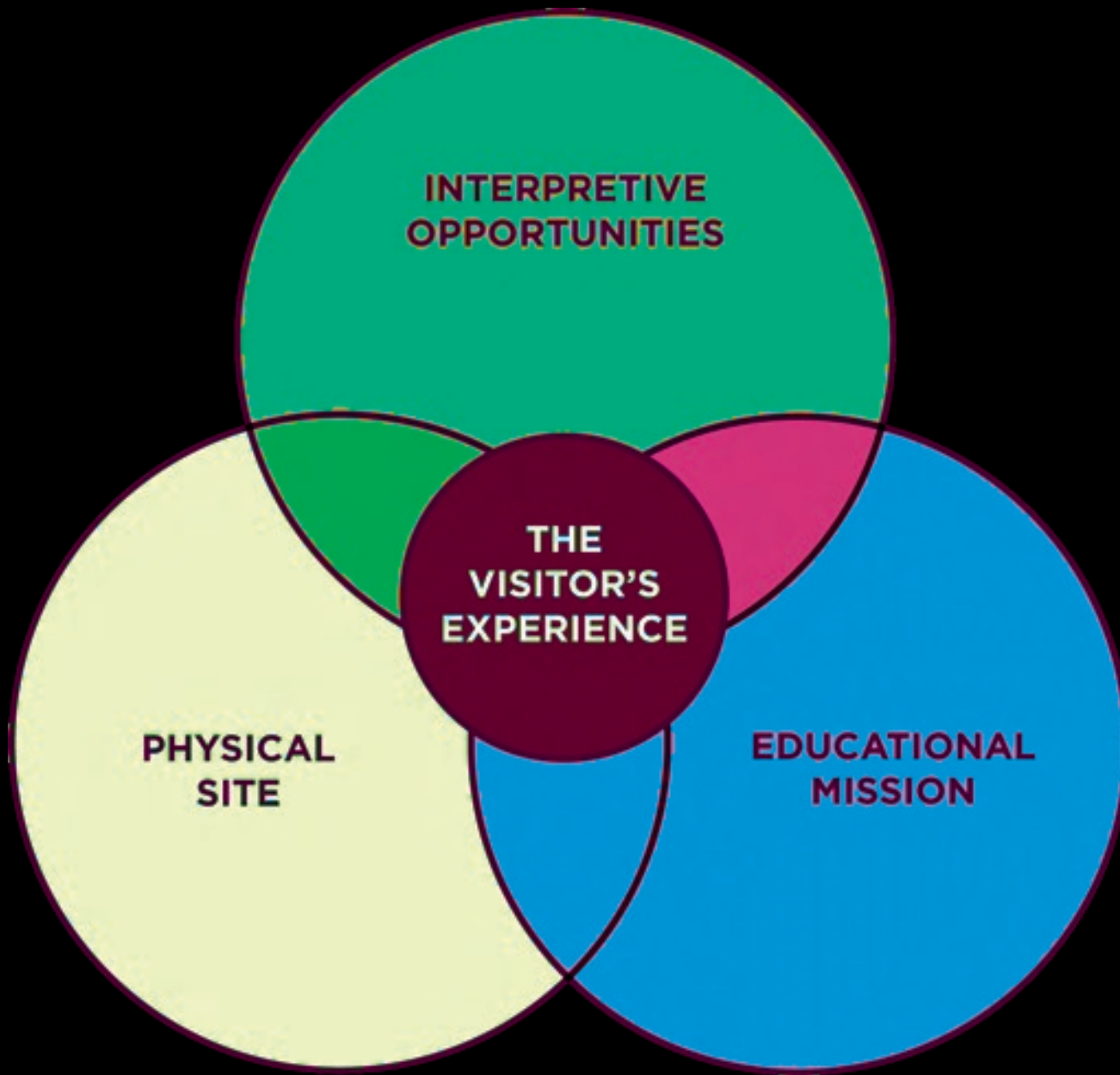


Getting Kids on Trails

Roger Bell

Pam Johnson

Jennifer Rigby



Inside the Outdoors:
Rancho Soñado

Four Types of Programming

- Outdoor Science School
- Field Trips
- Traveling Scientist
- Community Programs

Inside the Outdoors



- ... outdoor education since 1974
- ... administered by the Orange County Department of Education
- ... aligned with California content standards
- ... self-funded
- ... serves students in four counties
- ... educates 147,000 children annually

