



HANDS ON THE LAND

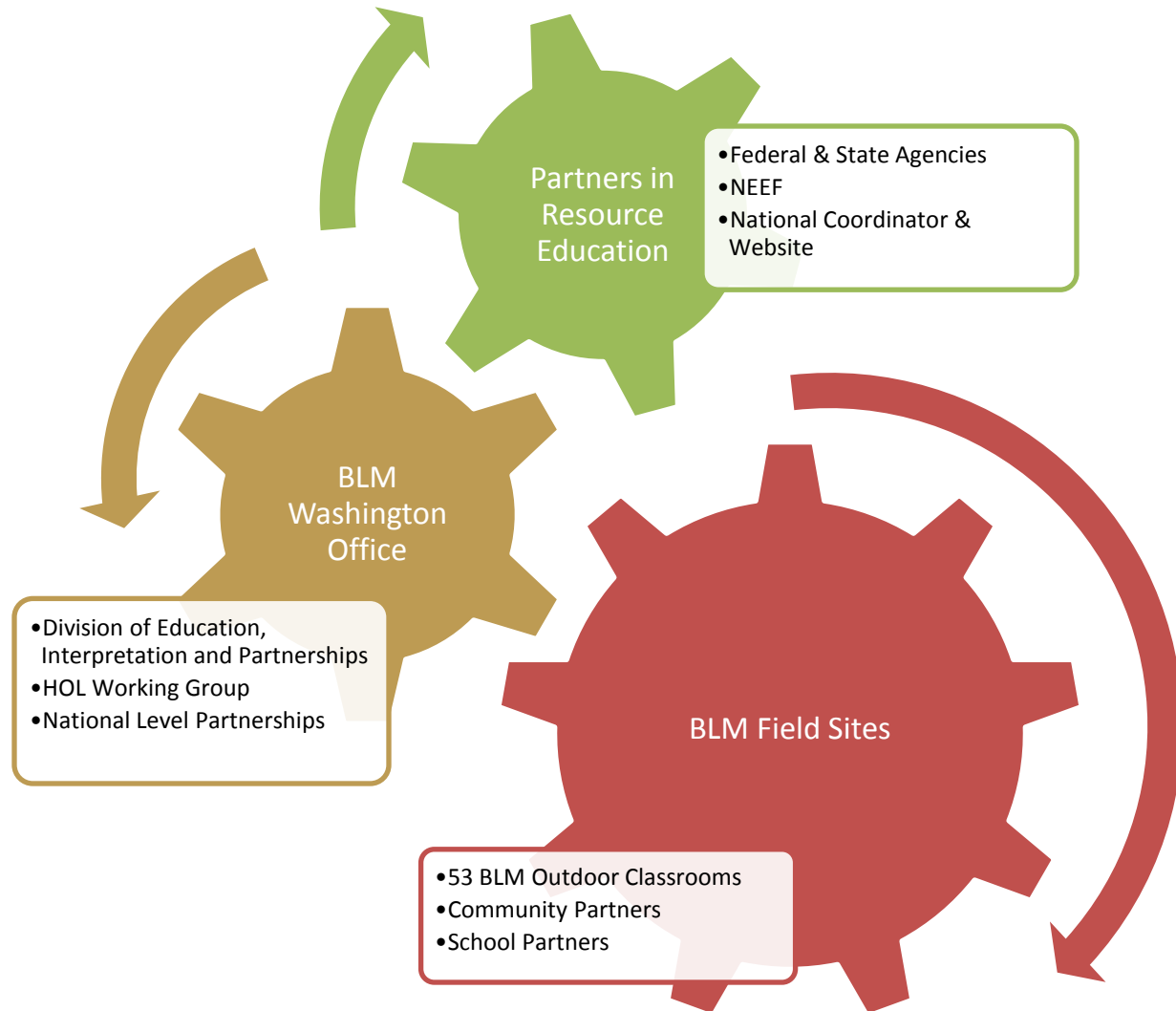
America's Largest Outdoor Classroom

Hands on the Land Introduction



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHXguhOMKmk#at=21>

Hands on the Land Partnerships



Partners in Resource Education



Partners in Resource Education



National Environmental Education Foundation

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Register a Public Land Site for NPLD 20!

