

Northern Rockies/Intermountain West

# A Forest for Every Classroom

A Place-Based  
Professional Development Workshop Series



## Community Challenge

In a day of instant information, communication and gratification, our students and communities often exist side-by-side with forested areas and do so with very little knowledge of the ecological systems, economic values, varying uses, and human connections to them.

## Educational Response

Educators, forest workers, agency personnel, and community members have been working to address the informational and experiential awareness-gap of today's young people. A Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) is a dynamic professional development program for educators focused on place-based approaches to education. Teachers who participate in FFEC gain experience, form relationships and increase their own knowledge so that they are able to foster student understanding of and appreciation for public and private forests in their communities.

### FFEC Sessions may include:

- In the field studies with resource professionals;
- Introduction to and use of forestry tools;
- Panel discussions;
- Lectures and presentations;
- Curriculum sharing;
- Literature/art integration examples;
- Field trips to working forest-related sites;
- Resource sharing;
- Work periods with professional assistance.

## What is Place-Based Education?

Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, math, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real-world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances student appreciation for the natural world, and creates heightened commitment to serving as active contributing citizens. (David Sobel, *Standing Strong in My Rightful Place*, 2003)

### Want more information?

Visit [www.montanaeea.org/professional/AForestforEveryClassroom.htm](http://www.montanaeea.org/professional/AForestforEveryClassroom.htm)

# What does FFEC offer for Northern Rockies/ Intermountain West teachers?

- A multi-disciplinary, field-based exploration of important private and public forests in our region, spanning all four seasons.
- Instruction in and experience using authentic field-work methods and supporting award-winning curriculum materials that can be used with students of all ages.
- Active, hands-on workshops presented by scientists, foresters, loggers, educators, naturalists, industry experts, cultural representatives, and others who are passionate about forest stewardship.
- Support in standards-based curriculum development.
- Instruction in and observance of the Principles and Practices of Place-Based Education.
- An introduction to increasing student achievement through place-based educational approaches.
- How to use service learning fundamentals to improve communities while at the same time making learning more relevant for students.
- Acquisition of curriculum and resource materials to aid in teaching about forest ecology, management and stewardship.
- Interactions with a network of educators, scientists, and other resource specialists.
- Mini-grants up to \$200.00 upon implementation of teacher-created FFEC curriculum.
- Extended support and follow-up making FFEC an ongoing teaching partnership.
- Graduate credits (additional fee).
- Teachers will create curriculum for use in their classroom.

***“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder... he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”***

**(Rachel Carson, *The Sense of Wonder*)**



## What teachers say about *A Forest for Every Classroom:*

*“This course has re-kindled my soul and passion for teaching. It has made it meaningful again. I am so grateful for the vision, the inspiration, the follow-through, and the commitment and knowledge that the partners have channeled through us.”*

*“There were so many things that we did that were truly meaningful, things I’ll not only use in my classroom, but the rest of my life.”*

*“Many of the activities provide ways to bring your students into the natural world in ways you never expected.”*

*“As you begin your year’s journey with the leaders of this group, be prepared to be amazed. The passion that you will encounter is the stuff of transformation.”*

