



## Wyoming Department of Education

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 137

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Dr. Jim McBride 

**DATE:** September 19, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Free workshop available for teachers

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#### Important – Please Share

The Wyoming State Forestry Division, in partnership with the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments, is offering a free award-winning workshop and curriculum materials for educators.

The workshop is the called Project Learning Tree and provides the tools educators need to bring the environment into the classroom. I hope you will take the opportunity to share the attached information with your staff as this is an excellent opportunity. Educators who attend the workshop are also eligible for PTSB credits.

Attached are the rules and specifics of the workshop. For additional information or questions, please contact Nellie Simon, Community Forester, Wyoming State Forestry Division at [nsimon@state.wy.us](mailto:nsimon@state.wy.us) or 307-777-3626 or visit the website at [www.wyomingplt.org](http://www.wyomingplt.org)

JM:tcl

Attachment

## Office of State Lands and Investments

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### **Project Learning Tree Workshops for Educators**

Wyoming educators can earn PTSB Credits while participating in an award-winning Project Learning Tree® (PLT) environmental and natural resource workshop.

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an exciting hands-on curriculum materials that teach students pre-k through 12th grade "how to think, not what to think" about natural resources. Project Learning Tree® is an award-winning environmental and natural resource curriculum for formal and non-formal educators. Designed for students in grades PreK-12, PLT increases students' understanding of our complex environment.

Developed to meet state and national education standards, PLT provides the tools educators need to bring the environment into their classrooms - and their students into the environment. Whether it's the natural or built environment, PLT workshops provides educators with strategies and techniques to teach about forests, wildlife, water, community planning, waste management, and energy. Educators will be introduced to modules that provide students with the opportunity to do research and apply critical thinking skills to consider the social, economic, and environmental implications that inspire decisions about forest management.

Workshops can be scheduled throughout the state. All workshops are free, except where the cost of credit may be applicable. To schedule a workshop, two months notice is needed and a minimum of 10 participants. Teachers will receive a free module(s) of the activities covered in the workshop to use in their classroom upon completion of the workshop.

#### **The following workshops have been scheduled:**

**September 27, 2008** Ryan Park- Focus on Fire K-12 workshop

**October 3, 2008** UW, Laramie- Pre-service Teacher Workshop K-8 and Energy and Society

**November 7, 2008** UW, Laramie- Pre-service Teacher Workshop K-8 and Energy and Society

**November 7-9, 2008** Casper College, Casper- Joint Project Learning Tree, Project WET and Project WILD workshop K-8.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, please contact Nellie Simon, Community Forester, Wyoming State Forestry Division at [nsimon@state.wy.us](mailto:nsimon@state.wy.us) or 307-777-3626. For more information about Wyoming Project Learning Tree® go to <http://www.wyomingplt.org>

### **Credit examples for educators attending a Wyoming Project Learning Tree® Workshop(s)**

1. Wyoming PLT can be incorporated into teacher in-service days. For instance, teachers can have a series of PLT workshops to provide professional development for them over the course of meeting for, for instance, 4 hours during an in-service day, for a total of 4 in-service days. Upon the completion of the fourth in-service workshop, the educators will have completed 16 hours of PLT training to qualify them for either graduate credit or PTSB credit.
2. PLT can also be taught to teachers over a weekend through a 2-16 hour workshop. Teachers and/or Administrators can select a weekend that would accommodate their schedule and sponsor an educator workshop at their school, or they can work with a local PLT Facilitator to find a more suitable location (perhaps a park or lodge nearby).
3. PLT workshops can be geared towards a specified audience. We offer workshops for K-8 teachers, and we can create a variety of workshops for Secondary educators as well. For instance, PLT can create a workshop specifically for English, Language Arts, Science, Math, or Social Sciences teachers for grades 8-12. PLT can also combine subjects in workshops to aid in educating school districts where the number of teachers per subject make it unreasonable to conduct subject-specific workshops.
4. PLT can offer thematic workshops. In a thematic workshop, PLT Facilitators will create a theme such as “Into the Woods,” and educators would learn about different aspects of forest ecosystems and activities that they would be able to incorporate into their classroom, regardless of the core subject being taught. Another example of a thematic workshop would be “Words to Live By.” This workshop would be geared towards English and Language Arts teachers and they would learn a variety of activities to incorporate into their lessons.

In order for teachers to receive credit for attending a PLT workshop, the workshop (or workshops if a multi-day workshop approach is used) must be a total of at least 14 contact hours for UW graduate credit, 7-13 contact hours for ½ PTSB Credit, or 14-16 contact hours for 1 PTSB Credit.

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