



Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature Activity Report Calendar Year 2011

Festivals

Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo - Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. March 19, 2011. Jennifer Jones and Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO staffed the Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) booth at the 6th annual Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo. Leandra Darden from Americorps Watershed Stewardship Program assisted with the booth. The booth included wildlife tattoos, nature coloring books, information about the CPWN program, and an interactive and hands-on stream simulator exhibit to teach about watershed ecology and demonstrate streamflow hydrology. Over 150 vendors and more than 2,000 members of the public attended this one-day event.



Salmon River Watershed Fair – Junction Elementary School, Somes Bar, CA. April 21, 2011. Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO participated in the Watershed Education Fair by teaching the students and public using the stream simulator table. The annual event, hosted by the Salmon River Restoration Council, gives students from Junction and Forks Elementary Schools a chance to share their watershed and forestry educational exhibits with the community. Nature art, fish prints, and live animals were also featured.

Siskiyou County Wildflower Show – Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. May 8, 2011. Sheri Hagwood of the Yreka FWO created a Yreka phlox poster for the 18th Annual Siskiyou County Wildflower Show and helped set up for the event. Approximately 1,600 visitors viewed the 256 species on display. The event was sponsored by the Klamath National Forest, with additional assistance from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

California State Fair – Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA. July 27-28, 2011.

Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO staffed the USFWS “Discovery Island” exhibit at the California State Fair and discussed wildlife topics with the public and helped with activities, including wildlife tattoos, bird bingo, and Gyotaku Japanese folk art fish painting.



Siskiyou Golden Fair – Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. August 10-14, 2011. The Yreka FWO shared a nature-oriented booth with the Klamath National Forest at the Siskiyou Golden Fair. The booth highlighted the partnership between the agencies' conservation outreach programs, "NatureWatch" (USFS) and "Connecting People With Nature" (FWS). This shared booth gave an overview of the outreach programs and a summary of activities that the agencies are involved with

throughout Siskiyou County. Approximately 53,000 visitors came to the fair, and several of them stopped by the booth to learn about nature, get wildlife tattoos and posters, wear elk antlers, learn about watersheds using the stream simulator, and find out what the outdoors of Siskiyou County has to offer.

Siskiyou Salmon Festival – Fort Jones, CA. October 20, 2011.

Students throughout Siskiyou County celebrated the annual return of salmon during the Siskiyou Salmon Festival. Approximately 560 students and 40 teachers learned about salmon life history and watersheds through educational exhibits and interactive games. Exhibits included fly tying, fish dissection, macroinvertebrates, live fish and lamprey in tanks, fish video weirs, stream simulator, coded wire tags, beavers, and Native American culture. Creative activities included storytelling in the Salmon Tent, puppet shows, quilting, coloring, mosaics, and costumes. The Siskiyou Salmon Festival was a collaborative event sponsored by the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, California Department of Fish and Game, AmeriCorps, Yreka FWO, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, and Scott Valley Watershed Council. Over 80 volunteers (parents, members of Americorps Watershed Steward Program, and booth staff) helped with the event, for a total of approximately 680 participants.



Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

French Creek Outdoor School – J.H. Guest Ranch, Scott Valley, CA. Spring and Fall 2011.



Sheri Hagwood, Jennifer Jones, and Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO assisted the French Creek Outdoor School in the spring and fall by leading activities and teaching ecological concepts to groups of students from local elementary schools. The French Creek Outdoor School is operated by the Siskiyou County Office of Education and is a 3-day environmental science program. The YFWO staff led the Forest Field Study Program and taught about the forest ecosystem through experiential activities and hands-on learning. The curriculum topics included forest succession, food webs, plant identification, and practicing observational skills in nature.

YFWO staff also led the Creek Field Study Program and taught about watershed and riparian systems through guided creek walks, aquatic species identification, and question and answer sessions. In total, the YFWO staff taught five days at the outdoor school program and interacted with 30 - 60 students per visit.

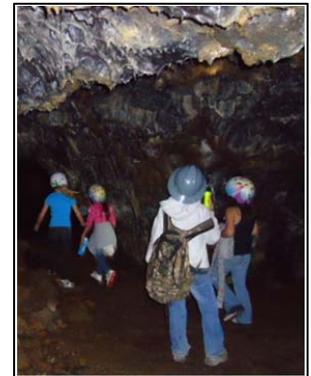
Kids and Bugs – Bear Creek Park, Medford, OR. May 7, 2011. John Hamilton of the Yreka FWO participated in the "Kids and Bugs" education program at Bear Creek Park in Medford, OR. About 60 low-income kids attended. There were stations about stream fish, macroinvertebrates, fly casting, and fly fishing. The event was sponsored by the Bear Creek Watershed Council. Rogue Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, and others were cooperators.