Got an idea for a volunteer event this 20th anniversary of National Public Lands Day, Sept. 28th? Register it now!

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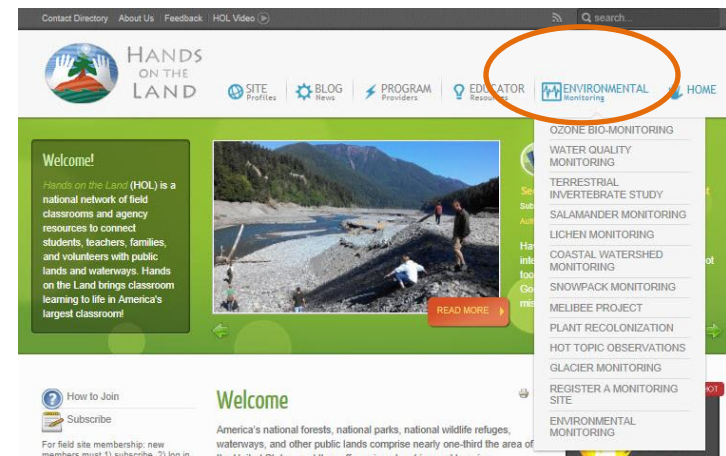
Partners in Resource Education



Together BLM, NPS, USFS, and the USFWS jointly fund a national HOL Coordinator to manage the HOL website and the HOL interagency network.

Partners in Resource Education

- National Coordinator
- Website
- Interagency Strategy



BLM Hands on the Land

- Since the program's inception in 1999 the number of BLM HOL sites has grown from 2 to 52. Creating a vibrant network of sites and programs.
- The best HOL sites deliver high-quality, sustained educational programming that introduces students to resource management issues.
- Enhancing the quality of programming at existing sites
- Improving networking among HOL sites
- Increasing participation: Hands on the Land will become the standard for quality education in the BLM.



BLM Hands on the Land



- Volunteer hours associated with HOL sites exceeded 31,000 hours or the equivalent of 10 years and 2 months of 8 hour workdays without stopping for weekends and holidays. Volunteers contribute their time, services and skills to a wide variety of educational efforts.

BLM Hands on the Land



- Financial and in-kind contributions to the BLM's HOL sites totaled nearly \$630,000.

BLM Hands on the Land



- The number of BLM HOL sites increased from 38 to 49 in FY2012 a 28 % increase in the number of sites: including new sites in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, California, and Montana.

BLM Hands on the Land

- BLM's HOL Program hosted 1,131 days of outdoor classroom activities— that's more than 3 years in one made possible by multiple programs at multiple sites over the course of 2012.
- Engaged over 50,000 students, teachers and parents in 2012. That's slightly more than the student populations of Howard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Seton Hall University and Loyola Marymount University- combined!



BLM Washington Office

BLM Education, Interpretation, and Youth Engagement Strategy:

Expand and Enhance the BLM's Hands on the Land Program

- Objectives:
 - Through enhanced communication and support, build a greater awareness and understanding of the HOL program and provide a pathway to participation that will increase the number of BLM HOL sites.
 - Measure and enhance the quality of programming at HOL sites.
 - Improve networking and interactivity among HOL sites.



BLM Washington Office

- HOL Desk Guide for Site Managers
- Teachers on the Public Lands
- HOL “Sister Schools” program



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BLM Washington Office

National Partnerships Supporting HOL

- *Teachers on the Public Lands* – CESU with University of Colorado at Denver
- *Digital Bridge to Nature* – Developed by Watchable Wildlife Inc. using digital photography to introduce students to nature
- *Holding onto the Green Zone Action Guide*– product of the Youth Riparian Education Initiative Project. Made possible with support from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.



