

Spring 2006



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.



Opportunities for Educators to GET OUT!

Here are a few things you can do this spring and summer

Apply Idaho's motto, *Esto perpetua*, to your teaching and life-Enjoy environmental children's literature-Hold a wriggling salmon-Explore your watershed-Learn about your home on the range-Touch a giant white pine-Soar (imagine!) with raptors-Smell hot ponderosa pines-Get the new and improved PLT guide-Do environmental education with little kids-Get new materials from Project WET-Go to water camp-Watch new videos-Gaze at grazing bison-Learn about plant and animal relationships-Warm up with geothermal energy-Explore your place in the food chain (along with other predators)-Invite MOSS to your school-Apply for grants and scholarships-Check out the Range-land trunk-Review the Idaho Archaeology student text-Grow Douglas-fir trees from seed-Learn about aliens from Earth-Celebrate Arbor Day-Participate in National Environmental Education Week.



Jump into this issue of EarthTracks to learn about these opportunities and more!

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. 3-4
WET, Pocatello

Feb. 3-4
WET, Boise

Feb. 9-10
WET, Nampa

Feb. 10-11
WILD, Boise

Feb. 17-18
PLT, Twin Falls

Feb. 24-25
WILD, Twin Falls

Feb. 24-25
PLT, Boise

Mar. 10-11
PLT, Kamiah

Mar. 11-12
WILD about Raptors, Boise

Mar. 17-18
PLT Natural Resources & Solid Waste, Hailey

Apr. 6-7
PLT Natural Resources & Solid Waste, Blackfoot/Idaho Falls

Apr. 7-8
PLT, Boise

Apr. 14-15
WET, New Plymouth

Apr. 21-22
WILD about Early Learners, Boise

Apr. 27-29
WET Into the Watershed, Boise/ Reynolds Ck

May 5-6
WILD, Nampa

Jun. 15-16
Focus on Literature with WILD, WET & PLT, Boise

Jun. 20-21
WILD, Boise

June 20-23
(WET) Water Camp, Idaho Falls

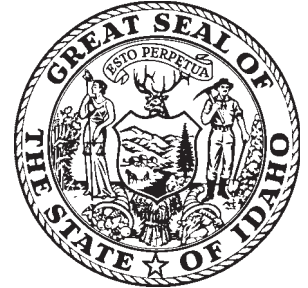
June 26-27
PLT, Coeur d'Alene

calendar continued on page 3

Esto Perpetua: How Do We Learn to Sustain Idaho?

**Idaho Environmental
Education Summit 2006**

March 3 & 4 Boise State University Student Union



A conference to celebrate accomplishments toward environmental literacy and to make plans for a more sustainable future.

**Register on-line or get more information at
www.idahoee.org/Summit06.html**

Idaho's state motto is *Esto Perpetua*, Latin for "Let it be perpetual." This motto fittingly connects with both Idaho as a place and environmental education's goal of sustainability.

For this reason, the motto was selected to be part of the theme of the Idaho Environmental Education Summit 2006. Under the banner of "*Esto Perpetua: How Do We Learn to Sustain Idaho?*" this conference will emphasize educational materials and professional development focused on sustainability.

The goal of sustainability education is to ensure that present and future generations:

- attain a high degree of economic security and social equity;
- create and ensure democratic participation in their communities and globally; and,
- maintain the health of the ecological systems upon which all life and all production depend.

Conference features:

- Professional development session: "Education for Sustainability" by Jaimie Cloud, President, Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education (formerly The Sustainability Education Center), New York City
- Keynote address: "Idaho Sustainability: What Will It Take?" by Alan Thein Durning, Executive Director, Northwest Environment Watch
- Showcase of Student Work
- Presentations of exemplary programs
- Displays by educational resource providers

Continuing education credits available.

For more information contact Donny at IdEEA.

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, plus connections with local water resource professionals.

Two credits available at each Water Camp. Idaho Falls (June 20-23), Twin Falls (June 27-30), and Coeur d'Alene (July 18-21). Sponsored by the Idaho Water Education Foundation and Idaho Water Resources Research Institute at the U of I. The only costs to participants are credit fees, minimal housing and some meal costs. Scholarships may be available. Contact Project WET.