Jackson Street Science Field Days – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. May 17 and June 2, 2011. Sheri Hagwood and Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 220 7th and 8th graders from Jackson Street Middle School about local watersheds and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit during the two-day Science Field Days.

Ag Awareness Day – Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. May 19, 2011. Cheryl Carter from the Yreka FWO partnered with Karen Mallory of the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District to teach students about agriculture, math, and science using the stream simulator exhibit at the Ag Awareness Day. Approximately 250 mostly 4th graders from schools throughout Siskiyou County attended the event.

Willow Creek Science Day – Willow Creek Elementary School, Montague, CA. April 8, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 125 K-8th graders from Willow Creek school about local watersheds and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit during the school’s annual Science Day. Jennifer had the students “restore” the stream by forming a more complex channel, adding vegetation and wildlife, and creating upland habitat. Jennifer then had the students add human elements (e.g., bridges, roads, livestock, buildings, vehicles) in the least damaging way to the watershed. Jennifer also demonstrated how to use culverts with dams to allow water and fish passage.

Lava Beds Field Trip – Lava Beds National Monument, CA. May 6, 2011. Misty Bradford from the Yreka FWO accompanied approximately 60 4th graders from Gold Street Elementary School on a class field trip to Captain Jack’s Stronghold and the Lava Beds National Monument. The class viewed ancient hieroglyphics, learned about natural history while hiking the park’s trails, and explored several caves.



Johnny O’Neil Field Trip – Klamath National Forest, CA. April 29, 2011. Jan Johnson from the Yreka FWO led a field trip for the College of the Siskiyous Natural Resources class to the Johnny O’Neil Late Successional Reserve on the Klamath National Forest to view a restoration project. Jan provided an overview of fire ecology of the Klamath Physiographic Province, northern spotted owl ecology and survey techniques, and objectives of the restoration project. The class of four observed a northern spotted owl in the wild, learned about owl nesting habitat, practiced mapping and orienteering, saw fire suppressed forested stands, and measured the diameter of a large old growth tree.



Horse Camp Field Trip – Mount Shasta, CA. September 16, 2011. Misty Bradford from the Yreka FWO accompanied Mrs. Justice’s 5th grade class from Jackson Street School on a hike to Horse Camp. The class started at the Bunny Flat trailhead and hiked

2 miles to the camp, gaining 1,000 feet in elevation. Misty helped teach the 24 students the importance of walking on the trail in order to preserve the vegetation and not leaving any garbage behind or feeding the wildlife.

Classroom Education Programs

Principles of Wildlife Management Guest Lecturer – College of the Siskiyous, Weed, CA. March 4 and 11, 2011. Scott Yaeger from the Yreka FWO was a guest lecturer for two labs for the College of the Siskiyous Principles of Wildlife Management course. Scott taught the four students wildlife management field techniques with an emphasis on non-invasive survey methods, including recording field data at carnivore survey stations.

RAP Camp promotion – Siskiyou County High Schools, Siskiyou County, CA. Spring, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO distributed materials to all the high schools in Siskiyou County to recruit students for attending the Resources and People (RAP) Camp. Jennifer attended one day of RAP Camp, hosted by the Fremont-Winema National Forest, to observe high school students learning about natural resources and career possibilities in hands-on field sessions led by resource specialists.

Frog Dissections – Jackson St. Middle School, Yreka, CA. March 25, 2011. Jennifer Jones and Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) with frog dissections at Jackson St. Middle School. The 100 5th graders learned the location and basic function of all internal organs.



Fish Dissections – Gold St. Elementary School, Yreka, CA. March 11, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) with fish dissections at Gold St. Elementary School. The 100 4th graders learned the internal and external anatomy of fish, including the functions of each organ.

Science Advisory Committee Member for Environmental Resources Technology Program – College of the Siskiyous, Weed, CA. Ongoing. Jennifer Jones is representing the Fish and Wildlife Service and assisting College of the Siskiyous with the development of the Environmental Resources Technology Program. As a Science Advisory Committee Member, she advises the college in the areas of curriculum, instructor hiring, agency needs, and marketing to the general public.



Owl Pellet Dissections – Klamath River and Hornbrook Schools, CA. May 9 and 12, 2011. Jennifer Jones and Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO assisted 10 K-8th graders from Klamath River School and 17 K-8th graders from Hornbrook School, respectively, with owl pellet dissections. In addition to teaching the students how to identify the bones of prey, the presentations including information about owl biology, their prey, and how pellets are formed.

