

## Community

Recognizing that bioregions are comprised of interwoven environmental, social, and economic components, it is accepted that raising the local, regional and national awareness of these components and their functions is important to achieving the support needed to maintaining the integrity of the bioregion and larger ecoregions.

With that in mind we would like to encourage and support coordination and cooperation among individuals, organizations and agencies that educate and inform people about the natural environment making up Hidden Corner. We would also like to promote and enhance a sense of community among those living in the bioregion, a comprehensive view of the landscape and an ethic centered on personal and community stewardship of it.

In our Conservation link we try to provide a balanced overview on emerging concepts of ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation for biological and economic sustainability. We also share in various ways throughout the site what organizations are doing; revealing the triumphs and challenges related to mutual aims.

All livelihoods are in some way connected to the bioregion. To this end, the information and educational materials on this site are available for presentation in a variety of formal and informal settings.

Together these work toward facilitating community in the following ways:

1. Suggest a geographic definition for Hidden Corner.
2. Describe the basic components and processes of the Hidden Corner bioregion and why ecological integrity is important to the overall health of this ecosystem.
3. Build learner awareness of ecological principles related to the bioregion.
4. Provide examples of how human actions or inaction affect the ecosystem.
5. Assist learners in building their level of concern for the Hidden Corner bioregion by developing appreciation for the rich variety of interconnected life and processes of the bioregion.
6. Explain why people need to be concerned about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and a healthy bioregion.
7. Take up the fight against the negative effects of a plugged-in culture and Nature-Deficit disorder.
8. Using newfound knowledge and awareness of the bioregion, learners will strive to take voluntary action in their communities for the benefit of the cultural and natural values of the ecosystem, in one of the following ways:

*Attend public meetings, attend classes/courses about the local ecosystem, and make personal lifestyle changes that reflect the goals of sustainable agriculture, community, social, and economic development. Volunteer in local schools, volunteer for local community events focused on natural resources, and volunteer in a local nature center or community museum.*