

North Tahoe Middle School Forest Health Project

Spring 2006

A Place Based Service Project is more than just a field trip! It is intended to link students to environmental and community issues that are real. In this fire related project students explore issues around forest health and the risk of catastrophic fire because of fire suppression over the past 100 years. They will collect data to aid the forest service and research scientist in identifying the existing health of the forest and provide recommendation on fuel reduction.

These are suggestions for pre and post activities to connect students to the purpose for the project and reinforce standards in LA, Math, Science and Social Studies.

Math – review math terms (circumference; diameter; perpendicular; average; Using a tape measure; X;Y coordinates etc.) Create a simulation and provide practice opportunity prior to field day!

Science – review science terms (protocol; accuracy; litter; quadrat; vigor classification)

PRACTICE – Using a tree ID Key

Mapping trees on school site.

Submit tree inventory maps and data to SWEP

LA/ Social Studies – Research

Use “Project Learning Tree” curriculum material

Summarize; identify main points; facts vs. opinion; persuasive writing

Possible topics: History of Fire in the West

Cost to land and structures in past 10 years

Yellowstone Fire (1988)

Prescribed burns

Defensible space

Fire suppression and fuel loading

Local fires

Forest Health

Climate Change and catastrophic fires

Write an article for school newsletter or local newspaper on the project and what was learned.

Make Brochures, posters, tri-fold displays to educate the community about forest health and fire related issues.

If you need help to make this project a community service project, please don't hesitate to contact:

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