



U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert



Building Schoolyard Habitats

As part of the Service's continuing commitment to connecting people with nature, Michelle Hunt, the Service's Schoolyard Habitat Coordinator, and 12 teachers and partners attended the Earth Partnership for Schools Institute Train-The-Trainer last summer. These trained facilitators developed and provided Mojave Desert restoration and Great Basin and Sierra Nevada restoration program training to teachers in both southern and northern Nevada this spring.

The facilitators are hopeful the teachers that attended the training will return to their schools and together, with their students, create a schoolyard habitat project on school grounds that they can use for years to come. By having students transform school landscapes into natural habitats, their studies of science, math and related subjects will be enhanced by experiencing "hands-on" learning outdoors.

These student-driven projects are ecologically sound, enhancing the wildlife habitat and aesthetics of their campuses. Typical projects created through this program include: wetlands, meadows, forests and variations among them based on specific ecoregions. Many projects are planned through multiple phases and become more dynamic over time as children from various classes build upon the existing work of past students.