Into the Watershed

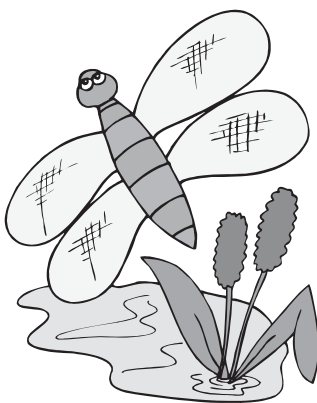
The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Center offer this 2 ½ day workshop for secondary teachers. Held at the Reynolds Creek Watershed, it features upland, stream, riparian, and water quality monitoring techniques. Curricular materials (*Healthy Water Healthy People* and *Watershed Manager*) support the focus on managing watersheds and linking schools with local grassroots watershed projects. Dates: April 28 (evening in Boise), 29 & 30 (field study). Cost: \$50 plus credit cost. Scholarships may be available. Contact Project WET.

Geothermal Energy Teacher Workshop

Tour the United States' first geothermal heating district and Edward's Greenhouse. Learn how this renewable energy source provides affordable heating and cooling to much of downtown Boise. You'll also learn about classroom resources. Sponsors: Idaho Department of Water Resources – Energy Division, in cooperation with the IWRRI at the University of Idaho. Dates TBA. 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 and their school. If approved, funds will be available by mid-February. Contact Project WET for application information.



Workshop Calendar

- June 26-30
(IRRC) Rangeland Ecology, McCall
- June 27-28
WILD, Idaho Falls
- June 27-30
(WET) Water Camp, Twin Falls
- June 29-30
PLT Wildfire and Weeds, Potlatch
- July 6-7
WILD about Salmon, Boise
- July 9-10
PLT Wildfire and Weeds, McCall
- July 10-11
WILD about Salmon, Boise
- July 11-12
PLT Focus on Communities, McCall
- July 13-14
PLT Wildfire and Weeds, Coeur d'Alene
- July 16-21
WILD in the Yellowstone Ecosystem, Island Park
- July 17-18
PLT Wildfire and Weeds, Idaho Falls
- July 18-19
PLT Wildfire and Weeds, Boise
- July 18-21
(WET) Water Camp, Coeur d'Alene
- July 27-28
Focus on Literature with WILD, WET & PLT, Salmon
- July 31-Aug. 3
Fast Food in a WILD World, McCall.
- Aug. 15-16
PLT Natural Resources & Solid Waste, Coeur d'Alene

See PLT workshop descriptions at www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm.
See WILD workshop descriptions at http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/project_wild/

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WILD: 208-287-2889
ladams@idfg.idaho.gov
WET: 208-332-4414
jscanlin@uidaho.edu
PLT: 208-334-4061
plt@idahoforests.org
IRRC: 208-566-4501
jmink@uidaho.edu

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES



WILD about Early Learners

Teachers of preK-2nd grade can receive a WILD curriculum modified to fit their needs more closely by attending this workshop. Much of this workshop will overlap with the basic Project WILD workshop, so it is not recommended that you take both workshops. Cost: \$25.00. University credit is available for an additional fee of \$50. A pilot workshop will be offered in Boise on April 21-22. Look for it statewide in the next year. Contact Project WILD.



Fast Food in a WILD World

A new seminar (July 31-Aug. 3) exploring predator/prey relationships in Idaho will take place at the U of I Field Campus, McCall, Idaho. In this two credit seminar, you'll learn how to incorporate not only the better known predators into your classroom, but some of the less obvious predators, too. Look to discuss predators such as bats, northern pike minnow, praying mantis, snakes and otters. Lessons dealing with the natural history of predators, safety, and the issues surrounding them will be included. Contact Project WILD.

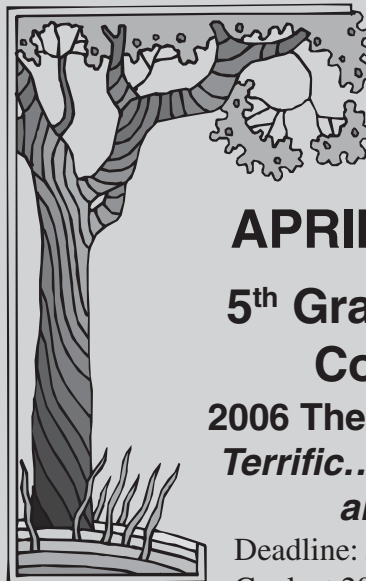
New Video from Idaho Fish and Game

Wildlife Mechanics: The Tools that Drive the Resource

When an angler complains about a river's lack of fish, nearby children question a biologist about fish and wildlife management. The result? A series of dizzying adventures in which the children experience chinook salmon, mule deer and black bear up close and personal. Contact Project WILD to purchase or borrow the video.



