

**Press Release:
McCall Outdoor Science School Wins Environmental Achievement Award**

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Written by Sue McMurray

MOSCOW, Idaho – The University of Idaho McCall Outdoor Science School received the Idaho Environmental Summit Excellence Award for 2008. The award recognizes long-term dedication to environmental excellence and achievement.

“MOSS was recognized because of its longevity; it grew from a small idea to a statewide environmental education program,” said IES committee member Gwen Carter, Water Resources Division director for the Nez Perce Tribe. “People recognized MOSS as a place they want their children to be and gain an appreciation for the outdoors.”

MOSS was founded in 2001 with \$5,000, a strong vision and two weeks of field science education for 70 Idaho sixth graders. In the seven years since, it has expanded to serve 3,500 Idaho students in both its residential science school and statewide outreach program. MOSS is the only publicly operated residential environmental program in Idaho and serves public, private and home-schooled students from rural and urban communities.

All MOSS programs include a stewardship component, whether viewing and discussing different forest management practices, hiking to a vantage point to discuss impacts on a home watershed or wildlife monitoring. Additionally, the curriculum provides self and group leadership opportunities incorporating physical engagement, inquiry and natural consequences that arise from interacting with the natural world.

Steven Hollenhorst, MOSS founder and director, accepted the award at the Idaho Environmental Summit in Boise, where nearly 400 interested Idahoans and other Northwest citizens gathered to build professional networks and discover paths to a healthier world through communication, education and action.