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Introduction to Ethnogeography Curriculum

The McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) and the Nez Perce Historical Park (NEPE) partnered together to develop an Ethnogeography Curriculum directed towards Idaho 5th and 6th grade students. The interdisciplinary curriculum covers geography, history and the language arts. Originally proposed as a 3-hour curriculum module and a related evening program to be taught at MOSS, the curriculum was revised to include various ethnogeography activities that would be incorporated into the existing MOSS curriculum modules (stream, lake, forest, and succession/sagebrush ecology) instead of a separate 3-hour module. Four different ethnogeography evening programs were also developed because the evening programs provided more flexibility and freedom than the existing MOSS modules. The exercises created involved map reading, trade patterns and seasonal rounds, story telling, and how people interact with the environment. This curriculum was developed because the MOSS program desired more social science and human dimensions to be included in the existing curriculum. It was also developed because this material extends the curriculum-based programs NEPE conducts for 4th grade students, and because the program would reach students from all over the state of Idaho, exposing students to Native American culture and Idaho history.