The Tools that
Drive the Resource.



ARBOR DAY

APRIL 28, 2006

5th Grade Poster Contest

2006 Theme: *Trees are
Terrific...In All Shapes
and Sizes.*

Deadline: 3/10/06. Contact Deb
Cook at 208-378-6576,
deb939@aol.com or go to

www.arborday.org/postercontest/ for a free
contest packet and activities. Idaho prizes include
savings bonds for students and cash for the
classroom!

New Video for Loan *Arbor Day: The Holiday that Makes a Difference.*

Forestry experts and kids talk about the benefits
of tree planting and the impact trees have on the
environment and our lives. 18 min. Closed cap-
tioned. Contact PLT to borrow this video.

Grow Douglas-fir trees in your classroom!

Request a FREE classroom set of seeds from the
PLT office.

Arbor Day T-shirts— New Design!

Each year we have a new shirt at a very afford-
able price (youth & adult sizes). Visit
www.idahoforests.org soon to see this year's shirt
and ordering information.

Contact PLT for Arbor Day information.

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Rangeland Ecology Workshop

June 26–30, 2006

U of I Field Campus on Payette Lake in McCall, Idaho

Nearly half of Idaho is 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, resource materials, and a great location for learning. University of Idaho, Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management professor Dr. Karen Launchbaugh will lead the workshop, with presentations by additional rangeland management professionals.

Topics include plant ecology, plant/animal interactions, livestock/wildlife interactions, noxious weeds, and management tools. All materials are linked to Idaho Achievement Standards. Abundant take-home materials will be provided.

Early registration (before March 31) is \$75; after March 31, \$100. This non-refundable registration fee covers materials, field trips, meals, and four nights lodging. Space is limited ~ first come, first served. Three continuing education credits from U of I available at \$77/credit, payable at the workshop. Register online at www.idahorange.org. Click on Teacher Resources or [contact Jodie at the IRRC](#).



Home on the Range Workshop

Dates TBA: Friday evening thru Saturday afternoon

Locations in the Fruitland and Challis areas

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 sampling and texturing and plant collection?

U of I's Dept. of Rangeland Ecology & Management and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission will offer a two-day workshop for teachers interested in the biology of Idaho rangelands. Each teacher will receive a booklet of classroom activities and lesson plans, and the new interactive CD, *Home on the Range*. All materials are linked to the Idaho Achievement Standards. One continuing education credit from the U of I will be available at a cost of \$77/credit. A \$20 refundable fee reserves your spot at this workshop. [Contact Jodie at the IRRC](#) for additional information.



New Resources from Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

The [IRRC Traveling Trunk](#) is ready for your classroom! This traveling trunk allows you to create your own field trip in the classroom. Lessons include Sights and Sounds of the Range, The Web of Lives, Home on the Watershed, and Is your Home on the Range. Easy-to-follow lesson plans and activities make this trunk a wonderful resource.

A new [interactive CD](#) is ready for your students. With *Home on the Range*, students explore the connection between how plants and animals make their home on Idaho rangelands. The CD gives students a fun way to learn about Idaho plants and animals while participating in step-by-step unit quizzes to test their knowledge.

The IRRC is currently developing an [Idaho Land Ownership Poster](#). Geography and social science classes will be able to learn about land ownership through this fun poster. Four lesson plans are included on the back of the poster.

To learn more about these new IRRC resources, as well as on-going educational tools, go to www.idahorange.org and select Teacher Resources, or contact Jodie at IRRC.

WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

PLT Turns Over a New Leaf!

We've got a new and improved edition of the PLT PreK-8th Grade Activity Guide! It builds on the proven effectiveness of the former guide with enhancements in these areas:

- Reading
- Technology
- Differentiated Instruction
- Assessments
- New activities on global climate and invasive species



Visit www.plt.org to learn more.

To get your new guide, come to any Idaho PLT workshop. [Contact PLT.](#)



PLT Focus on Communities

In this workshop, we'll explore the places we live—past, present and future. We'll do activities from the new & improved PLT PreK-8th Activity Guide, and premiere the PLT high school module, *The Places We Live*. Learn more about your community by investigating its history, looking at changes over time, and considering its future. This one-credit workshop will be piloted July 11-12 in McCall.

Relax in McCall and Earn 2 PLT Credits! Free Evenings!!!

We've scheduled two workshops back to back so you can relax, enjoy McCall, and earn credits, too!

Where: U of I McCall Field Campus, on the shore of Payette Lake.