Gold Street Science Night – Gold St. Elementary School, Yreka, CA. March 17, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO and Leandra Darden and Sarah Olsen from Americorps Watershed Stewardship Program taught approximately 200 K-6th grade students from Gold Street Elementary Schools about local watersheds and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit during the Gold Street Science Night.

Siskiyou County Office of Education's Science Fun Day – Gold St. Elementary School, Yreka, CA. June 1, 2011. Scott Yaeger, Darla Eastman, and Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO taught 100 4th grade and 110 3rd grade students from Gold Street



Elementary School about wildlife biology and conservation during the Science Fun Day fair. Jennifer taught students how to identify animal skulls based on their shape, teeth, and other adaptive features. Darla and Scott discussed the importance of wildlife conservation and showed students examples of confiscated consumer products made from endangered species during the "Illegal Wildlife Trade" presentation.

Bubbles – Delphic Elementary School, Montague, CA. March 7, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) with bubble demonstrations for Delphic Elementary School's afterschool program. The 40 K-8th graders learned the properties of bubbles by conducting simple hands-on experiments.



Wind Energy – Delphic Elementary School, Montague, CA. March 21, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) with wind energy demonstrations for Delphic Elementary School's afterschool program. The 20 4th-8th graders learned the properties of wind by constructing propellers and placing in front of a fan to determine which materials and blades shapes were more aerodynamic.

Hot Air Balloons – Delphic Elementary School, Montague, CA. April 27, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) with teaching 15 5th-8th graders how to construct hot air balloons during Delphic Elementary School's afterschool program.

"Suitcase for Survival" Classroom Presentation – Evergreen Elementary School, Yreka, CA. November 29, 2011. Matt Baun of the Yreka FWO taught 21 kindergarten students from Evergreen Elementary School about wildlife biology and conservation using animal skulls and confiscated consumer products made from endangered species.

Guided Nature Walks

Yreka Phlox Walk – China Hill, Yreka, CA. April 30, 2011. Sheri Hagwood and Nadine Kanim from the Yreka FWO, and Twyla Miller of the Siskiyou Arboretum hosted a two-hour guided walk to teach the public about the rare and endemic Yreka phlox



(*Phlox hirsuta*). In addition to enjoying the spring display of pink Yreka phlox flowers, the 26 participants learned to identify many local native flowering species in the area and about the Yreka phlox recovery strategy, including actions currently being taken to implement the recovery plan for this plant species.



Yreka Phlox Education Day – China Hill, Yreka, CA. May 21, 2011.

Nadine Kanim and Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO led five members of the public in a four-hour effort to improve habitat for the Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*) on China Hill by pulling weeds and removing trash. Nadine and Sheri provided education about this species, including current actions to protect and recover this rare and endemic plant.

Schoolyard Habitats and Garden Projects

Children’s Garden Project – Yreka Community Garden, Yreka, CA. Spring and Summer, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO organized and facilitated monthly planning meetings to expand the Children’s Garden at the Yreka Community Garden.



root view box.

The project is a collaborative effort among approximately eight team members representing the Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou Arboretum, Yreka Garden Club, Yreka Resource Center, Discovery High School, and other community members and organizations. Accomplishments include planting the educational garden beds and butterfly garden; installing a path, benches, and arbor; creating a mosaic art focal point; and building a



Yreka Resource Center Garden Education Program – Yreka Community Garden, Yreka, CA. Summer, 2011. Christy Carter of the Yreka FWO worked with 10-12 kids from the Yreka Resource Center’s Summer Fun Program for two days at the Yreka Community Garden. Christy taught the 4-12 year olds topics related to gardening through hands-on activities, including composting, insects and worms, weeding, harvesting, watering, weeds, and what plants require to grow.

Discovery High School Work Parties – Yreka Community Garden, Yreka, CA. April 1 and May 6, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO worked with 7-10 teenagers from Discovery High School at the Yreka Community Garden digging holes for fruit trees, weeding the willow tunnel, and cutting grass.

Restoration Programs

Earth Day Restoration Event – Yreka Creek Greenway, Yreka, CA. April 29, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO celebrated a belated Earth Day by helping to remove noxious weeds and litter at the Yreka Creek Greenway. The event was put on by Leandra Darden from the Americorps Watershed Stewards Project. Approximately 55-60 community volunteers, including 25 students from Jackson Street Middle School; 11 students from Discovery High School; representatives of the Siskiyou Gardens, Parks, and Greenways Association; and members of the public helped clean up the riparian area.