The nexus of trail building with outdoor education

Before the 2007 Santiago Canyon Fire



After the 2007 Santiago Canyon Fire



Rancho Soñado



map not to scale

Redesigning Trails





Disney Executive Volunteer Build Day at Rancho Soñado





Students on Trails After the Rebuild



Trails as Part of the Formal Learning Environment – Considerations for School Groups

- **Distance**
- **Activities**
- **Group Size**
- **Timing**
- **Formal Education Constraints/ Curriculum Needs**



Service-Learning



Connecting Children and Their Families to the Outdoors





Service-Learning



West Coyote Hills

Purposeful—Exhibits, displays, and other media on the trails and in the nature center support the mission of West Coyote Hills.

Enjoyable—People seek recreation and become enlightened in the process, not the other way around.

Relevant—We know the audience and use terms and examples they will understand.

Organized—Exhibit, displays, and other media follow a sequence and are guided by storylines.

Thematic—Exhibits are theme-based. Visitors can easily grasp the message behind the subject matter.

West Coyote Hills Mission Statement

West Coyote Hills fosters a connection between people and nature. Its balanced plan preserves natural open space, creates remarkable living environments, and beckons residents and visitors alike to be inspired by the land, the habitats, and the far-reaching views.





Vision Session

Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve/West Coyote Hills

Importance of access:

- offer recreation and education
- connect with nature
- become aware of native plants and wildlife
- savor experiences in the outdoors
- build a lifelong sense of stewardship
- celebrate nearby natural habitats
- study a "living laboratory"
- learn about the region's history
- improve the communities' quality of life
- increase "connectivity" with other trails

Spirit of the site:

- a backdrop for interpreting the interplay of natural and human communities
- a case study and model for other cities
- a showcase of "green design"
- the site's topography, including its vista points
- critical coastal sage scrub habitat and wildlife
- visual and experiential relief from Fullerton's "flat lands"
- A place to raise awareness, impart knowledge, and strengthen individual stewardship values among the visiting public.

Target audiences:

- children
- family groups
- naturalists
- recreational users
- organized groups
- current and prospective homeowners
- people with special needs

Once the gathering grounds of the Tongva, the grazing lands of ranchers, and the oil fields of wildcatters, West Coyote Hill's open space now returns to a more pristine, natural state. Its restored habitats support wildlife, enriching our spirit and our natural heritage.

Subtheme 1

The human history of West Coyote Hills spans thousands of years. Footprints from the past have etched the land.

Messages:

The Tongva likely harvested plants and hunted game in West Coyote Hills. Encampment and village sites have been found in the vicinity.

Juan Pacifico Ontiveros received a 35,970-acre Mexican land grant, Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana. With his cattle came nonnative grasses, an introduction that marked the transformation of West Coyote Hills' grasslands.

In 1863 Ontiveros sold most of his rancho to Abel Stearns who continued to graze cattle. After drought decimated the herds, Stearns entered into a contract with Domingo Bastanchury, a Basque shepherd, in 1870.

Bastanchury Ranch became the region's largest sheep operation. Sheep grazed in West Coyote Hills and further altered the landscape.

The first oil wells in the region were tapped in the 1890s. Domingo Bastanchury leased 3,000 acres to Union Oil Co. and 2,400 to Murphy Oil Co. Chevron continued its oil operations at West Coyote Hills until 1994.

Subtheme 2

A mosaic of habitats is found in West Coyote Hills. Diverse plant communities support wildlife, some of which is threatened.

Messages:

Over half of the acreage of West Coyote Hills is set aside as permanently protected natural open space.

Several habitats comprise West Coyote Hills, including coastal sage scrub, southern cactus scrub, and southern willow scrub. Coastal sage scrub is now one of California's most endangered habitats and home to the federally listed California gnatcatcher.

West Coyote Hills is also home to the coastal cactus wren, horned lark, loggerhead shrike, and other State "species of special concern."

Geological processes—erosion, sedimentation, thrust faults, and folding—have shaped the land and the landscape.

Vista points provide opportunities to reflect on the transformation of the Los Angeles Basin and coastal plain of Orange County over the course of two centuries. Open space like West Coyote Hills is a rare and valuable asset.

Subtheme 3

West Coyote Hills is the focus of habitat restoration, monitoring, and protection. Active stewardship of the land is a responsibility we all share.

