



Hands on the Land

A National Network of Field Classrooms Linking Students, Teachers, and Parents to their Public Lands and Waterways

Featured Site:

Table Rocks– Medford, OR

Table Rocks Environmental Education Program is located in a unique topographic environment in the Rogue Valley, Oregon. Designated in 1984 as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect special plants and animal species, unique geologic and scenic values, and education opportunities, Table Rocks are two of the most prominent features in the valley. Unlike the surrounding round hills, the Rocks have flat, crew cut top summits that abruptly change to vertical cliff faces with columnar slabs that drape down over 800 feet to meet the valley floor. As a member of Hands on the Land since 2006, Table Rocks offers free programming to schools and community members. The Table Rocks Environmental Education Program provides educational opportunities for school and community groups and members of the public who want to learn about this special site. It also offers an opportunity for the community to explore the role of BLM as a land management agency.



With a gorgeous mountain as a backdrop, students explore the natural wonders of Table Rocks.



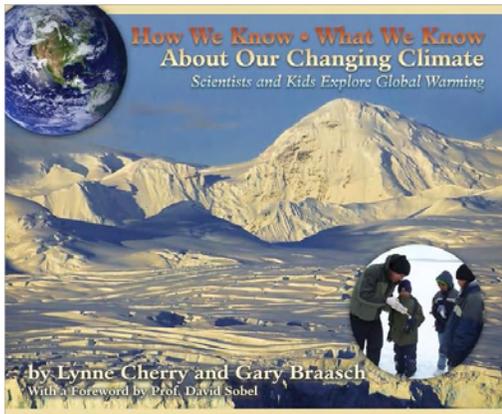
Participants learn about the unique topography and features of Table Rocks.

This education program has been active in the Rogue Valley for over 20 years. Today, during the spring months, over 4,400 people are led to the top of Upper and Lower Table Rocks by experienced BLM interpretive staff and by volunteers from the community. In addition to the guided, interpretive hikes, our program offers pre-hike, preparatory classroom presentations, an educational website, activity kits, and accompanying curriculum. Program participants learn about geology, fire ecology, Native American history and culture, forest management, botany, noxious weeds, general ecology, wildlife biology, and more. Programs are offered in a partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Medford District BLM through late February to Early June.

Learn more by visiting the Table Rocks Environmental Education webpage on the Hands on the Land website: http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile_details.cfm?sitecode=taro or contact Leah Schrodts at (541) 618 2468 or Leah_Schrodts@or.blm.gov.

Put Your Hands to Work for National Public Lands Day

Hands on the Land sites are encouraged to participate in the 15th annual National Public Lands Day on **Saturday, September 27, 2008**. This is a great opportunity to spend a day rebuilding trails, restoring stream banks, planting trees, creating butterfly gardens, or removing invasive species. More than 130,000 volunteers are expected to participate and learn about the lands and waterways on which they recreate. For information on how your site can participate (or to find a location near you) visit www.publiclandsday.org.



Book Review

How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming
By Lynne Cherry and Gary Braasch

Cherry and Braasch take a colorful approach to show observation techniques used by both scientists and kids across the world in the study of climate change. The subject matter of climate change is approached in an empowering and hopeful manner rather than the typical fearful style. Along with observation techniques used in the field the text includes a large list of resources teachers, parents, and students can use to further their study. Resources include a variety from private and public agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

HOL News

HOL Website: Launch Date Coming Soon

Hands on the Land is preparing to launch a brand new look to the same great website. The new site is much more user friendly and includes an exciting E-Learning feature. HOL sites will soon be able to post internet based learning experiences. This feature can be used to broaden a locations reach along with the administration of targeted pre and post visit curricula. E-Learning is a virtual classroom with the ability to host lesson plans, multimedia presentations, interactive message boards, and student assessment tools. For more information contact Dave Zelenka at davez@interactive-earth.com or Dave Miller at dmiller@keystone.org.

New Site Recruitment

Because incredible educational programming takes place at both federal land and waterway sites as well as at a state and local level, Hands on the Land is actively recruiting these new sites! If you know of any state or local sites that maintain regular educational programming and that might be a great addition to the HOL network, please contact Dave Miller or Ellen Reid. We're expanding our family of sites and look forward to enhancing the network.

New HOL Sites!

Hands on the Land would like to welcome three new sites to our network.

1. Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
2. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
3. San Juan Islands, Outdoor Experiential Education Classroom

Go to handsontheland.org to explore their site profiles and the exciting programming each is offering.

