

EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS available to teachers in NW Montana

FireWorks – (Grades K-12) – *2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call Kalispell office 406/758-5204) –*

Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site:

<http://www.firelab.org>

Songbird Kit – (Grades K-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) also available for \$35 plus shipping from Museum of the Rockies or Sacagawea Chapter of the Audubon Society, see web links at end --*

This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several songbirds.

Wolf Trunk – (Grades K-6) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call Kalispell office 406/758-5204) –*

Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains.

Bear Trunk – (Grades K-12) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) –*

Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how to tell them apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.

Wilderness and Land Ethic Box and Curriculum – (Grades K-8) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call Kalispell office 406/758-5204) –*

Interactive resource to promote awareness and appreciation of the cultural, environmental and experimental values of our natural resources. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools including animal skulls and skins, puppets, books, video and audio tapes, maps and more. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following website: <http://www.wilderness.net>

Sally Snag – (Primary Grades) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call Becky Smith-Powell at the Tally Lake Ranger District 406/863-5400) –*

Bring a “dead” tree into your classroom, with Sally Snag! Sally shows kids how wildlife benefit from dead trees. Sally is easily set up with a fabric piece, tent poles, and hoola-

hoops. Sally comes in a suitcase with an assortment of wildlife puppets and script. Sally can also become Sammy Snag depending on who is “playing the snag”.

Amphibian and Reptile Trunk – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call Amy Jacobs at the Tally Lake Ranger District 406/863-5400)* –

Check out this trunk to discover what makes amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets.

Bat Box – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call Becky Smith-Powell at the Tally Lake Ranger District 406/863-5400)* –

“Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?” - from poster in trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

Loon Trunk – (Grades pre-K-12) – *free from Montana Loon Society (contact USFS Amy Jacobs at the Tally Lake Ranger District 406/863-5400)* –

Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation, examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana Loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas that meet Montana Content and Performance Standards for science, math, social studies, art, and language arts.

Rolling Rivers Trailer – (Grades 3-12) – *free from Flathead County Conservation District (contact Outreach and Watershed Coordinator Patti Mason 406/752-4220 fed3@centurytel.net)* –

Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. Patti or another certified trainer will accompany the trailer’s visit to your school as a guest speaker who can lead activities.

Bird Costume Box – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456)* –

What’s a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course! This box provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into “real” birds of a feather!

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Common Birds of the Flathead Box – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456)* –

Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Box includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets!

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Field Studies Box – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456) –

This classroom set of 18 *Petersen's Bird Guides* and 10 binoculars can help your students gain basic birding skills including use and care of binoculars, and bird identification techniques! <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

The Changing Neighborhood – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456) –

Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Maggie the Magpie – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456) –

Have your students take Maggie the Magpie (a puppet) home and journal about her activities! This is a great one for getting those shy birds in your class to fledge!

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Cavity Nesters Box – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456) –

Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter. Box includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more!

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Hummingbird Box – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call Lisa Discoe 406/837-1456) –

Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Box! Box includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a humdinger of a resource notebook.

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Forestry Pack – developed by Women In Timber (contact Sheila Keller 406/756-7268) –

Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

Forest Stewardship Trunk – (Grades 5-12) – developed by the Swan Ecosystem Center (call 406/754-3137) –

Contains materials and lessons for forestry activities in the classroom and outdoors.

Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Furbearer Box, & Wolf Ungulate Box – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call John Fraley at the Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) –

Four trunks circulate locally and contain skulls and pelts: Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Furbearer Box, & Wolf Ungulate Box. For a list of 47 trunks (cost variable, free to \$150) found in MT, ID, WA, OR see:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/education/schoolprograms/edtrunks.html>

Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:

The Montana Watercourse at Montana State University – Scholarships available for free rentals. Please inquire. Otherwise trunks are \$25 per rental or \$10 if you pick them up in Bozeman.

Eight trunks: Ground Water Flow; Montana Liquid Treasure History; Stream Ecology; Pond; Enviroscope R Model; Water Literature; Upper Clark Fork Teaching Science and Social Studies. www.mtwatercourse.org/Educators/trunks.htm

Museum of the Rockies – (Grades K-8) – \$35 plus shipping. Call 406/994-5282.

4 NASA Outreach trunks: Living In Space, Rocketry, Space Exploration, and Planets:

<http://www.museumoftherockies.org/education/NASATrunks/index.html>

8 additional trunks: Archeology, Dinosaur, Homesteading, Landforms/Lifeforms, Paper-making, Science!, Songbird, Telescope:

<http://www.centralpt.com/pageview.aspx?id=1450>

Montana Historical Society – (Grades K-8) – 19 hands-on history footlockers! To order, call the Society's Education Office at 406/444-4741 or email jsaylor@mt.gov. Please book early. –

Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons.

<http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>

Guide to Educational Trunks in the Northern Rockies (2001). This list can be searched by city and state. <http://www.thenaturecenter.org/resources/trunkguide>