Messages:

The resources of West Coyote Hills—the fruits, shoots, bulbs, and leaves that yielded food, fiber, and other items of the Tongvan material culture; the grasses that fed the ranchers' cattle and sheep; and the oil that fueled dreams and profits—supported several human settlements.

Past human activities have left their mark on the landscape.

Most recently, West Coyote Hills was an active oil field, classified as a brownfield site after oil operations were ceased in 1994.

A large portion of West Coyote Hills has been permanently set aside as natural open space. Brownfield remediation, habitat restoration, and long-term monitoring will ensure that degraded lands become protected wildlife habitat.

Visitors are welcome on this land. Their respect for rules and regulations will ensure trail safety, as well as protection of critical wildlife habitat.

Keeping Track

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Leaping, trotting, hopping, or walking, animals leave clues in the tracks of their feet.



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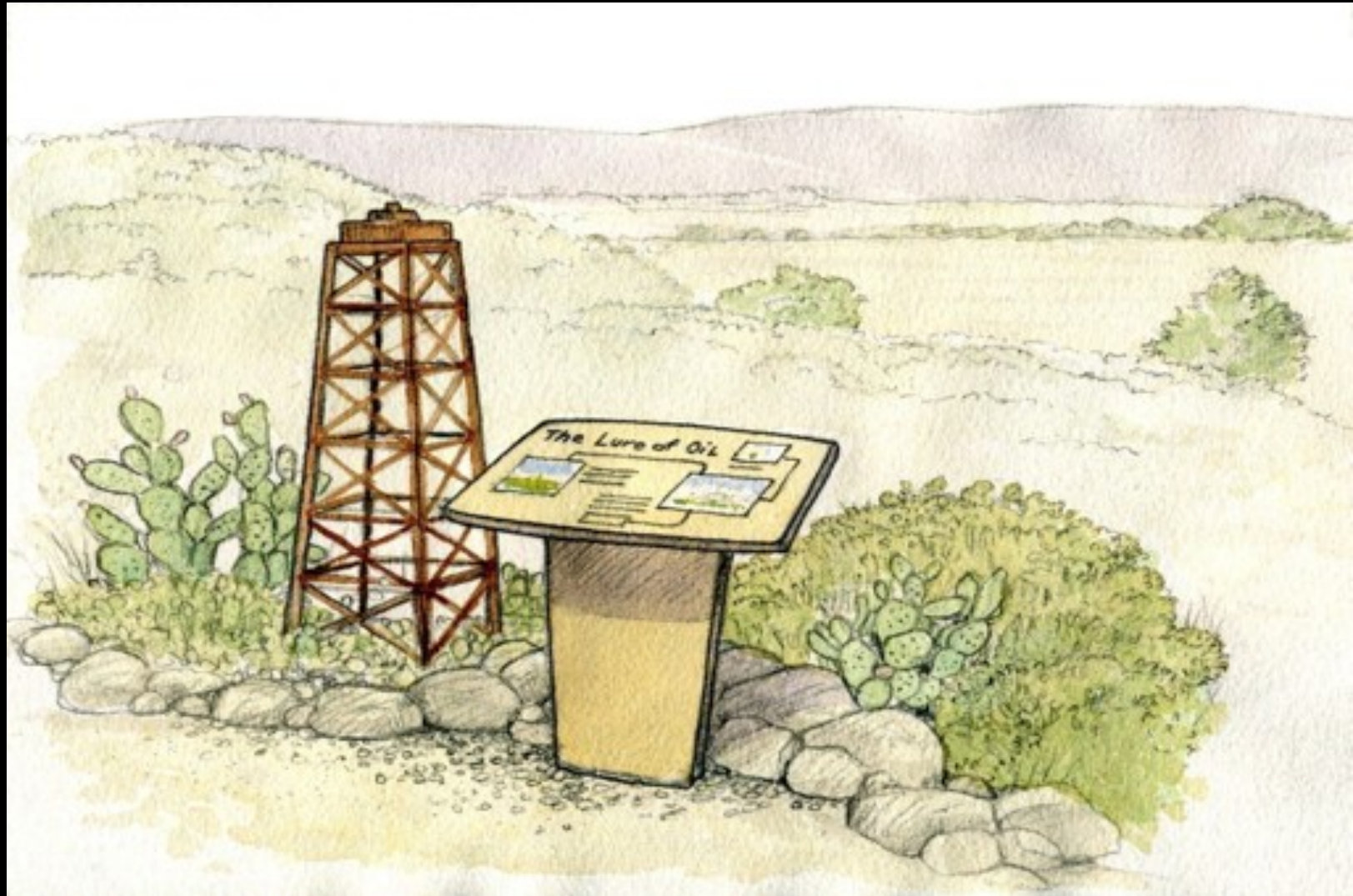
Why do you find claw marks
in the coyote track, but not
the bobcat track?