Best Practices for Successful HOL Programs



- Building Sustained Programs Through Partnerships With Local Schools
- Engaging Friends Groups in Education Programs
- Working with Community Partners to Administer Education Programs

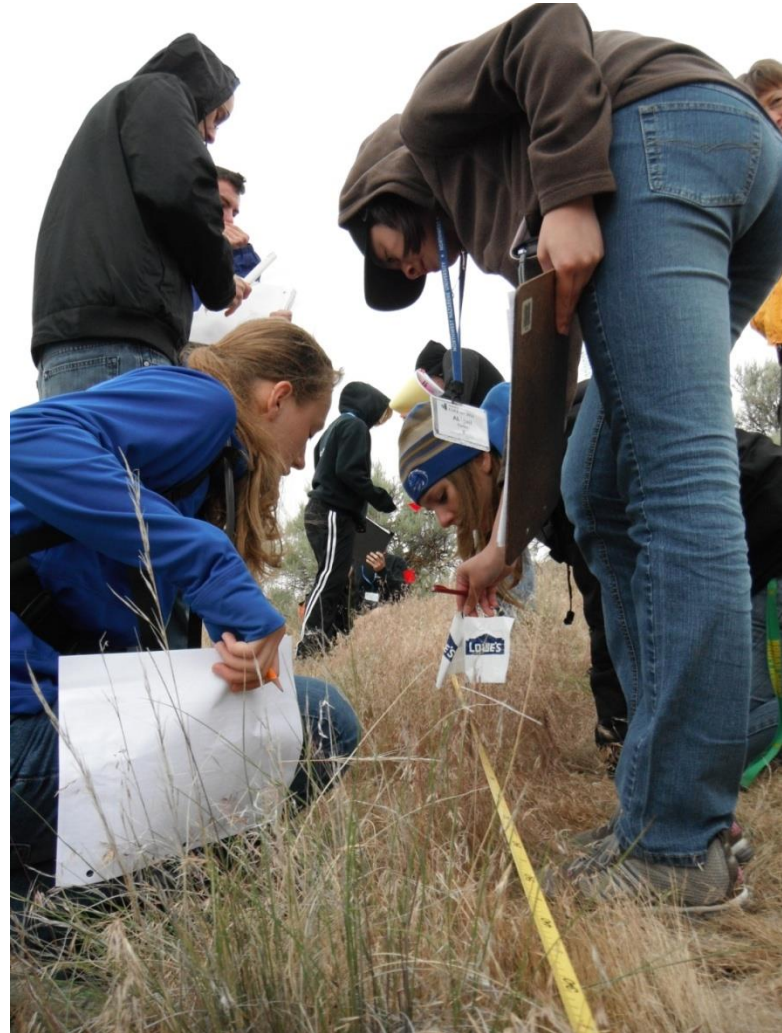
Building Sustained Programs Through Partnerships With Local Schools



- The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana developed an EarthCache Trail that uses Global Positioning Systems to lead students on an exploration of unique geologic features throughout the Monument.

Building Sustained Programs Through Partnerships With Local Schools

- BLM Idaho's **F.I.R.E. Up** HOL program completed its ninth year. Among many projects, students camped out for three days to work in and around BLM's new Jacks Creek Wilderness area. Students gathered baseline data for basal gap and canopy gap in the new wilderness area. Providing a foundation for comparative management studies for wind and water erosion in years to come.



Engaging Friends Groups



- At the **Campbell Creek Science Center** in Anchorage Alaska more than 10,000 students participated in hands on science and exploration over 117 days of HOL programming – an average of 85 students a day.

Working with Community Partners

- In partnership with the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education (ESICE), the **Fish Slough HOL Site** gave all 2nd and 4th grade students in the Owens Valley the opportunity to participate in field trips to Fish Slough, a rare desert wetland and designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).



Working with Community Partners



- Canyonlands Field Institute and the Moab Field Office hosted nearly 1000 students, from as far away as Florida and Oregon, at the Professor Valley Field Camp and on guided trips down the Colorado River.

Lessons Learned



- Maintaining interagency partnerships can be difficult and time consuming
- Education and outdoor classrooms are a successful way to engage youth
- Education is a powerful tool for engaging local communities

Hands on the Land



HOL sites develop educational programming that fosters connections to nature, exposes students to issues confronting 21st-century land managers, and creates broad-based community support for the BLM.

Hands on the Land

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Partnerships



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