

Dear Environmental Educator

*The Conifer Connection* is a guide for those who want to learn about and to teach about coniferous forests and watersheds. It is useful for classroom teachers who bring their students to the forest as well as for outdoor educators, docents, interpreters, naturalists and others.

*The Conifer Connection* contains in one guide:

- A review of basic ecological principles
- A review of the natural history of coniferous forests and their associated watersheds
- Information on human/cultural history of California's forests
- Suggestions for organizing field trips that are safe for kids and for the environment
- Over 40 activities and lessons for before, during, and after a trip to a forested area, as well as many more "teaching tips" to enhance student learning
- Up-to-date resources

With current budget problems, pressure to "teach to the test," liability concerns, and other issues, the opportunity for students to visit a park or outdoor education program is precious indeed. It is important that students and educators alike take full advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities afforded by a trip to a park or forest.

**If you work in a program such as an outdoor school or park where teachers bring groups of students to you, I would suggest that you encourage the teachers with whom you work to obtain their own copies.** *The Conifer Connection* can provide them with background information that will enable them to better prepare their students before participating in your program and will also enable them to do follow-up activities to reinforce what you teach them. You might suggest that they do certain activities from the guide or cover specific topics before bringing their students to your program.

**If you are a classroom teacher or other youth group leader, I encourage you to use *The Conifer Connection* to increase your own knowledge so that you can take advantage of teachable moments that occur while on a trip to a forest area.** It also provides a great many activities, lessons, and "teaching ideas" that will help prepare your students before a trip to a forest, learn more while in the forest, and to extend their learning after your trip.

*The Conifer Connection* can be (legally!) downloaded from the California State Parks web site at: [www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides](http://www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides) . While you are at the web site, you might also examine *Redwood Ed* (if you visit the coast redwood region) and *A Guide to the Side of the Sea* (if you visit the rocky coastal areas).

Print and DVD copies of *The Conifer Connection* can be ordered for very reasonable prices from the California Community Forests Foundation at: [www.caltrees.org](http://www.caltrees.org) .

I hope you find *The Conifer Connection* to be a useful resource as you share the wonders of our forests and watersheds with others.

*Mike Roa*

Author, *The Conifer Connection*

## ***The Conifer Connection: Feedback***

Dear *Conifer Connection* User:

As I wrote *The Conifer Connection*, I asked many people to review drafts of it, and the reviewers made many helpful suggestions and corrections.

We want *The Conifer Connection* to be the best possible resource for users such as yourself, so we would appreciate any feedback that you might have.

We certainly want to know about any errors. In addition, if you have suggestions for improving activities, ways to explain information more clearly, or anything else that would make *The Conifer Connection* more useful and effective, we would appreciate hearing about it.

If you would like to offer a workshop to introduce *The Conifer Connection* to environmental educators or teachers in your area, please contact me at the address(es) below.

Thank you in advance for your interest, and I hope that you find *The Conifer Connection* useful.

Sincerely,

Mike Roa

Author of *The Conifer Connection*

Send your feedback to:      Mike Roa      email: mroa@sonic.net  
   294 Murphy Av.  
   Sebastopol, CA 95472

[ ] Please contact me about offering a workshop to introduce *The Conifer Connection* to environmental educators in my area.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **corrections or suggestions:**

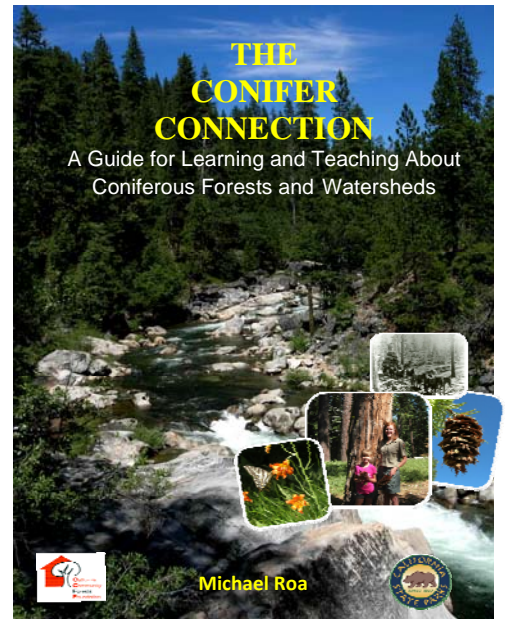
Page #	Paragraph #	Suggestion or correction

## How to Obtain Three Environmental Education Guides

*The Conifer Connection*, *Redwood Ed*, and *A Guide to the Side of the Sea* are recently published resources for classroom teachers, outdoor educators, docents, interpreters, naturalists, and anybody else who wants to learn and teach about the environment.

These guides provide **in one resource**:

- A review of basic ecology
- The natural history of their respective ecosystems, including their specific biotic and abiotic factors and information on common, unique, or especially important organisms
- Suggestions for how to organize a field trip that is safe for kids and for the environment
- Activities and lessons for before, during, and after a field trip
- Up-to-date resources
- *The Conifer Connection* and *Redwood Ed* also have sections on the human history of the forest

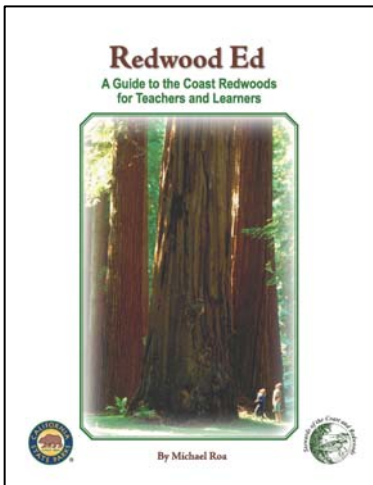


*The Conifer Connection* (2011, 368 pages) focuses on California's mixed conifer forests.

**Download or examine** *The Conifer Connection* at: [www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides](http://www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides)  
or

**CD or print copies** can be purchased from the California Community Forests Foundation for a small donation to cover shipping and handling: [www.caltrees.org](http://www.caltrees.org)

Or **contact** author Mike Roa at [mroa@sonic.net](mailto:mroa@sonic.net)



*Redwood Ed* (2007, 430 pages) focuses on the coast redwood forest.

**Download or examine** *Redwood Ed* at: [www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides](http://www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides)  
or [www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/c-redwooded.htm](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/c-redwooded.htm)

**CD or print copies** can be purchased from the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for a small shipping and handling fee:

[www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/redwooded.htm](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/redwooded.htm)

*A Guide to the Side of the Sea* (2005, 166 pages) focuses on rocky intertidal areas.

**Download** it from the Internet at: [www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides](http://www.parks.ca.gov/teachersguides)

**CD or print copies** of *A Guide to the Side of the Sea* can be obtained from California State Parks: P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296  
(916) 654-2249 [interp@parks.ca.gov](mailto:interp@parks.ca.gov)

