

Fall 2001



*Welcome to
EarthTracks, an
environmental
education newsletter
for Idaho teachers.
Here you'll find
news from the
"Projects"
(Learning Tree, WET
and WILD), the
Bureau of Land
Management, and
others interested
and active in
environmental
education. We
encourage your
suggestions and
thoughts.*

WELCOME BACK!

The school year is off and running, and so are we. Exciting things are happening in Idaho's environmental education community. We're glad you're part of it. In this issue of *EarthTracks*, learn about our standards correlations project (and how you can help), new videos, posters and materials, and opportunities for you and your students.



EDUCATION STANDARD CORRELATIONS

Our bid for an EPA Environmental Education grant was successful! The end result will be correlations between Idaho's state education standards and Project's Learning Tree, WET and WILD. These correlations will help teachers use Project activities to help students achieve high academic standards, while experiencing the joy of learning through environmental education. **Lori Anderson** of Boise, **Skip Leone** of Burley, and **Jane Thornes** of St. Maries will complete the initial correlations. Then we'll convene a team of teachers from throughout Idaho to "ground-truth" these draft correlations. *If you're interested in being involved, send an "I'm interested" email or phone message to the PLT office so we can keep in touch with you.* The correlations will be ready for the 2002-2003 school year.



Workshop Calendar 2001 Dates

October 12-13

Project WET, Boise
Project WET, Post Falls

October 19-20

Project Learning Tree, Boise
Project Learning Tree, Lewiston

October 25-26

Project WILD, Lewiston

October 26-27

Project WET, Moscow

November 2-3

Project Learning Tree, Boise
Project WET, Eastern Idaho

November 9-10

Project WET, Boise
Project Learning Tree, Post Falls

November 16-17

Project Learning Tree, Pocatello

November 30-December 1

Project Learning Tree, Rexburg

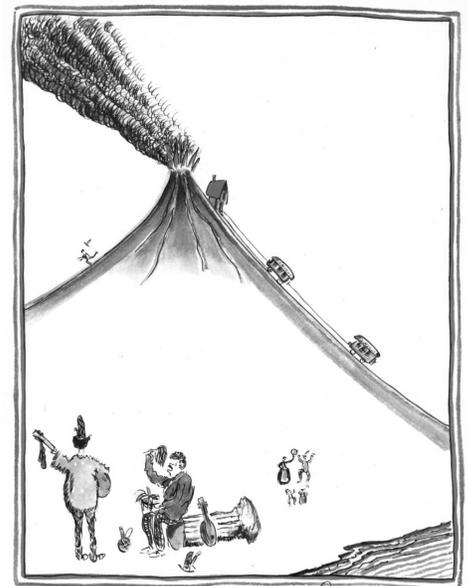
Complete contact information for the opportunities and materials in this newsletter can be found on the back panel.

Hot Topics!

Did you know that the Snake River Plain is one of the “hottest” places on earth? Or, that Boise, in 1906, developed the first geothermal (earth heat energy) heating district in the country? Or, that there are folks raising alligators in Idaho because of natural warm water springs? Many of us have had the pleasure of enjoying one of the hundreds of great hot-springs that dot south central Idaho. Did you ever wonder why they are there?

GEO: Great Earth Odyssey is a new teacher training workshop which will explain why this is such a geothermally rich area, who is currently using this resource and how this renewable resource may potentially become part of Idaho’s future energy picture. Participants will get hands-on experience using classroom-ready materials. These workshops are not just for science teachers. The activities in the curriculum are interdisciplinary and are focused primarily at the middle school level. A background in geology/earth science may be helpful, but is not required.

Dates and locations for the GEO workshop are yet to be set, but if you would like more information contact Julie Scanlin (jscanlin@uidaho.edu or 208-422-0737) to get on the list. Only two workshops are offered this year and space is limited. Sign up early!



Apply now for GreenWorks! Grants

Funding from the BLM allows PLT to give grants of \$500 to \$2000 for *wildfire management and invasive species* service projects. Teachers must be PLT trained, and projects should be school or community based with local partners and hands-on participation by youth. Grant guidelines are available at www.plt.org. (Go to “PLT in Action.”) Note: The deadline for fire and weed-related grants has been extended, but we encourage you to apply now.

