiston. Application deadline, 3/ 31/08.

Help Kids Get the Scoop on "Dirt"

BLM has a website on Soil Biological Communities. Designed for elementary grades, this site features cartoon characters that guide you through all you need to know about soil and its web of life. It even has activities for classroom use. Check it out! www.blm.gov/nstc/soil/Kids/index.html

Rangeland Weeds and Bugs!

June 11-12, Weiser

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, Washington County Weed Department and Advisory Board, and the Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area Group bring you this two-day, one-credit opportunity.

Teachers will spend June 11 in the classroom receiving instruction from weed and rangeland experts, and June 12 exploring WA County on the 7th annual WA County Noxious Weed Tour. Learn more about targeted grazing, weed identification, and integrated pest management.

The best news... the WA County Weed Department will provide lunch for both days. In addition, your UI continuing education credit could be paid for by Washington County. A \$25 non-refundable registration fee ensures your spot in this great workshop. For additional information, or to see if you qualify for the free credit, please contact Jodie at IRRC or www.idahorange.org.

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Arbor Day April 25, 2008

5th grade poster contest

2008 theme: Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out! Learn more at www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/. Contact Deb Cook at deb939@aol.com, 208-378-6576 for Idaho poster contest guidelines. Entries must be postmarked by 3/14/08.

Arbor Day T-Shirts

Every year we have a new design for Arbor Day Tree-Shirts, available at a VERY affordable price. Visit www.idahoforests.org soon to see this year's shirt (featuring the western white pine tree!) and ordering information.

Visit www.idahoforests.org to learn about other Arbor Day opportunities in Idaho!



Grants for Teachers

National Project Learning Tree provides GreenWorks! service learning grants of \$250 to \$5000. Spring deadline: April 30, 2008. www.plt.org.

Idaho Forest Products Commission provides \$200 grants to Idaho teachers for projects related to Idaho's trees and forests. www.idahoforests.org/special1.htm. Deadline: August 15—but we'll accept your application anytime. Why wait?

IFPC Media Lending Library adds DVDs

Many of your favorite VHS titles are now available in DVD format. Check the online order form at www.idahoforests.org/vidmat.htm or contact PLT.

PLT's Energy & Society program has been updated, with the accompanying dance video converted to DVD. Now cueing up your favorite dance for a classroom energizer and review of the water cycle and energy concepts is much easier! Contact PLT for more information.

Sawtooth Science Institute Workshops

Visit <http://imnh.isu.edu/ssi/> to learn about numerous workshops available throughout the state. Explore topics ranging from natural history to renewable energy to ice age floods! Credit is available.

Leopold Education Project now in Idaho!

The literacy-based Leopold Education Project has arrived in Idaho!!! If you are interested in attending, hosting, or sponsoring an LEP workshop, please contact Gretchen Kruse (Idaho State LEP Coordinator) at gretchenkruse@msn.com, (208) 762-9800. For more information about LEP, visit our national web site at www.lep.org.

2008 Idaho Earth Science Educator Field Workshop

Ponderosa State Park in McCall July 13-18

Each summer, the Idaho Geological Survey offers teachers interested in earth science a field workshop organized around the topic of natural hazards. All Idaho teachers regardless of grade level or prior knowledge of the earth sciences are invited to attend. For more information, visit www.idahogeology.org/FieldWorkshops or contact Bill Phillips at phillips@uidaho.edu 208-885-8928.



For more information on Earthtracks, contact:

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<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>
Lori Adams (208) 287-2889
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U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Education
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*Layout provided by
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Access *EarthTracks* at www.idahoforests.org/news.htm

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