

The Hands on the Land Story

Exploring Learning Landscapes through America's Largest Outdoor Classrooms

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Managing by Network
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HANDS
ON THE
LAND

IMAGINE...



Photo credit: NPS

EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPE



Why

Who

What

How

Where

When

Who

Partners in Resource Education (PRE):



EPA Office of Environmental Education (1999)



Who

Partners in Resource Education (PRE):

BLM, NPS, NOAA, USFS, FWS fund:

- NEEF HOL Program Manager
- HOL website management

Hands on the Land sites

- Public land or water management partner
- School partner
- Other partners



WHAT

Hands on the Land brings classroom learning to life in **America's largest classroom!**

- Public land sites **work cooperatively** with local schools.
- Deliver high-quality, **sustained outdoor** K-12 education
- Students learn about public land resources, management, **careers**



Photo credit: Shane Barrow



HANDS
ON THE
LAND



Home



Site Profiles



Blog



Educator Resources



Program Providers



Monitoring

Bird Surveys on the Elwha River

Student Articles



Submitted by David Zelenka

These were some of the remarks that were made by the girls group from the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center. This group of girls, known as Gal Pals, studied how different areas of a habitat served...

[Read more](#)

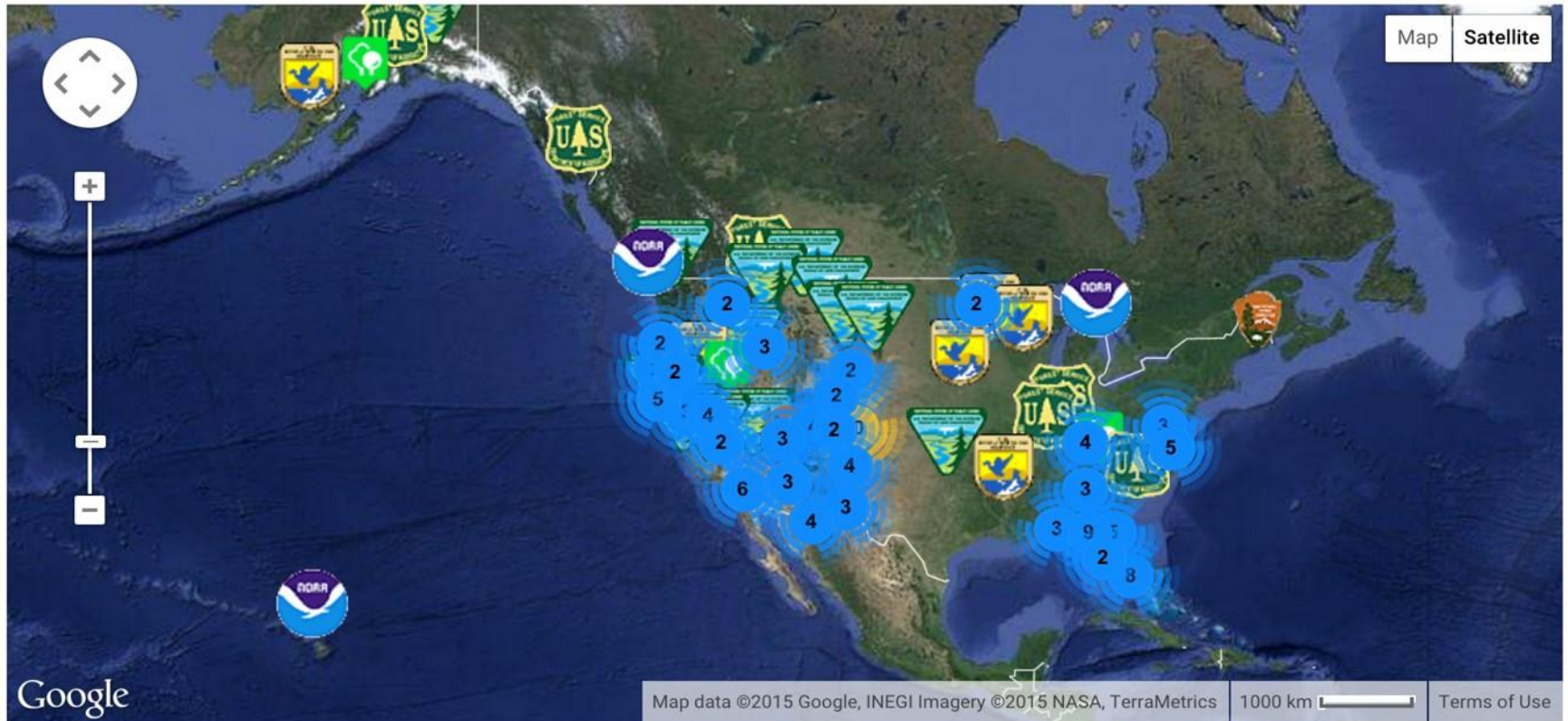
Welcome

Hands on the Land (HOL) is a national network of field classrooms and agency resources to connect students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways. Hands on the Land brings classroom learning to life in America's largest classroom!

