

The Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School Environmental Studies Program Visits the Site of the Former Gold Ray Dam, Located on the Mainstem of the Rogue River near Central Point, Oregon.

A Project made possible through a Grant

From the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Connecting People with Nature Program

To the Central Point School District (School District #6).

June 2013



Photo: Student Gracie Tostenson at the mouth of Bear Creek, near Central Point, Oregon. Photo taken by Haven Combs.

Summary of the Event

Project Name: Agate Desert Environmental Partnership-Transportation of Environmental Studies Students to Gold Ray Dam and Wetland Areas near Central Point, Oregon from May 2012 to May 2013

Date of Event: May 30, 2013

Participants: 53 students from the Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School.

Contributors:

- Haven Combs and Carla LaFever, Teachers from the Environmental Studies program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School (School District #6). Tax ID number for School District 6: 93-6000508
- Guest Instructor: Craig Tuss, Rogue Valley Council of Governments

Contributors Match Value: \$1,200

- Teachers: \$600
- Craig Tuss: \$600 (10 hours @ \$60/hour)

Description of the Event:

On May 30, 2013, 53 students, from the Environmental Studies Program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon, visited Lower Bear Creek and the mainstem of the Rogue River. The 2-hour visit was made possible through funding provided to the Central Point School District by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Connecting People with Nature Program (CPWN).



Photo: Student Conner Lane (center) leads a group of Crater High School students conducting water quality monitoring Bear Creek. Photo taken by Haven Combs.



Photo: Student Madison Reames (standing) leads a group of Crater High School students conducting water quality monitoring Bear Creek. Photo taken by Haven Combs.



Photo: Student Taylor Martinez conducting water quality monitoring Bear Creek. Photo taken by Haven Combs

The May 30, 2013 session provided the students an opportunity to revisit the site (visited a year ago to the day) and conduct macro-invertebrate sampling and water quality monitoring. Teachers Haven Combs and Carla LeFever, responsible for the Environmental Studies Curriculum, along with guest instructor Craig Tuss, provided information during the field trip describing tools used to monitor water quality, measure flow, and collect field samples. Results of the sampling will be used to compare monitoring results from another location along Bear Creek taken in April.

This event was the last of 10 field sessions where funding provided by CPWN since May of 2013 supplied transportation for the classes. During these events students visited the former Gold Ray Dam impoundment area (May 2012 and 2013), vernal pools and emergent wetlands on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Denman Wildlife Management Area (October 2012 and March 2013); along with a trip to the top of Table Rock (April 2013) to see vernal pools and wildflowers. Students were exposed to river restoration techniques such as engineered log jams, stream bank stabilization, and planting methods; as well as wetland riparian system processes. They received hands on experience using flow meters, maps, sampling techniques such as kick nets and measuring water quality parameters with field kits.

In total, the funding provided through the CPWN grant (\$500) was matched with contributions from school district#6, volunteers and staff from RVCOG and FWS with a value of more than \$5,000 for these 10 field events. As a result of the "hands-on" approach during the field visits, the CPWN grant is enabling the students to engage with restoration practitioners and monitors while contributing to conservation efforts. The Environmental Studies program at Crater High School is also looking for student projects (such as adopting lower Bear Creek as a water quality monitoring area) to contribute to future conservation, student education and community involvement.