History Station: The Lure of Oil







The Northern Skyline

The views from West Coyote Hills are stunning. The Chino Hills rise in the foreground, while the San Gabriel Mountains stand like sentinels in the background. Snow-capped in winter, Mt. San Antonio, or Old Baldy, takes the highest honors, reaching a height of 10,064.



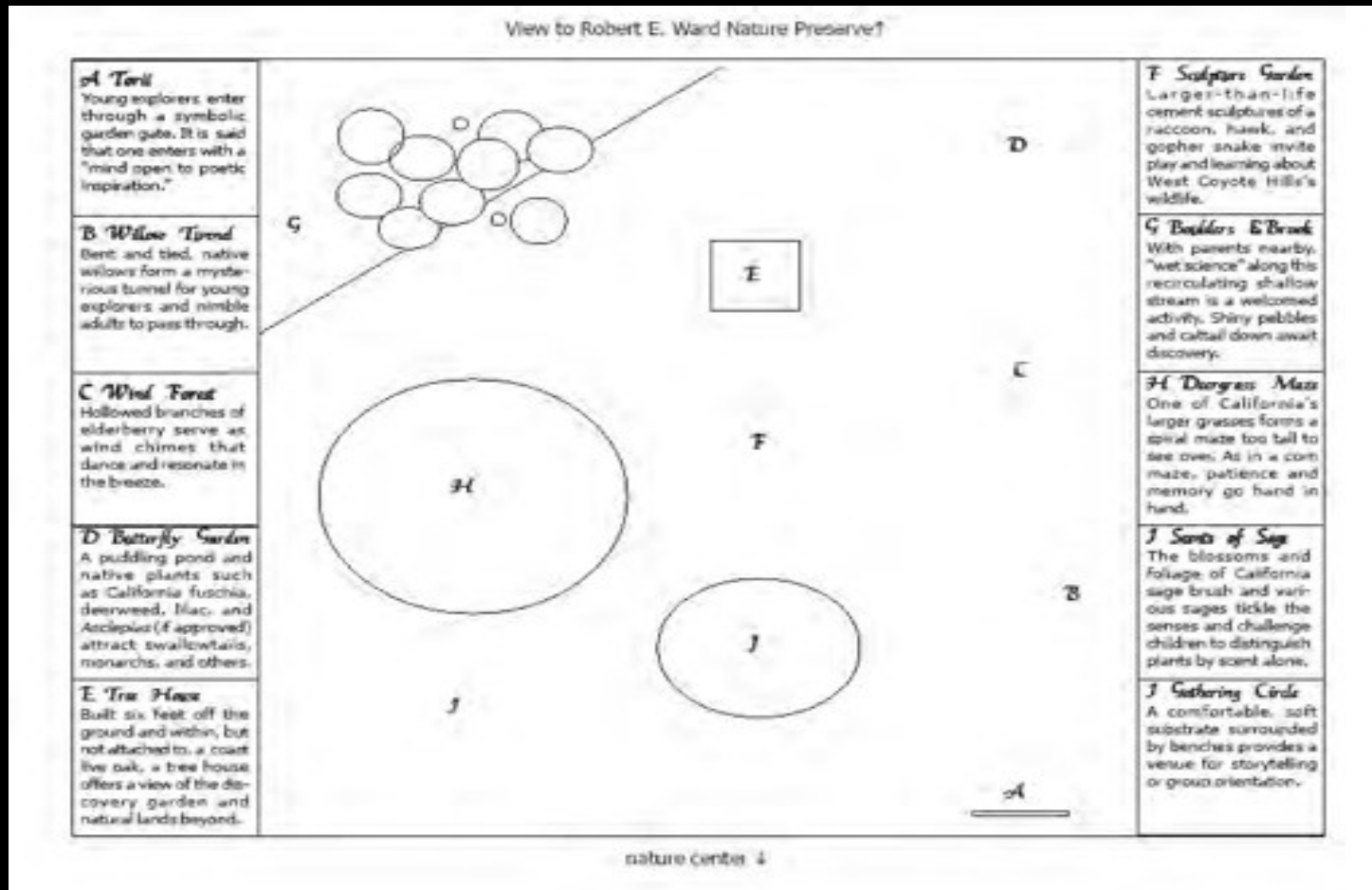
WEST COYOTE HILLS



"We simply need that
wild country available to us,
even if we never do more than
drive to its edge and look in.
For it can be a means of reassuring
ourselves of our sanity as creatures,
a part of the geography of hope."