If you would like to apply for field site membership for your public lands, please take the following steps: 1) [Subscribe](#), 2) [Log in](#), and 3) Click *Field Site Application*. See [How to Join](#) for more information.

WHERE

Map of Field Site Members



<http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/map.html>

Using the Site Profile Map

How

Member Levels

- Subscriber
- Associate Member
- Full Member

Membership Criteria

www.handsontheland.org/apply-for-membership/membership-comparison.html

Membership Application

- Federal agency
- School partner

<http://www.handsontheland.org/apply-for-membership.html>



The screenshot shows the HANDS ON THE LAND website. The header includes navigation links: About Us, Contact Directory, Contact Us, HOL Video, and Login. The main navigation bar contains: Home, Site Profiles, Blog, Educator Resources, and Program Providers. A sidebar on the left lists: Subscribe, How to Join, About Us, and Contact Directory. The main content area is titled "Individual Registration" and contains three input fields: First name, Last name, and Username, each preceded by a star icon.



Photo credit: Chad Chase NEEF

WHY

**Teachers
+ Students
+ Meaningful, Hands-On Learning
on Public Lands & Waterways =**

Increased **relevancy** of public lands
Effective **communication** and **collaboration**
Greater public interest in **career opportunities**
Engaged **civic stewards** of resources

Hands on the Land Interagency Strategy 2013-2015

<http://www.handsontheland.org/data/documents/HOLstrategy.pdf>

WHY: 2011 SURVEY – FEDERAL HOL CONTACTS

Why join the network?

1. Promote kids and nature **initiatives** at their sites
2. **Augment** existing educational programs

Photo credit: USFWS

Other:

- Opportunity to obtain conservation education grant monies to start the site (BLM)
- Promote agency objectives



BLM SNAPSHOT

SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MTNS NATIONAL MONUMENT (CA)

HIKE Program (Healthy Initiative for Kids in the Environment)

- US Forest Service
- Friends of the Desert Mountains
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Natural Science Collaborative
- Wildlands Conservancy
- Local cities, libraries and school districts



Photo credit: T. Albrecht

USFS SNAPSHOT

LEON SINKS GEOLOGICAL AREA (FL)

- Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program
- Nims Middle School
- University of Florida
- EPA Regional funding through FL Department of Environmental Protection



Photo credit: Greg Ira

NPS SNAPSHOT

GREAT SMOKIES MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK (NC)

- Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Great Smoky Mountains Association
- Discover Life in America
- Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
- USFS Cradle of Forestry in America
- North Carolina Arboretum
- 8+ school districts
- North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
- Upward Bound Math and Science at Western Carolina Univ.



Photo credit: NPS

USFWS SNAPSHOT

ELIZABETH HARTWELL MASON NECK WILDLIFE REFUGE (VA)

Thomas Jefferson High
School for Science and
Technology

IBET – Integrated Biology,
English, and Technology

- Curriculum for All freshman
- Scientific process
- Salamander or deer populations
- 1/3 of 400 freshman conduct research at Mason Neck
- Science Symposium
- Stewardship development opportunity

