

# Idaho: A Perfect Landscape for Adventure and Learning

**Outcome:** Teams of university scientists, educators, community decision makers and land managers (stakeholders), K-12 teachers, and students, together, are embarking on summer learning adventures, called expeditions, to explore the complexities of how social and ecological issues affect the communities and landscapes that span their own Gem State.

**Impact:** Adventure Learning expeditions are laying an important foundation for better research, better education, and better science-based policy decisions to benefit local communities and the health of surrounding landscapes.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Idaho Ecosystems website. The header has a blue navigation bar with the site logo and menu items: Home, MILES, Adventure Learning, Idaho Adventure Blog, Pilot Sites, Teacher Resources, Get Involved, and Who We Are. The main content area is titled "Getting Our Feet in the Water: An adventure through Idaho's resource-rich landscapes". It features a map of Idaho with three red stars marking pilot study sites: Coeur d'Alene, Boise, and Pocatello. To the right of the map is an aerial photograph of a lake system, labeled "Fernan Lake" and "Lake Coeur d'Alene". Below the map is a call to action: "Join the adventure as researchers, teachers, and students follow scientific studies in important ecosystems around Idaho." On the right side, there is a sidebar with a "Partners" section listing EPSCoR, MILES, University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Boise State University, Adventure Learning, and MOSS. Below that is an "Adventure Learning" section with links to Idaho Adventure Blog, Pilot Sites, Teacher Resources, Get Involved, and Who We Are.

Figure 1: [idahoecosystems.org](http://idahoecosystems.org)

**Explanation:** The complex interaction of society and the environment, and the societal benefits that the environment provides (called "ecosystem services") can create difficult decisions for policy makers and land managers. Idaho's EPSCoR project, Managing Idaho's Landscapes for Ecosystem Services (MILES) is creating opportunities for Idaho scientists, other educators, decision makers, students, and the public to explore these interactions in hands-on, place-based, team-oriented approach, and to share their adventure with the world through an online environment ([idahoecosystems.org](http://idahoecosystems.org)).

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