

**Approximately 18 teachers will be selected to complete the following workshops series.**

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

Date	Place	Course Outline
Friday, April 24, 2009 Saturday, April 25, 2009	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 18, 2009 Friday, June 19, 2009	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> <li>• Forest &amp; Rangeland Learning</li> <li>• Beginning Birding by Ear, Bird Walk,</li> <li>• Curriculum Development</li> <li>• Writing About Place</li> </ul>
Monday, June 22, 2009 Tuesday, June 23, 2009 Wednesday, June 24, 2009	Montana Learning Center, Canyon Ferry (dormitory-style 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, September 25, 2009 Saturday, September 26, 2009	Eagle Guard Station, Elkhorn Mountains (primitive 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>
Friday, January 29, 2010 Saturday, January 30, 2010	Lubrecht Forest (dormitory-style accommodations)	



Staubach Ranch,  
Winston, Montana

Eagle Guard Station

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 public lands, 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 the public lands 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 and public lands.

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

*Discover the possibilities*

*What’s inside:*

- More about A Forest for Every Classroom
- What is Place-Based Learning?
- Workshop Information
- Application Form

*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 public lands.

## 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.
- Graduate credits are being applied for through the Montana University System.



Measuring diameter of downed-woody debris

*“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.”*

- WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

## 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.



Collecting Data for Curriculum Development