WANTED! Teachers for Elementary Education Curriculum Committee

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC) is currently seeking teachers with an interest in rangelands and ranching to participate on an advisory/oversight committee for the development of curriculum and materials. IRRC has focused its efforts on high school science and would like to expand into the elementary-level age group. Input and guidance from elementary teachers is crucial for the materials to be useful and applicable in their classrooms. Many subjects could be covered including history, science, economics, and culture. With the implementation of Achievement Standards in Idaho, alignment with the expectations of the Idaho State Board of Education is also critical for the material to be utilized.

If you know of any such teacher (or are one yourself), please have them contact IRRC at 1-877 ID RANGE or by e-mail at irrc@bigskytel.com.



PLT and BLM are all fired up!

Project Learning Tree and the Bureau of Land Management have joined forces to provide fire-related materials and information at PLT workshops, including the “Burning Issues” CD (\$25 value). Come to a PLT workshop and catch the spark!

NEW MATERIALS AND OPPORTUNITIES

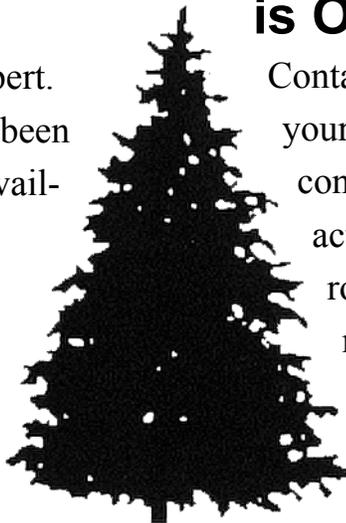
New video about careers

“The Right Choice” highlights careers of the modern forest products industry. Foresters, aquatic and wild-life biologists, chemists, engineers, machinists, marketing and computer specialists are some of the many options. Aimed at junior high. 15 min. Contact PLT to borrow this video.

New Arbor Day poster

Idaho’s Arbor Day 2001 poster contest winner was **Barbara Sorenson’s student Stacy Tarbet** of Big Valley

Elementary in Rupert. Stacy’s poster has been reprinted, and is available for display in your classroom. Contact PLT for your copy!

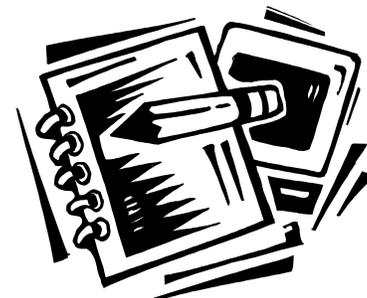


Arbor Day poster contest—Attention 5th grade classrooms!

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but fall is also a great time to learn about trees and what they mean to our lives. For poster contest guidelines and a packet of activities, contact the Idaho Department of Lands at smoore@idl.state.id.us, 208-334-0200. The contest deadline is February 28, 2002.

National Forest Products Week is Oct. 14-20

Contact the PLT office for your **free FPW packet** containing information, activities and a classroom set of tree bookmarks for your students. *Indicate grade level and # of students.*



6th Annual K-12 Essay Contest

Your students can hone their writing skills, and learn about Idaho’s forests at the same time! Teachers laud this contest as a way for students to practice authentic, relevant writing. Join the educational fun! Contact PLT for contest information. (Or visit www.idahoforests.org) Prizes include savings bonds for the winning students, and cash for the students’ classroom.

NEW MATERIALS AND OPPORTUNITIES

“Energy & Me” Music CD

Popular educational entertainer Billy B has teamed up with Project Learning Tree to provide a high-energy creative music sensation. The 15 songs were created and written by Billy B using PLT activities. All the songs on the CD can be easily integrated into your teaching and offer a musical way to enrich student learning. *Contact the PLT office to borrow this CD.*



NEW POSTER— “Rangeland— Idaho’s Roots”

Do you have an interest in the various plants found in Idaho? Then this is the poster for you. Bev Jaquish, Post Falls artist, has done it again. As a follow-up to the “Wild Open Spaces” poster, the “Idaho’s Roots” poster depicts and describes many of the dominant plants found throughout Idaho. Order your FREE copy today by calling 1-877 ID RANGE or send email to irrc@bigskytel.com.



Rangeland Website Planned

Watch for idrange.org, IRRC’s website, to become bigger and better later this fall. Plans include a page where students and teachers in schools can “talk to a rancher.” Other educational materials, activities, and related products can be accessed at this address. Visit idrange.org and tell us what you think!

