

Fall 2004



*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.*

Reading the Environment

A stronger emphasis on reading in Idaho's elementary classrooms opens the door to children's environmental literature. While many teachers might think of environmental education as fitting readily with science, it has much to offer basic language arts/communication instruction, too. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation reports:

Educators observing students in environment-based programs report that **93% feel the children read and write better as a result of the exposure.** And, **94% of them say the children in these programs communicate with each other much better.**

Young readers have specific, sequential reading skills to build. They also can be voracious. As a teacher, you can help by selecting books that meet these needs—launching your students into a lifetime of reading proficiency and pleasure.

Thinking you'd like to include more books with environment-based themes? Here are some starting points:

- www.acornnaturalists.com: Acorn Naturalists is a leader in supplying environmental education resources. Their books are screened for quality, scientific accuracy, and educational soundness. Look under "Children's Literature and Storytelling" for dozens of award-winners, all labeled with appropriate age ranges.

continued on next page

It's all inside this issue of *EarthTracks*!

- Reading activity suggestions
- Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree workshop schedules
- Idaho Environmental Education Summit
- National Forest Products Week
- New posters, videos and other materials
- "Fire Up for Summer" program



Workshop Calendar Fall 2004 Dates

Sep. 24-25

WILD, Boise

Oct. 1-2

WET, Boise

Oct. 1-2

WET, Coeur d'Alene

Oct. 2

WILD about Birds of Prey, Boise

Oct. 7-8

WILD, Nampa

Oct. 15-16

PLT, Boise

Oct. 15-16

PLT Wildfires & Weeds, Twin Falls

Oct. 22-23

PLT Walk in the Forest, Boise

Oct. 23

**WILD About Deer and Their Kin,
Twin Falls**

Oct. 29-30

**PLT Wildfires & Weeds,
New Plymouth**

Nov. 5-6

WILD, Boise

Nov. 5-6

PLT, Idaho Falls or Rexburg

Nov. 12-13

WET, Boise

Nov. 12-13

PLT, Moscow

March 4-5, 2005

Idaho EE Summit, Moscow

April, 2005

**WET, Into the Watershed
SW Idaho**

Spring 2005

WET, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls

June, 2005

WET, Idaho Water Camps

*More workshops may have been scheduled
since this printing.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WILD: 208-287-2889
ladams@idfg.state.id.us
WET: 208-422-0737
jscanlin@uidaho.edu
PLT: 208-334-4061
plt@idahoforests.org

Reading the Environment continued from page 1

- www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/childlit.htm: An annotated bibliography from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, "Children's Environmental Literature," contains 250 recommended reads, categorized by topic.
- www.idahoforests.org/plt1.org: Children's literature suggestions for each of the 96 activities in the Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide. This list is extensive!

So, when working on learning targets of the Idaho Reading Indicator, the Idaho Standards Achievement Test for language usage, and your own lesson plans, choose books that connect your students to the worlds around them.

Read with WILD, WET and PLT!

Get out your guides and work on reading skills with these activities.

K-4

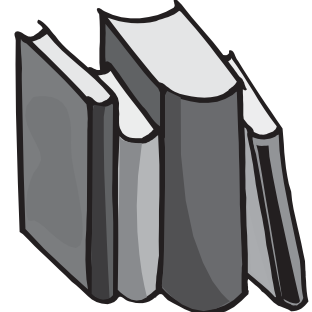
- WILD: Wildlife is Everywhere
- WILD: And the Wolf Wore Shoes
- WET: Water Write
- WET: Poetic Precipitation
- PLT: Tale of the Sun
- PLT: Pollution Search

5-8

- WILD: Aquatic Times
- WILD: Checks and Balance
- WET: Water: Read All About It
- WET: Great Water Journeys
- PLT: The Forest of S.T. Shrew
- PLT: Trees for Many Reasons

9-12

- WILD: Living Research: Aquatic Heroes and Heroines
- WILD: Facts and Falsehoods
- WET: Dust Bowls and Failed Levees
- WET: Perspectives
- PLT: Story of Succession (Forest Ecology module)
- PLT: Fire Management (Forest Ecology module)



WILD about Birds of Prey

Eagles, falcons, owls, kestrels, and hawks - You'll learn all sorts of things about these amazing birds and their habitats if you attend the *WILD about Birds of Prey* workshop in Boise on October 2nd. The workshop will be held at the World Center for Birds of Prey, and will include resources from the BLM Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Discover unique ways to integrate birds of prey into your curriculum. Attend the field day on Sunday, October 3, and you'll be in line for one continuing education credit. Contact Lori Adams at Project WILD.



Teachers applaud our searchable correlations between WILD, WET & PLT activities and the Idaho Achievement Standards. Go to <http://sde2.sde.state.id.us/csa/>. Try it today!

