

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS



OVERVIEW:

Forest Service conservation education (CE) programs have traditionally involved many partners whose strengths are used to complement those of the agency. For example, the agency has partnered with Project Learning Tree (PLT), bringing its natural resource expertise and science-based information to the table while PLT brings its curriculum development skills and its network of PLT trainers. Delivery of CE materials requires not only Forest Service delivery systems, but also those of our other partners (States, educational organizations, educators, Federal agencies, and others). For example, the partnership with the State Foresters allows the agency to deliver conservation education to a much wider audience.

Government Partners: Partnerships with State and other Federal agencies are a major component of the conservation education program. Key government partners include:

- ***Partners in Resource Education (PRE):*** A cooperative effort of five federal agencies that manage public land and work with private landowners (Forest Service, BLM, FWS, NPS, NRCS).
- ***Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):*** Under the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, the EPA is the designated national lead for environmental education and chairs the Federal Task Force on Environmental Education of which the Forest Service is a member.
- ***Department of Education:*** The Department of Education does not have a formally established conservation education program and looks to agencies like the Forest Service to provide conservation education.
- ***National Association of State Foresters (NASF):*** The State Foresters have always been strong supporters of conservation education, and are a major part of the Forest Service's conservation education delivery system.

Nonprofit Educational Organizations: Nonprofit educational organizations are also important partners. Some of these partners are:

- ***National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD):*** The NACD Education Committee has a Forest Service member and the agency has partnered with NACD to support the Canon Envirothon, a conservation education competition between high school teams.
- ***National Environmental Education Training Foundation (NEETF):*** The Forest Service is currently engaged in research with NEETF focused on watersheds, fire and recreation and there are plans to expand into other topics of mutual interest.
- ***Project Learning Tree (PLT):*** An educational nonprofit under American Forests, PLT provides conservation education curricula to teachers. The Forest Service serves on PLT's operating committee
- ***Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts:*** The Forest Service has worked closely with these two organizations for many years.

(Revised January 2002)