

**Pilot Name: Nature Ed**

**School/District Name: Spruce Mountain Elementary School**

**Contact: Patrick St. Clair, Sarah Dyer, Tammy Deering, Jennifer Stone**

**Overview:**

At Spruce Mountain Elementary School, we aim to be a community-centered place of learning that values and inspires all learners. With students in grades three through five, Spruce Mountain Elementary is nestled in the western foothills—a part of Maine with a long tradition of economic and recreational ties to nature.

Our goal is to create a greenhouse classroom for all students to use, a library of standards-based individual lesson and unit plans, and longer-term projects that allow teachers to engage in outdoor learning at multiple points on a continuum. The greenhouse would serve as a 4-season base from which teachers can access and share materials, as well as link to trails, streams, and other natural settings. Spruce Mountain Elementary will work with The Healthy Community Coalition (HCC) as a community partner. The Healthy Community Coalition (HCC) can offer direct education opportunities for students pertaining to gardening, nutrition, and movement breaks. The HCC can also provide community partnership with compost programs. The role of the staff at the Healthy Community Coalition can work for training and direct education as RSU #73 works to implement the RREV grant.

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