Wallace Stegner

Nature Discovery Garden











National issues and initiatives

No Child Left Inside Act

State-level environmental literacy plans

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Let's Move

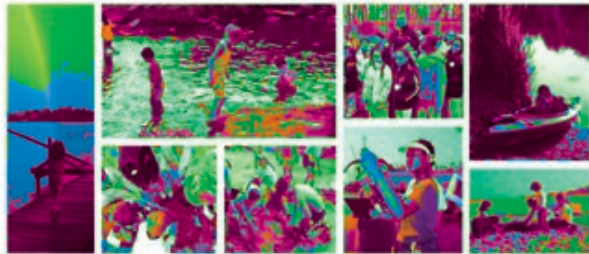
America's Great Outdoors Initiative



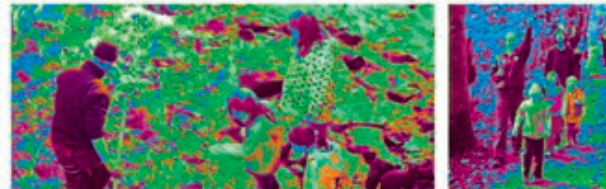
www.cbf.org

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

Report and Recommendations to Governor Martin O'Malley



April 2009



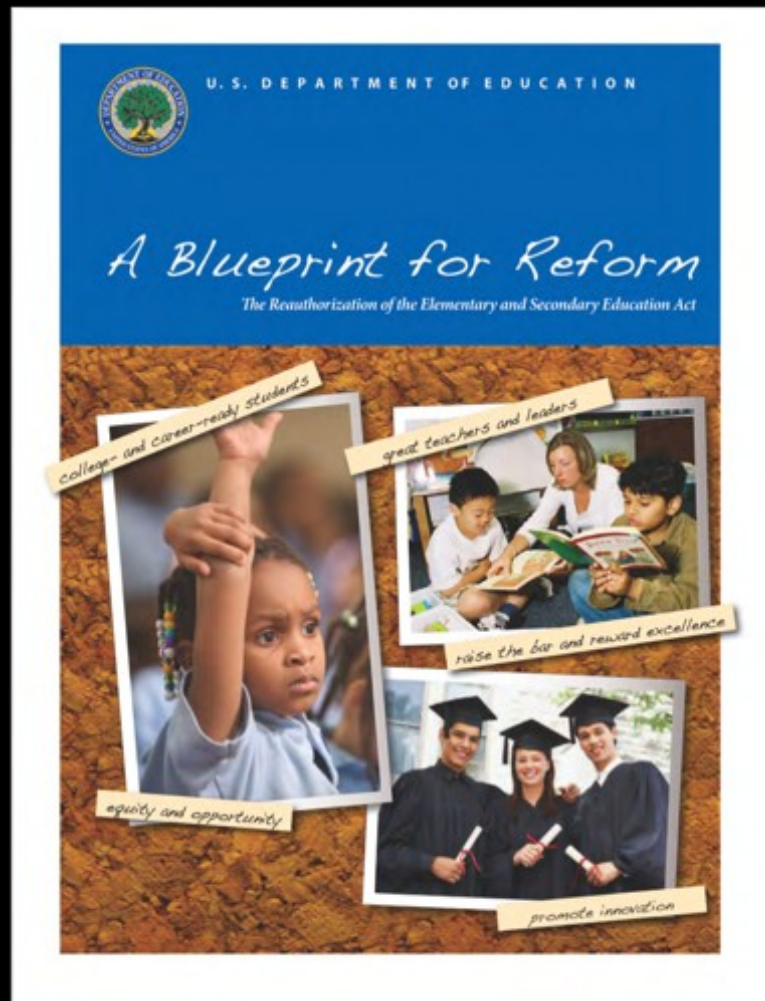
Oregon
No Child Left Inside

Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan: Toward a Sustainable Future