When: **July 9-10, PLT Wildfires & Weeds.** (*Explore fires & invasive species.*)

Hours: Sun., 11 am – 6 pm. Mon. 8 am – 4 pm.

When: **July 11-12, PLT Focus on Communities.**

Hours: Tues. 9 am – 5 pm. Wed. 8 am – 3 pm.

Cost: \$20 per workshop. Optional bunkhouse lodging available for \$22/night. Meals on your own. (Bring packed lunches.)

Credits: 1 per workshop. \$50 per credit payable at workshop.

Contact PLT for more information.

Sustainable Forestry Tour for Teachers

June 21-24. Based out of Lewiston.

Explore north central Idaho forests. All tour travel and expenses paid. 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. Past teacher participants have called it "a trip of a lifetime."

To apply, go to www.idahoforests.org or [contact the PLT office.](#) Application deadline, March 31, 2006.

Forest History Supplement Coming Soon

The Idaho Forest Products Commission is working on a supplement for 4th grade classrooms. Arranged like a scrapbook, the supplement focuses on history of western white pine, geography of forest types and land ownership, forest technology, and people. Available for Fall 2006. [Contact PLT](#) for information.

Grants for Idaho Teachers

Apply for up to \$200 to help you teach about Idaho's trees and forests. More info and online application at www.idahoforests.org or [contact PLT.](#) Deadline: 8/15.



WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

3rd-6th Grade Teacher Reviewers Needed for Idaho Archaeology

Do you get excited reading about Idaho's ancient peoples and what we know about their way of life? If the answer is yes, then Idaho BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office have a deal for you! We've created a student text on Idaho Archaeology. The text is intended for fourth grade classrooms, but we would like reviewers representing third through sixth grade.

Teacher review will begin in March. If you are interested, please contact [Shelley Davis-Brunner at BLM](#). Provide your name, school name and grade level, physical and e-mail addresses, and a phone number. We hope you'll join us in making this exciting new project a reality.



Antiquities Act Centennial Celebration 1906-2006

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act. BLM and other Federal and state agencies are planning activities and presentations throughout the state to celebrate this event. April is Idaho Archaeology Month and its theme is the Antiquities Act. Watch for news about this historic act, and the schedule for Archaeology Month at www.idahohistory.net/ and www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures/index.html.

April 16-22, 2006
Join millions of teachers
and students in a week of
educational preparation
for Earth Day



Sign up to participate!
www.EEweek.org

MOSS Hits the Road

After 5 years of successful residential science programs for 5th-6th grade students, the U of I McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) has a new service for Idaho elementary and middle schools. *MOSS will facilitate science programs at your school or local natural area.* High quality, inquiry-based experiential education programs focus on community building, problem solving, hands-on learning and science. MOSS also offers professional development and in-service credit to participating teachers and school districts. Cost: \$100 per day includes: a team of 3-5 instructors (divided into one or many classrooms/working groups), curriculum development, and program materials. For more information visit www.pcei.org/moss/mossoutreach.htm.



For more information on Earthtracks, contact:

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Project WILD
PO Box 25, Boise ID 83707
800-422-WILD <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>
Lori Adams (208) 287-2889
ladams@idfg.idaho.gov

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Education
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise ID 83709
www.id.blm.gov/vironedu/
Shelley Davis-Brunner (208) 373-4020
shelley_davis-brunner@blm.gov

Idaho Forest Products Commission
Project Learning Tree
350 N. 9th St., #304, Boise ID 83702
800-ID-WOODS www.idahoforests.org
Michelle Youngquist (208) 334-4061
plt@idahoforests.org

Layout provided by Alyssa Jones, Idaho Fish and Game

IWRRI—University of Idaho
Project WET
322 E. Front., Suite 201, Boise ID 83702
Julie A. Scanlin (208) 332-4414
<http://boise.uidaho.edu/iwrri>
jscanlin@uidaho.edu

Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission
PO Box 126, Emmett ID 83617
877-ID-RANGE www.idahorange.org
Jodie Mink (208) 566-4501
jmink@uidaho.edu

Idaho Environmental Education Assn.
2211 S. 2nd Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201
Donny Roush (208) 232-5674 www.idahoe.org
donny@idahoe.org

Thanks to the above, and these additional sponsors: Idaho Water Education Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and Idaho Dept. of Lands.

Access **EarthTracks** at www.idahoforests.org/news.htm

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRVT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID 83702
PERMIT #1



Project Learning Tree/IFPC
350 North 9th Street #304
Boise, ID 83702