

Room and board provided, all workshop fees are covered by the FFEC partners. Graduate credits are available through university fees.

Locations may change

Date	Place	Course Outline
Friday, April 29, 2011 Saturday, April 30, 2011	Staubach Ranch, Winston, Montana (rustic accommodations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading the Landscape</li> <li>• Conservation History,</li> <li>• Principals and Practices of Place-Based Education</li> </ul>
Thursday, June 23, 2011 Friday, June 24, 2011	Eagle Guard Station, Elkhorn Mountains (primitive accommodations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowing place: Habitat exploration, Forest and Rangeland Ecology</li> <li>• Service Learning</li> <li>• Understanding by Design</li> <li>• Local Issue Discussion—grazing, wildlife, development</li> </ul>
Monday, June 27, 2011 Tuesday, June 28, 2011 Wednesday, June 29, 2011	Montana Learning Center, Canyon Ferry (dormitory-style accommodations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest &amp; Rangeland Learning</li> <li>• Beginning Birding by Ear, Bird Walk,</li> <li>• Curriculum Development</li> <li>• Writing About Place</li> </ul>
Friday, September 23, 2011 Saturday, September 24, 2011	Eagle Guard Station, Elkhorn Mountains (primitive accommodations )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry Tours</li> <li>• Economics, Global Forces,</li> <li>• Physiology of Aspen</li> <li>• History of Elkhorns Wildlife Management Unit</li> </ul>
Friday, January 27, 2012 Saturday, January 28, 2012	Lubrecht Forest (dormitory-style accommodations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Ecology—snow pack conditions, animal tracking, winter plant, avalanche safety,</li> <li>• Natural Resource Sustainability and Stewardship—changes in land use, living with fire, living with wildlife, conservation strategies</li> </ul>



Staubach Ranch,  
Winston, Montana



Eagle Guard Station  
in the Elkhorns



Montana Learning Center  
Canyon Ferry



Lubrecht Forest, West of Lincoln



Each professional development workshop will use the following methods that have been evaluated and refined over the course of six years in the Vermont pilot program:

- Field study with forestry and natural resource experts
- Practicing use of forestry tools and inventory methods
- Panel discussions and role-playing
- Lectures and slide shows
- Sharing of curricula, with opportunity for feedback and revision
- Literature and arts presentations
- Site visits to sawmills, furniture builders, working ranches, mining operations
- Resource fair
- Work time with access to experts

A PLACE-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

“Public lands have tremendous potential to contribute to education and quality of life in our communities. If we can get young people thinking about not only the future of their parks and forests but also the future of their local communities, that’s the beginning of lifelong learning, and it is also cultivating stewardship.” *Nora Mitchell, Director, Conservation Study Institute.*

## A Common Vision

Today’s students will become responsible citizens if they understand the places in which they live, and if they have educational opportunities based on real life issues that encourage them to be stewards of their own communities.

Inspired by a common vision of students learning from and caring for natural resources, the Helena National Forest, Montana Discovery Foundation, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Elkhorns Working Group have joined efforts to adapt A Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) for Montana.

FFEC is a professional development program for educators focused on place-based education. Teachers who participate in FFEC develop curriculum that foster student understanding of and appreciation for natural resources in their communities. The teacher-developed curricula integrate hands-on natural and cultural explorations that address concepts in ecology, sense of place, stewards, and civics. At the heart of the FFEC program is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of “place” are more eager to learn and be involved in the stewardship of their communities.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/>  
click on A Forest for Every Classroom

As an accepted participant you should be willing to:

- Participate in ALL workshops and summer sessions
- Develop a forest-based teaching unit which utilizes local landscape and meets the goals of your school action plan and the grade level expectations, exemplifying the best practices of Place-Based Education.
- Include service learning in your students’ experience.
- Provide written documentation of your curriculum for possible inclusion in a model program to be disseminated nationally.
- Submit a reflection piece upon completion of this program, possibly including reflection on implementation of your unit as time allows.

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click on A Forest for Every Classroom

*Teaching Students*  
how to think,  
not what to think.  
Project Learning Tree

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# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

*Learning to Make Choices for the Future*



## What is A Forest for Every Classroom?

A Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) is a year-long professional development series for teachers, aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills required to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education.

Teachers who participate in FFEC develop their own curriculum to increase student literacy skills and foster student understanding of—and appreciation for—the forested lands in their communities. These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of the local community, addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, civics, and forest land management and stewardship.

At the heart of the FFEC program is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own “place” are more eager to learn and be involved in the stewardship of their communities and natural resources.

### This workshop series will offer you:

- A multi-disciplinary, field-based exploration of important private and public forests in our region, spanning all four seasons.
- Authentic field-work methods and award-winning curriculum materials for students of all ages.
- Hands-on, lively workshops presented by scientists, loggers, foresters, industry experts, and others passionate about the future of forest stewardship.
- Standards-based curriculum development support.
- Instruction and observance of the Principles and Best Practices of Place-Based Education.
- Strategies for increasing student academic achievement through place-based education.
- Service learning fundamentals and case studies.
- Curricula and resource materials for teaching about forest ecology, management and stewardship
- A network of educators, scientists and resource specialists.
- Mini-grants up to \$200 upon implementation of your curriculum.
- Extended support and follow-up events.
- Five graduate credits for an additional fee.



Measuring diameter of downed-woody debris.

*“I’ve been involved in many educational classes and many extended learning opportunities and the one you have orchestrated is by far an exemplar of how professional development should happen. Your choices of experts to come present to the group were of the highest caliber... I know you have changed my outlook and teaching practices for the better.”* Cathy Stone, Clancy School.

**A Forest for Every Classroom: Learning to Make Choices for the Future of Our Forests** is an educational program developed by the National Wildlife Federation, Shelburne Farms, the Green Mountain National Forest, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, and the National Park Conservation Study Institute. This professional development model is being replicated by the New Hampshire partners with permission and support of this funding collaborative.

### Montana Partners for FFEC

- The Helena National Forest
- The Elkhorn Working Group
- Montana Discovery Foundation
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

## 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 a heightened commitment to serving as active contributing citizens. (David Sobel, *Standing Strong in My Rightful Place*, 2003)

Place-based education research has shown that students who are engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach. A recent study demonstrated that when the

environment is used as an integrating context, students earn higher grades on standardized reading, writing and math examinations.



Wildlife tracking and signs—Lubrecht Forest