October 1, 2010



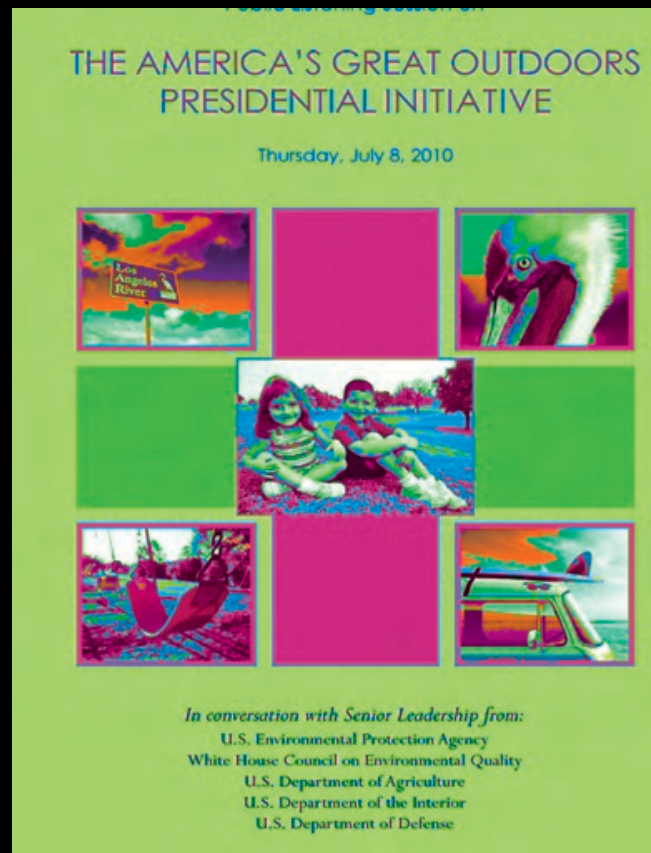
Elementary and Secondary Education Act



“A complete education includes...environmental education ” (page 25).

“A well-rounded education includes... environmental education” (page 28).

America's Great Outdoors Presidential Initiative



Developing a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda with specific attention toward reconnecting Americans, especially children, to nature.

Defining a community-based strategy to protecting the nation's natural landscape.

Fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

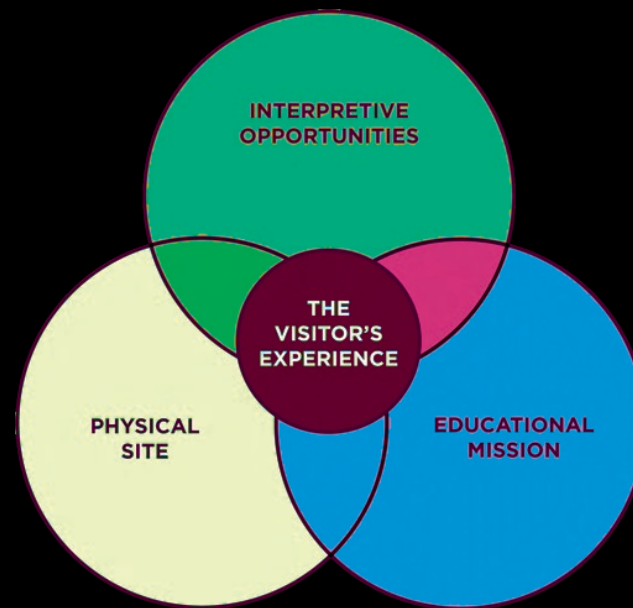
Let's Move



www.letsmove.gov

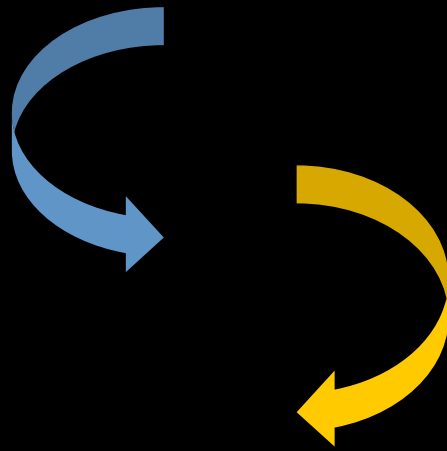
Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning is multidisciplinary



Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning is nonlinear



Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning requires a system of checks and balances

$$\checkmark + \checkmark + \checkmark - \checkmark = X$$

Bellfree Contractors

www.bellfreecontractors.com



Inside the Outdoors

www.insidetheoutdoors.org



The Acorn Group

www.acorngroup.com