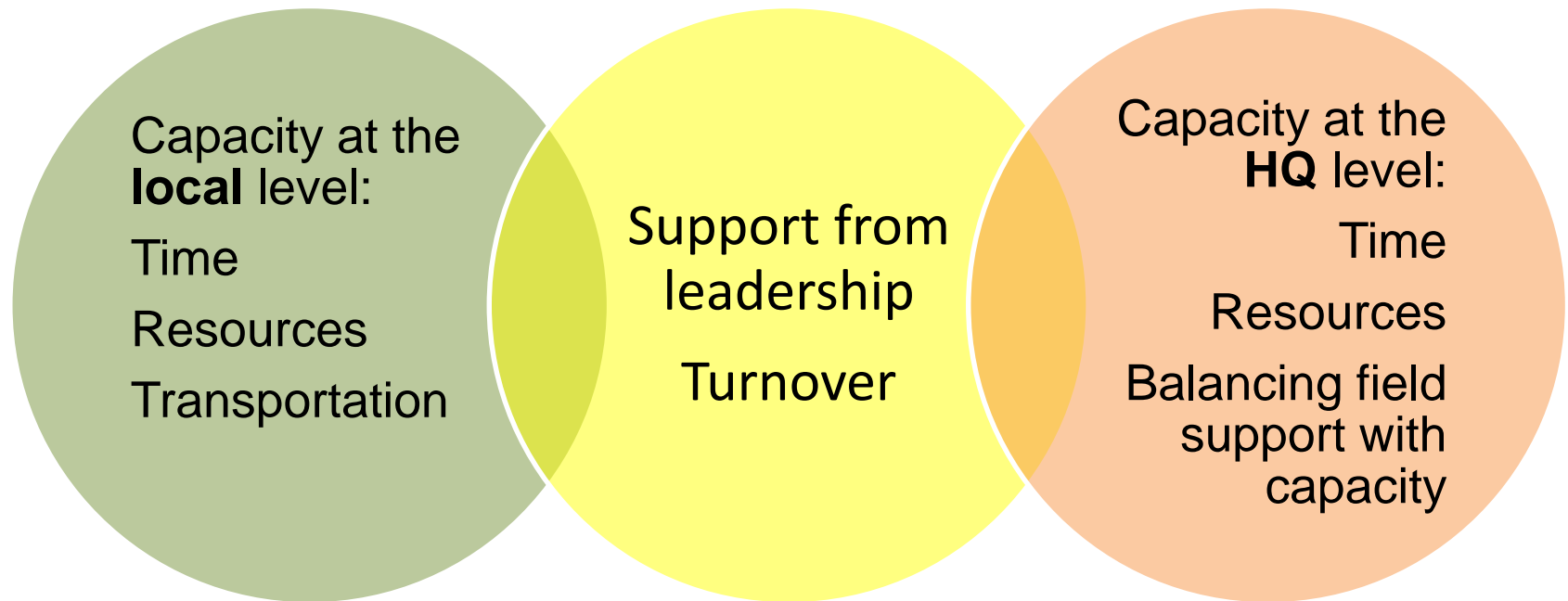


Photo credit: John LaFever

CHALLENGES

Federal HOL Sites

Partners in Resource Education



Building and maintaining **partnerships** can be **challenging** and **time consuming**

SUCCESS FACTORS

Partners in Resource Education (PRE):

BLM, NOAA, NPS,
USFWS, USFS, NEEF

- **Committed** to HOL vision & mission
- Sought funding and support
 - **Regional EPA grants**
 - NPS + BIE + DOE: **21st Century Community Learning Centers**
 - FWS: **EPA** funds for 2015 mini-grants



SUCCESS FACTORS

NEEF - National Environmental Education Foundation

- **Reorganized** and integrated HOL across the organization
- Dedicated **.5 FTE** to manage HOL and coordinate PRE
- Sought private **funding** (2014 & 2015)

More partners = More sustainability

Photo credit: Dominique Naccarato

ON THE HORIZON... HANDS ON THE LAND MINI GRANTS

Allowable costs: for delivery of HOL programs (curriculum/materials development, field trips, program supplies, transport)

Funds can also be used to fulfill ***Every Kid in a Park***

(<http://www.doi.gov/everykid/index.cfm>)



Photo credit: Laura VanAcker

Of particular interest:

- K-12 place-based learning experiences on public lands and waterways
- Public lands and waterways as living laboratories
- Environmental education and stewardship
- Environmental monitoring and citizen science

ON THE HORIZON...

Funding (EPA & NEEF)	\$75,000	\$500 - \$1500
Roles	PRE	Coordinate mini-grant program
	NEEF	Manage grant processes
	Federal HOL site public land representative	Submit application
	Non-federal HOL site partner(s)	Letter(s) of collaboration, receive funds
Key dates	RFP closes	Nov. 5, 2015
	Award period	Dec. 3, 2015 – July 29, 2016
More at	www.handsontheland.org (RFP, application instructions)	
	http://nctc.fws.gov/topic/online-training/webinars/environmental-education.html (recorded broadcast)	

ON THE HORIZON...

- Annual work plan for HOL Manager
- Further develop member benefits
- Capitalize on 3-dimensional learning opportunities
- Evaluate
- Take HOL to state and local public lands
- Find more partners!

Photo credit: BLM



WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?



Photo
credit:
NPS

There are two things that interest me:
the relation of **people to each other**,
and the relation of **people to land**.

Aldo Leopold, *Wherefore Wildlife Ecology?*
(unpublished manuscripts),
Curt Meine, *Aldo Leopold:
His Life and Work* (Madison:
University of Wisconsin
Press, 1988/2010), 51.

Thank You!

Maria Arnold

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Photo credit: USFS