Help us help you!

Complete our online survey, and enter to win prizes.

Education is always changing. Today's teachers face numerous challenges and opportunities with No Child Left Behind, Achievement Standards and ISATs as you strive to mold students who are educated, inquisitive, competent and compassionate life-long learners.

As providers of professional development for teachers, we want to offer you interesting, relevant and useful classes and opportunities. *Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey.* Primarily for Idaho teachers, the survey is also open to others who take our classes. All survey participants will be entered in a drawing for a variety of prizes. Share your thoughts with us today at www.idahoforests.org. Follow the "Teacher Survey" links.

Idaho Environmental Education Summit 2005— Register now and SAVE!

At the Core of Discovery: Exploring Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Opportunities

**March 4 & 5 · Moscow
Student Union, University of Idaho**

Two hundred years ago, a Corps of Discovery was working its way westward. They studied and learned from the lands through which they passed. Their legacy, and the legacy of those they met along the way, lives on. Students of this history have a rich assortment of Expedition-themed material from which to choose. A planning committee is studying the Lewis & Clark educational resources with an eye toward historical accuracy and educational soundness. Presenters at the Summit will be invited based on these criteria, emphasizing high-quality educational projects, programs, and curricular resources developed for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

Early registration of \$35 (for Idaho Environmental Education Association members)/\$50 (for nonmembers) is available until 12-31-04. Contact Donny at the Idaho Environmental Education Association.



TEACHING IDEAS & RESOURCES

National Forest Products Week October 17-23, 2004

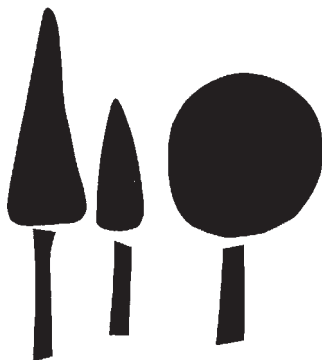
It's time to thank forests, that wonderful renewable resource, for all they provide to our daily lives: beauty, habitat, clean air and water, paper and wood products, and more! Here are some ways for you and your students to be involved.

Essay Contest: The Idaho Forest Products Commission is hosting its 9th annual Essay Contest. Students write about how forest products affect their lives, and what they would do if they were in charge of taking care of forests for generations to come. Visit www.idahoforests.org for contest guidelines and scoring rubrics. Prizes include savings bonds for the winners, and cash for the winners' classrooms. Deadline: 10/31/04.

Website Feature: We've put together a special Forest Products Feature at www.idahoforests.org. Students can learn background information for their essays as they marvel at the myriad ways trees and forests touch their daily lives.

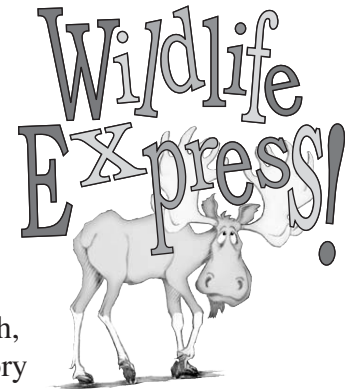
Website Scavenger Hunt: Learn interesting things about forest products. Complete the hunt between Oct. 17-23 and enter to win prizes!

PLT Activities: Use this *storyline* of PLT activities (#12 Tree Treasures, #13 We All Need Trees, #14 Renewable or Not?, #15 A Few of My Favorite Things, and #16 Pass the Plants, Please) with your students. In the process you'll address a variety of Idaho Achievement Standards. Use the database at <http://sde2.sde.state.id.us/csa/> to learn the standards addressed by these activities.



Wildlife Express

Are you looking for a way to get kids excited about reading? Subscribe to *Wildlife Express*! This newspaper features a different Idaho species each month, highlighting the natural history and management of the species.



For less than 85 cents per student per year, your students can get their hands on a newspaper produced for *them* about animals in *their* state! The newspaper is geared for 4th – 6th grade. Teachers in older and younger grades have also found it useful. Kids love animals! Use it for reading comprehension and/or science. In addition to the newspaper, you will receive *Educator's Express*, a teacher's guide with science, math, language arts and social studies activities for each issue. If two or more classrooms at your school subscribe, each classroom will also receive the award-winning *Fast Food: A Predator's World*, a video produced by Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. Hurry to subscribe! You won't want to miss this great offer!

September: Peregrine Falcon

October: Mule Deer

November: Snipe

December: Cutthroat trout

January: Chickadee

February: Yellow-bellied Marmot

March: Gray Wolf

April: Painted Turtle

May: Mormon Cricket

To subscribe to *Wildlife Express*, contact Kevin Frailey, Conservation Education Supervisor, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (208) 287-2874, or download the subscription form at www.fishandgame.idaho.gov. A classroom subscription is \$30 per year, and includes a monthly set of 30 newspapers and the *Educator's Express*. Check with a local business—they may want to sponsor your classroom. You'll get the subscription paid for, and they'll get an awesome colorful certificate to post.

TEACHING IDEAS & RESOURCES

Wild New Videos Available

The folks at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have been busy creating wildlife videos for your classroom. They are available to you two ways. Idaho Public Television has scheduled them as part of their Teacher Toolbox. You can record *Fast Food: A Predator's World* and *Habitat and Niche: Places To Go, Things To Do* on your own VCR. They are scheduled to air at 3:00 AM/2:00 AM, MT/PT on October 19.

Another option is to purchase a VHS copy or DVD version that includes *Fast Food: A Predator's World* and *Habitat and Niche: Places To Go, Things To Do* through The Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The cost is \$10.00 including postage and handling. Call 208-287-2889 to order. For more information, see the IDFG webpage at www.fishandgame.idaho.gov.

Bats in the Belfry

Plan a fun October unit on bats using the following websites: <http://members.aol.com/bats4kids.htm> and www.batcon.org.

Call your local Idaho Fish and Game office to request a bat poster.

Use a Hand Print Art activity from a must have book for elementary educators. It has all kinds of animals to create with hand painting and it gives a background information page about those animals! Carolyn Carreiro. *Hand-Print Animal Art*. A Williamson Kids Can! Book. Williamson Publishing. 1997.



Have fun! Don't forget to check out the **bat trunk** at 334-2225!

Let Kids Make the Call

Dialogue for Kids is a monthly television call-in program on Idaho Public TV. Kindergarteners—sixth graders can call, fax or email questions for scientists to answer live on the air. The show airs the third Tuesday of each month. The *Dialogue for Kids* website has lots of additional information on each topic, and you can watch past shows on your computer. This year's schedule:

September—Eyes
October—The Moon
November—Fossils
December—Zoology
January—Wetlands
February—Electricity
March—Wildlife Management
April—Garbage
May—Fireworks

Be sure to check out previous year's topics, too! Go to www.idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/.

Earth & Sky Radio Network

The successful short format science radio program, *Earth & Sky*, is a new Project Learning Tree partner. Together, national PLT and Earth & Sky launched the online educational tool, **Earthcare** at www.earthsky.org. Earthcare provides correlations between the radio programming and PLT activities. Check it out!

New Poster and Article Reprint

Ecosystems of the Rocky Mountains: A Study in Diversity

This *new* article exploring the ecosystems of the Rocky Mountains will appear in a fall issue of NSTA's *Science and Children*. As always, copies of this reprint along with a full color classroom poster will be available **free** of charge from the BLM Idaho State Office. To reserve your copy, contact Shelley Davis-Brunner at BLM. Include your full address and a telephone number. Have a great school year!

TEACHING IDEAS & RESOURCES

Traveling Trunks

Trunks are available for loan to teachers, home-school families, youth leaders, park interpreters—anyone who would like access to such materials!

Wildlife

The Watchable Wildlife Program of north Idaho and Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game have developed a series of wildlife trunks. Trunks available by topic include songbirds, owls, eagles, wolves, bears, bats, salmon, gyotaku fish printing and elk.

For more, contact us by phone 208-334-2225 or email, bbeckley@idfg.state.id.us.

Paper, Forestry, Energy

Project Learning Tree and the Idaho Forest Products Commission offer the following kits for loan (only cost is return postage): 1) Paper-Making kit, 2) Forester kit (with real forester tools!), 3) PLT Energy & Society kit. Contact the PLT office.

Water

1) Enviroscope, 2) Water History Trunk, 3) Groundwater Flow Model. Contact the Project WET office for more information.

Raptors

Borrow the Raptor Box, complete with lesson plans and hands-on materials, from the BLM Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Contact Barb at 208-384-3485.

Greenworks!

Grant deadline—9/30/04

All PLT-trained educators are eligible for these grants of \$50-\$1000 for service-learning projects. Go to www.plt.org for details.

New Arbor Day Poster

Stori Loveland of Nampa won the 2004 Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest. Her award-winning artwork has been reproduced as a poster for your classroom. Order a free copy (or several!) today from the PLT office.

Trees are Terrific —and Energy Wise!

This is the theme of the 2005 Arbor Day Poster Contest. Idaho 5th grade classrooms: Start now! Go to www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/ or contact Deb Cook, Idaho contest coordinator, at 208-378-6576, deb939@aol.com for your free contest packet. Packet activities correlate with National Science and Social Studies Standards. Idaho prizes include savings bonds for students and cash for the classroom! Deadline: March 4, 2005.

Free Materials from Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

Idaho is 43% rangeland and Idaho classrooms have many free resources available to explore this expansive ecosystem. Contact the IRRC with your request. Look for more activities and lessons from this summer's teacher workshop participants on our website at www.idahorange.org.

