



## FY 2012 Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature Activity Report

### Festivals

**Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo - Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. March 17-18, 2012.** Jennifer Jones, Sheri Hagwood, Darla Eastman, and Mark Cookson from the Yreka FWO staffed the Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) booth at the 7th annual Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo. Sam Cuenca from U.S. Forest Service assisted with the booth. The booth included wildlife tattoos, nature coloring books, information about the CPWN program, and a wildlife display that included skins, skulls, tracks, and scat. Over 2,800 members of the public attended this two-day event.



**Siskiyou County Wildflower Show – Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. May 13, 2012.** Sheri Hagwood of the Yreka FWO helped set up for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Siskiyou County Wildflower Show. Approximately 500 visitors viewed the 308 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.

**Siskiyou Golden Fair – Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. August 8-12, 2012.** The Yreka FWO's Siskiyou Golden Fair exhibit showcased the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program with a display that included red-tailed hawk feathers, western rattlesnake skin, white-tailed deer antler, and other items used in tribal ceremonies, trade, and as weapons. YFWO staff discussed the tribal artifacts and provided information about the tribal youth program.



**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 2012.** Sheri Hagwood, Jennifer Jones, Ryan Fogerty, Mark Cookson, and Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education in the spring and fall of 2012 by teaching students from local schools during the 3-day environmental science program at French Creek Outdoor School. YFWO staff taught about forest succession, food webs, plant identification, and observational skills through experiential activities and hands-on learning for the Forest Field Study Program. YFWO staff also taught about watershed and riparian systems through guided creek walks and aquatic species identification for the Creek Field Study Program. In total, the YFWO staff taught ten sessions at the outdoor school program in 2012 and interacted with approximately 15 students per session.



**Jackson Street Science Field Days – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. May 22 and June 7, 2012.** Sheri Hagwood and Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 107 7<sup>th</sup> and 112 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Jackson Street Middle School about local watersheds, plant identification, and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit during the Jackson Street Science Field Days.

**Ag Awareness Day – Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. May 17, 2012.** Cheryl Carter and Darla Eastman from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 341 students from schools throughout Siskiyou County about local wildlife using puppets at the Ag Awareness Day. The YFWO staff had the mostly 4<sup>th</sup> graders identify the wildlife puppets based on natural history clues.

**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.

### **Classroom Education Programs**

**Wildlife Presentation – Delphic Elementary School, Montague, CA. January 18 and April 4, 2012.** Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation about wildlife tracks, scat, and skulls to 20 K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Delphic Elementary School and 25 K-8<sup>th</sup> graders during the school's afterschool program. Jennifer taught the students how to make plaster molds of wildlife tracks that they could take home with them.



**Wildlife Presentation – Etna Elementary School, Etna, CA. January 12, 2012.** Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation about wildlife tracks, scat, and skulls to 45 1<sup>st</sup> graders from Etna Elementary School. Jennifer taught the students how to make plaster molds of wildlife tracks that they could take home with them.

**Wildlife Skulls – Children's World Montessori School, Ashland, OR. January 18, 2012.** Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation about carnivores and herbivores to 20 preschool children. Dave used a variety of wildlife skulls from deer mice to black bear to demonstrate the differences in skull structure and dentition between these groups.

**Owl Presentation – Children's World Montessori School, Ashland, OR. April 26, 2012.** Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation about owls to 20 preschool children. Dave taught the children about the different species of owls in Oregon, how they vary in size, their different vocalizations, and what they eat. Dave also used owl skulls to demonstrate that owls do not have teeth and swallow their prey whole. The children then dissected owl pellets and matched the bones they found in the pellets with diagrams of small mammal skeletons.

**"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.



**Dry Ice – Jackson Street Middle School, Yreka, CA. January 11, 2012.** Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with dry ice demonstrations for the Jackson Street Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> grade GATE program. The approximately 22 students learned the properties of dry ice by conducting simple hands-on experiments.

**Dry Ice – Fort Jones Elementary School, Fort Jones, CA. January 25, 2012.** Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with dry ice demonstrations for the Fort Jones Elementary School K-5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE program. The 55 students learned the properties of dry ice by conducting simple hands-on experiments.