Whipple Ranch Riparian Education – Whipple Ranch, Etna, CA. May 3, 11, and 20, and November 1, 2011. Jennifer Silveira, Mark Cookson, and Sheri Hagwood from the



Yreka FWO created and led a three-part riparian education project with the Etna High School senior Agriculture/Natural Resources class at the Whipple Ranch to teach the students skills used in natural resource careers. First, Jennifer gave a hydrology talk using the stream simulator in the classroom. Next, Yreka FWO staff led a training for the students on riparian planting, data collection and using GPS units. Then the Yreka FWO staff worked with the 11 students to monitor the riparian planting on the Whipple Ranch by collecting data

on the trees planted in one of the restoration projects. The students inventoried 539 trees and found that 92% of them had survived. In November, Jennifer returned with four students and a teacher to revisit some of the trees and collect more data.

Outreach

Connecting People with Nature Presentation – Aquarium Incubator Inservice, Yreka, CA. February 2, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO gave a presentation at the Siskiyou County Office of Education’s Aquarium Incubator Inservice to update participants about the Connecting People with Nature program and develop partnerships with local educators. Approximately 12 people attended the workshop and participants included local educators and California Department of Fish and Game biologists.

Women in Science Interview – Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR. May 26, 2011. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO was interviewed by two students from Southern



Oregon University for a project for their Women’s Studies Class. The focus of the interview was to document the challenges and difficulties Jennifer has faced as a woman in science during her educational training and work as a wildlife biologist and science educator.

Endangered Species Presentation and Greenhorn Park Field Trip – December 9, 2011. Jennifer Jones from the YFWO teamed up with Sam Cuenca from the Klamath National Forest to give a presentation on endangered and threatened species to

12 members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The presentation covered the purpose and history of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and how each agency manages species and their habitats under existing regulations. Controversial topics, such as the ethics of experimental barred owl removal, balancing the needs of species versus the needs of society for resource consumption, and grizzly bear and wolf reintroduction, were discussed and debated. The presenters talked about management of a wide range of species, including the northern spotted owl, Yreka phlox, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, fisher, and fairy shrimp, to give the CCCs an understanding of the successes and challenges wildlife biologists face in their work conserving species and their habitats. After the presentation, Sam and Jennifer lead the CCC crew on a guided walk around the Greenhorn Park reservoir to view local wildlife.

Funding

French Creek Outdoor School – Siskiyou County Office of Education, Yreka, CA. Spring and Fall 2011. The Yreka FWO provided \$5,000 of funding to the Siskiyou County Office of Education to sponsor students to attend the French Creek Outdoor School.



The Mid-Klamath Youth Habitat Stewardship Education Program – Middle Klamath River region, CA. Year-round. The Yreka FWO provided \$5,000 to the Mid-Klamath Youth Habitat Stewardship Education Program to support the experiential environmental education program. Natural and cultural resources professionals from Federal and State agencies, the Karuk Tribe, the Salmon River Restoration Council, and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council taught over 100 students geology, hydrology, botany, wildlife, aquatic biology, fisheries, fire ecology, traditional cultural resource management, and current resource issues during excursions on the middle Klamath River and its tributaries. Students participated in restoration projects such as fish passage improvement, river clean up, noxious weed removal, tree planting, and erosion prevention.

Camp Unalayee – Trinity Alps Wilderness, CA. Summer 2011. The Yreka FWO provided \$2,500 to Camp Unalayee to help provide camperships to children, including youth from Siskiyou County, whose families are economically depressed. Camp Unalayee is an accredited summer backpacking and wilderness camp located in the Trinity Alps wilderness where youth ages 10 through 17 learn outdoor survival and social skills, natural history, and conservation. The camperships are essential to ensure that children from all circumstances and cultures are able to attend and contribute to the program.



Backyard Planet – BigTree Media, Berkeley, CA. The Yreka FWO provided \$2,000 to BigTree Media to help with production



costs for the Backyard Planet nature-based series. The program is being designed for broadcast and web, and focuses on kids using Citizen Science and crowd-sourced social networking to explore and learn about their local habitats and natural resources. Each episode will focus on learning and preserving local ecological diversity, encouraging outdoor play, and introducing a new generation to the interactive participation of citizen science.

Watershed Education – Salmon River Restoration Council, Sawyers Bar, CA. Fall 2011. The Yreka FWO provided \$5,000 to the Salmon River Restoration Council for its Watershed Education program. The funding allowed eight students to participate in the annual Salmon River fall Chinook spawning surveys, helped fund Junction school’s annual incubator project for studying the life cycle of anadromous fish, and allowed 32 students from Forks of Salmon and Junction Elementary Schools to take part in fish dissections. A portion of the funding will be used in 2012 for the Forks of Salmon and Junction Elementary Schools’ garden and food security projects, a fish printing activity at Junction Elementary, a field trip to Mt. Shasta and the fish hatchery, and the annual Watershed Education Fair.

