The floor space for the wilderness quilt exhibit is 26 feet by 38 feet. The quilt will be suspended about 4 feet above the floor of short poles of different heights, to create relief. It will have 6 feet of clearance around the edge to the wall for visitor walk space.
The wilderness quilt itself will be about 14 feet by 26 feet, and sit in the middle of the exhibit floor space. This leaves 6 feet all around it for walking. The quilt will be pieced together with a number of class-made 4 foot square sections of cloth, designed and made as individual parts of the overall quilt “wilderness.”
A “wilderness” shape is drawn following the contour of the 14 foot by 26 foot quilt space.

A grid of 4 foot sections is drawn on the exhibit floor space plan, over the quilt shape, starting at the top left corner. This grid will determine the placement of the individual 4 foot squares.
The floor space grid sections are labeled with column letters, A, B, C, etc., and row numbers 1, 2, 3, etc., to identify the placement of each quilt piece when the quilt is built. Then, the 4 foot square section pieces can be attached to each other corner by corner. They can also be switched out with other pieces in rotation, by id.
Contour lines, like those on topographical maps are drawn in. Lakes and stream can be added. These lines will allow the 4 foot quilt sections to match up 'elevation wise' when the squares are pieced together for display by id number.
A quilt section, representing a 4 feet square on the whole quilt (and 1 square mile if the wilderness quilt was real land) is marked with its own grid into square feet (they are 1 inch squares on the drawing). A lake was added. This is D5.
A 5 foot square piece of cloth is marked with a 4 foot square in its center. The corners, circled, will eventually be pinned to its adjoining pieces to make the quilt. The quilt map, or just the section to be made, D5 here, is laid next to the cloth for reference. The 6 inch outer edge can be used for notes, or 'give' for relief in the cloth.
Grid lines are drawn a foot apart. The contour lines are transferred by eye to match the map, as is the lake boundary, onto the cloth. The cloth grid could be divided into the number of people in the class or group, too. Each small square could then be adorned by individuals organized into groups representing micro-climates, for instance, making the work easier.
Map the Ecosystem Attributes

Words to identify different parts of the whole ecosystem represented by the wilderness quilt are added to the map and transferred to the cloth squares. A compass reading should be made for the whole map layout, and the general latitude and longitude. Then it will be known what the sun--and its direction--will do during the seasons.
How to make the quilt square? Nothing about it has to be perfect. For fun, think about 1) the forms of things, 2) the physical laws or relations of nature, 3) being present with all your senses following threads, and 4) the absolute whole--the finished wilderness quilt that will be pieced together. Put down a tarp first.