**Hot Air Balloons – Jackson Street Middle School, Yreka, CA. May 2, 2012.** Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with teaching 20 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders how to construct hot air balloons during Jackson Street Middle School's GATE program.

**Frog Dissections – Jackson St. Middle School, Yreka, CA. March 23, 2012.** Jennifer Jones and Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with frog dissections at Jackson St. Middle School. The 94 5<sup>th</sup> graders learned the location and basic function of all internal organs.



**Willow Creek Science Day – Willow Creek Elementary School, Montague, CA. April 27, 2012.**

Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO and Sam Cuenca from the Klamath National Forest taught 125 K-8<sup>th</sup> graders from Willow Creek, Bogus, and Delphic elementary schools about local wildlife and their adaptations using skins, scat, and skulls.



**Pollination Presentation – Koinonia preschool, Fort Jones, CA. April 30, 2012.** Scott Yaeger from the Yreka FWO taught 15 three to 6 year olds about pollinators and the important role insects play in providing food for humans using the FWS pollination powerpoint presentation. Scott played interactive games with the kids to teach about pollination, including having a pollination relay race, and having the children "bee dance" to navigate to a flower. Scott also showed the kids a variety of live and dead insects using a dissecting scope.

**RAP Camp Promotion – Jackson Street Middle School, Yreka, CA. April 25, 2012.** Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO distributed materials to all the middle and high schools in Siskiyou County to recruit students for attending the Resources and People (RAP) Camp. Jennifer also gave presentations to students at the Jackson St. Middle School and handed out applications for the camp.



**RAP Camp Counselor and Resource Specialist – RAP Camp, Lake of the Woods, OR. June 17-23, 2012.**

Jennifer Silveira of the Yreka FWO was a counselor and resource specialist at RAP Camp, hosted by the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Jennifer taught the 63 middle and

high school students about natural resources and career possibilities through hands-on field sessions.

**Siskiyou County Office of Education's Science Fun Day – Gold St. Elementary School, Yreka, CA. June 6, 2012.** Darla Eastman, Emily Frisbe, and Celena Grant of the Yreka FWO taught 220 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Gold Street Elementary School about local wildlife using puppets during the Science Fun Day fair. The YFWO staff had the mostly 4<sup>th</sup> graders identify the wildlife puppets based on natural history clues.

**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.

### Guided Nature Walks

**Waterfowl Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. January 18, 2012.** Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO led a 2-hour walk around the Greenhorn Park reservoir to observe Canada Geese, mallards, wood ducks, American Coots, and other wintering waterfowl for 6 participants.



**Greenhorn Creek Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. February 15, 2012.** Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO taught 28 members of the public about wetlands, effects of mining on riparian systems, and local floodplain restoration projects during a 2-hour walk at Greenhorn Park.

**Fly Fishing – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. March 21, 2012.** Matt Baun and members of the Siskiyou Fly Fishing Association taught 5 participants about fly tying, casting, and aquatic environments.



**Bird Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. April 18, 2012.** Brian Woodbridge and Jan Johnson from the Yreka FWO led a 2-hour bird walk through riparian habitat along Greenhorn Creek and the Greenhorn Reservoir to help 18 members of the public identify and observe local and migratory songbirds and waterfowl.

**Yreka Phlox Walk – China Hill, Yreka, CA. May 5, 2012. Yreka Phlox Walk – China Hill, Yreka, CA. May 5, 2012.** Sheri Hagwood and Nadine Kanim from the Yreka FWO and Twyla Miller, botanist with the Shasta-



Trinity National Forest and representing the Siskiyou Arboretum, hosted a two-hour guided walk to teach the public about the federally endangered Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*). In addition to enjoying the spring display of pink Yreka phlox flowers, the 23



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 species.

**Wildflower Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. June 20, 2012.** Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO led a 2-hour guided walk to teach 10 participants how to identify summer wildflowers at Greenhorn Park.

**Soils – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. July 17, 2012.** Celena Grant and Darla Eastman from the Yreka FWO organized a Soils Day with Jim Patterson of the Natural Resources Conservation Service at Greenhorn Park. Jim's presentation to the group of 20 2nd-9th graders and 5 members of the public focused on the basics of soil science: soil texture, soil structure, soil pH, fertilizer, and organic matter. Jim talked about the importance of soil as a naturally occurring, unconsolidated or loose material at the surface of the earth that is capable of supporting plant and animal life.