Colorado Plateau Dinosaurs *Virtually* in Your Backyard!

Coming October 25, 2001.

Teachers! Here's your chance to take your students on an excavation of a Duckbilled Dinosaur without leaving your classroom. The Bureau of Land Management and the Museum of Northern Arizona are coming together to present this live interactive program to students and teachers throughout the country. Join them as they excavate the remains of a 30-foot dinosaur discovered in a remote area of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Southern Utah.

This program is free to schools. All you need is access to an Analog C-Band Satellite Dish. The broadcast is live, and students will be able to phone or email questions during the hour-long show. For registration and other information, visit BLM's website at: www.blm.gov/education

Two live shows will be broadcast on October 25. Times are:

Mountain Time: 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Pacific Time: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Set In Stone *More on Dinosaurs and other stuff....*

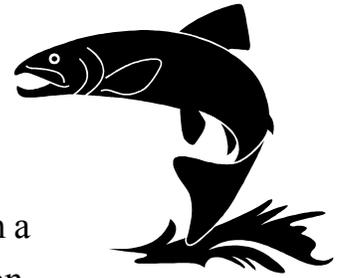
Set in Stone, a reprint from *Science and Children* magazine, explores the science of paleontology. It is a great supplement to BLM's October satellite broadcast of the Duckbilled Dinosaur excavation and comes complete with an information-packed article, a colorful classroom poster, and student activities.

To get your free copy of the reprint, contact Shelley Davis-Brunner at the BLM Idaho State Office.

Project WET Teaching Aids

Just a reminder to teachers that Project WET has available for check out *Idaho Water History Trunks, Envirosapes, and Groundwater Flow Models*. There is a limited number of these resources available however, so please schedule well in advance. Project WET will cover shipping costs to your school, and your school will be responsible for the return shipping costs. Contact the Project WET office for check out.

Jack Hemingway Conservation Day October 10, 2001



On Tuesday, October 2nd, Governor Dirk Kempthorne will sign a proclamation declaring an annual Jack Hemingway Conservation Day. Following the 2001 event, the date of Jack Hemingway Conservation Day will fall to the last Saturday in September to correspond with National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Governor Dirk Kempthorne announced the designation in his State of the State address on January 8th, 2001. He praised Hemingway's conservation efforts saying, "He lived a life as big as Idaho's outdoors and in turn he gave his time and talents towards conserving our natural heritage for generations to come, both as a Fish & Game Commissioner and as host of the wildlife show *Incredible Idaho*."

We encourage all of you to observe this first annual Jack Hemingway Conservation Day by doing Project WILD activities this month.

IdEEA Membership

The Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA) invites teachers to join the organization and learn more about the new and exciting things on the horizon for environmental education in Idaho. Over the last year IdEEA has hosted the first Idaho Conservation Education Summit, begun development of a one-stop Idaho environmental education web-site, and hired a staff person to coordinate grant proposals to further EE in Idaho. This effort has already resulted in the awarding of a grant through the Columbia Basin Initiative that will focus on bringing together EE providers to develop a coordinated action plan. Please think about joining this newly energized organization and sharing your great "IdEEAs" with others working hard for Idaho's environment and students. For membership information, contact Donny Roush of IdEEA at roush@srv.net.



For more information on Earthtracks, contact:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Project WILD

P.O.Box 25, Boise, ID 83707

1(800)422-WILD

Kathie Hilliard (208)334-2633

khilliard@idfg.state.id.us

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Education

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709

Shelley Davis-Brunner (208)373-4020

shelley_davis-brunner@blm.gov

Idaho Forest Products Commission

Project Learning Tree

P.O. Box 855 Boise, ID 83701

1(800)ID-WOODS

Michelle Youngquist (208)334-4061

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Project WET

800 Park Blvd.,

Plaza 4, Ste. 105, Boise, ID 83712

Julie Scanlin (208)422-0737

jscanlin@uidaho.edu

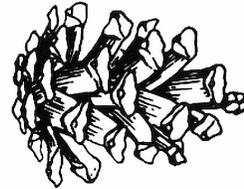
Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

P.O. Box 126, Emmett, ID 83617

1(877)ID-RANGE

Gretchen Hyde (208)398-7002

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EarthTracks can be accessed through the Internet @ <http://www.id.blm.gov/enviroedu/ET/index.htm>

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