



Hands on the Land

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

Featured Site:

King Range National Conservation Area

The Bureau of Land Management's King Range National Conservation Area is located along the rugged northern California coast about sixty miles south of Eureka and 200 miles north of San Francisco. An abrupt wall of mountains thrusts 4,000 feet above the Pacific, making the area one of the most spectacular and remote stretches of coastline in the continental U.S. The elemental beauty and ever-changing mood of the Pacific Ocean meeting the wild, undeveloped coastline, old-growth forest and rugged peaks of the King Range make it a popular spot for backpacking, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, surfing, hunting, tidepooling, and mountain biking. The King Range covers over 64,000 acres and extends along 35 miles of coastline, from the mouth of the Mattole River to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

King Range staff has a well-established partnership with local non-profit Mattole Restoration Council (MRC), through which various restoration projects within the Mattole Watershed are accomplished. As part of this restoration effort the MRC addresses educational needs through the Mattole Ecological Education Program (MEEP), which teaches local students about their environmental impact within the watershed and globally. Over the years, King Range staff and MEEP have worked together to teach students in their classrooms, on field trips, and through service projects. This broad array of environmental education opportunities has led to a generation of environmentally conscious citizens.



During Lost Coast Lifelab, BLM Archaeologist Dave Johnson teaches students how to use a topographic map.



Students simulate eating with different bird beaks as a way to learn about bird adaptations.

In September 2007, King Range and MEEP began a new component of their environmental education program with the support of local school districts and schools. It is an after-school program entitled Lost Coast Lifelab. The program is offered one day a week at two local schools, and is intended for 5th-8th grade students. Students learn about all aspects of the ecosystem through various hands-on activities, field trips, and presentations by BLM and restoration specialists. Students keep a natural journal to record their weekly activities and what they have learned.

Interested in starting your site's own after-school program? It's easier than you think! Find out what the needs of the teachers, parents and students are and then go from there. Communication is key! King Range staff talked to teachers and students, and then sent home letters to parents to determine what type of program would work best. In this rural community, the support of parents was critical to the success of the program. With over-whelming support, Lost Coast Lifelab has been a huge success!

For more information, please visit the King Range webpage on the Hands on the Land website at http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile_detail.cfm?sitecode=kira or contact Rachel Sowards at (707) 986-5411 or Rachel_sowards@blm.gov.



2007 HOL Awards

Congratulations to 2007 Awardees!

Thanks to all of the HOL sites that submitted a nomination for this year's Awards. With so many great nominations, it was difficult to choose. This year, two awards were given for Community Collaboration and no award was given for Network Collaboration and Mentoring. We encourage sites to review the criteria for each category for nominations in 2008!

Community Collaboration ~

Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (BLM)
California

Leon Sinks Geological Area (USFS)
Florida

Web Resources ~

Alder Creek Children's Forest (BLM)
Oregon

Network Collaboration and Mentoring ~

****No Awardees for 2007**

(learn more about this category by visiting <http://www.handsontheland.org/manage/awards.cfm>)

Member News

HOL Newsletter Update

Beginning in January 2008, the Hands on the Land newsletter will be produced and distributed on a quarterly basis. Look for newsletters to arrive in January, April, August and December. Please remember to share exciting news or important information through this networking forum!

National Public Lands Day-Thank You!

Thanks to the 18 Hands on the Land sites that participated in this year's National Public Lands Day. Several excellent projects and tasks were accomplished that enhance our public lands. We appreciated the broad support from so many HOL sites.

New Resource!

It is BLM's pleasure to announce the availability of **A Teacher's Guide to Energy on Public Lands**, an invaluable tool to assist educators in teaching standards-based lessons and conducting classroom activities about the diverse energy resources on America's public lands. The guide was produced in partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Program, a non-profit organization dedicated to making energy education a priority in our nation's schools.

A printed copy of the guide is available online at

<http://www.blm.gov/education/LearningLandscapes.data/Components/downloads/EnergyOnPublicLandsWeb.pdf>