**Nocturnal Wildlife – Barnum Caves, CA. August 15, 2012.** The Yreka FWO and the Klamath National Forest co-sponsored a Nocturnal Wildlife Guided Nature Walk. The 34 participants were led by local biologists and bat experts into a nearby cave system for an evening of presentations and hiking. Participants learned about bat ecology and had the opportunity to explore an area that is important to an overwintering population of bats.



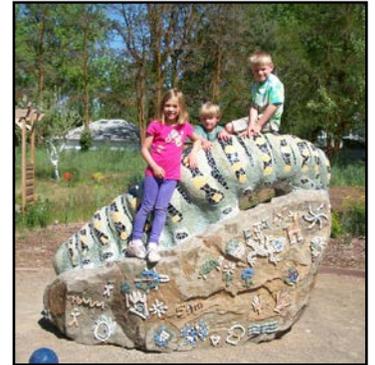
**Wildlife Photography – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. September 19, 2012.** Erin Williams, Jenny Ericson, and Darla Eastman from the Yreka FWO helped 4 members of the public capture nature and wildlife images using digital photography at Greenhorn Park. Many of the images caught on camera for the day were geese, frogs, plants, and people.



**Riparian Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. May 14, 2012.** Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO, with assistance from Jennifer Jones, led a 2-hour nature and history walk at Greenhorn Park for 25 students from the Seventh Day Adventist School. Jennifer taught the students about recent creek restoration efforts, riparian vegetation, and mining history. The YFWO staff also helped students identify the aquatic insects they collected from the creek and pond.

## Schoolyard Habitats and Garden Projects

**Children's Garden Project – Yreka Community Garden, Yreka, CA. Spring and Summer, 2012.** Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO attended planning meetings and worked on projects to expand the Children's Garden at the Yreka Community Garden. The purpose of the Children's Garden is to provide a place for children of all ages to explore nature, awaken the senses, and learn about gardening. The Children's Garden is used as an outdoor classroom to provide garden education and food to youth in Siskiyou County. Children have opportunities to grow flowers and vegetables, and participate in harvesting and distribution activities. The project is a collaborative effort among approximately eight team members representing the Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou Arboretum, Yreka Garden Club, Yreka Resource Center, and other community members and organizations. Accomplishments in 2012 include planting the educational garden beds and butterfly garden, installing a root view box, and maintaining existing garden features.



## Restoration Programs

**Weed Removal – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. May 21, 2012.** Jennifer Silveira of the Yreka FWO assisted Rebeca Franco in leading teams of 7th grade Jackson Street School students in removing invasive Dyer's Woad (*Marlahan Mustard*) at Greenhorn Park.



**Whipple Ranch Riparian Education – Whipple Ranch, Etna, CA. November 1, 2011.** Jennifer Silveira from the Yreka FWO returned to the Whipple Ranch with four students and a teacher to monitor the riparian planting that was done by the Etna High School senior Agriculture/Natural Resources class in the spring and collect additional data.

## Outreach

**Connecting People with Nature Presentation – Aquarium Incubator Inservice, Yreka, CA. February 1, 2012.** 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 Watershed Science" Water Talks – Yreka Community Center, Yreka, CA. March 27, 2012.** Jennifer Silverira of the Yreka FWO was a panelist for the "Women in Watershed Science" Water Talks, a project of California Trout. As one of the women scientists, Jennifer discussed her work as a Partner's biologist with the USFWS, native plants, and her involvement with floodplain restoration projects in collaboration with the City of Yreka and several local citizen groups.

## **Funding**

**The Mid-Klamath Youth Habitat Stewardship Education Program – Middle Klamath River region, CA. Year-round.** The Yreka FWO provided \$3,000 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 2012.** The Yreka FWO provided \$2,000 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.



**Watershed Education – Salmon River Restoration Council, Sawyers Bar, CA. Fall 2012.** The Yreka FWO provided \$3,000 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 2013 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.



**French Creek Outdoor School Field Trip – Big Springs Elementary School, