



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

**CITATION**

**COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD**

**FOOTHILLS LEARNING CENTER**

In recognition of the cooperative and collaborative spirit embodied in the City of Boise's Foothills Learning Center in the promotion of responsible management and use of natural resources while serving the needs of citizens.

The Foothills Learning Center, located in Boise's Hulls Gulch Reserve, is designed to support the ongoing educational efforts associated with the Boise Foothills, fire prevention, and natural resource management. It provides a place for interpretive and learning opportunities for the community and helps raise the awareness and appreciation of the desert environment, the urban-wildland interface, and the challenges land management agencies face in caring for these unique lands. The Center embodies its goals of promoting environmental stewardship, educational opportunities, sustainable building practices, responsible land use, and how to live in a fire-safe manner in an urban-wildland interface environment or a wildfire-prone environment, the cultural and historical features of the Boise foothills.

Designed as a model facility demonstrating many aspects of a firewise home, it is also a *green* building, using energy-saving technologies, building materials, construction methods, and design. The Learning Center provides both indoor and outdoor classrooms and meeting spaces to educate audiences which range from school children to adult neighborhood associations, other community interest groups, out-of-town and out-of-state visitors, and others. The facility, trails, and vegetation came about through the combined efforts of Boise, other government agencies, private donors, BLM, and contributions of time, materials, and expertise to continually update program curriculum, events, and landscaping. Completion of the Center provides an outstanding example of how multiple government agencies cooperated to create positive working partnerships with citizens, companies, and nongovernmental organizations in the private sector. For efforts in the creation of an important educational and environmental resource, the Foothills Learning Center is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

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