- “Rangeland Idaho’s Roots” 4th grade, Idaho history booklets—classroom sets of 30 are available with a teacher guide and lessons included. The activities include reading, math, science, and history lessons.
- “Wild Open Spaces,” a two-sided educational poster with information about the plants and animals that call rangeland home.
- “Rangeland Idaho’s Roots,” a poster which includes a beautiful depiction of 25 of the more common rangeland plants in Idaho.
- “Backpack Guide to Idaho Range Plants,” a plant identification booklet with more than 75 of the more common plants on Idaho rangelands.

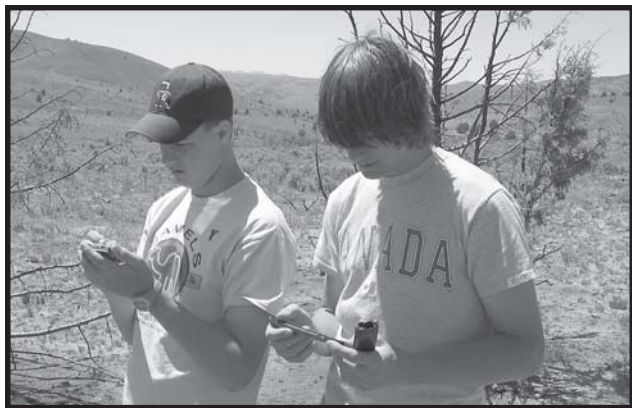


TEACHING IDEAS & RESOURCES

Third Annual Idaho Rangeland Contest

October 18, 2004

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission proudly sponsors the 3rd Annual Idaho Rangeland Contest in conjunction with the University of Idaho, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Society for Range Management, BLM, and the US Forest Service. This year's contest is in Burley. Students from all over Idaho will compete to attend the National Rangeland Contest in Oklahoma next spring. For more information, contact the IRRC.



BLM's *Fire Up for Summer!* Program is a Success

3-week high school course focuses on fire fuels and monitoring

This June, Idaho BLM, in partnership with Meridian School District and Northwest Nazarene University, held a 3-week course for high school students focusing on fire fuels and the techniques for monitoring them. "Fire Up for Summer" was a great success and plans are to run it again in 2005.

The main objectives of this program were to provide meaningful work and data for the BLM and give students "real world" work experience. Seventeen students paired up to develop a hypothesis and conduct research on it using the pre-burn data provided by BLM and the post-burn data they collected. The students navigated with GPS units to the points established for data collection, entered monitoring data into Personal Digital Assistants, downloaded the data to laptops, analyzed it and created maps using GIS.

They delivered the results of their research to BLM and the public using PowerPoint presentations and hard copy posters at a Student Showcase Day. BLM thanks Bob Beckwith, Gina Lockwood, Steve DeMers, and Tobey Jossis for a job well done. Watch for these teachers at state and national professional conferences where they will present their experience to other teachers who want to conduct similar courses for their students. Contact Shelley Davis-Brunner, BLM.

Current Water Issues

Water is a hot topic! Whether it's drought, salmon, water rights, aquifer recharge, water quality or quantity, or hydropower, there is no shortage of perspectives and opinions. It can be difficult to facilitate non-biased classroom discussions or answer specific questions on these complex issues. Here are a few websites to enhance understanding of water resources and related issues.

- Idaho Digital Atlas – [http://imnh.isu.edu/digital atlas](http://imnh.isu.edu/digital%20atlas)
- U.S. Geologic Survey – <http://id.water.usgs.gov>
- Environmental Protection Agency – <http://epa.gov/ehtpages/water.html>
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – SnoTel – <http://id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow>
- Idaho Department of Water Resources – <http://idwr.state.id.us>
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – <http://deq.state.id.us>

There are many great activities for classroom use.

WET—the whole activity guide! Start with these...

- Dilemma Derby
- Choices and Preferences
- Hot Water
- Water Court

- Riparian Zone
- Flip the Switch for Wildlife
- No Water Off a Duck's Back
- WILD Aquatic Guide

- Every Drop Counts
- Water Wonders
- Field, Forest, and Stream
- Watch on Wetlands

WILD

PLT





For more information on Earthtracks, contact:

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Project WILD
PO Box 25, Boise ID 83707
800-422-WILD www.fishandgame.idaho.gov
Lori Adams (208) 287-2889
ladams@idfg.state.id.us

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 Faaborg, Idaho Fish and Game

IWRRI—University of Idaho
Project WET
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Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission
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2211 S. 2nd Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201
Donny Roush, 208-232-5674 www.idahoee.org
donny@idahoee.org

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Access *EarthTracks* at www.idahoforests.org/teach1.htm

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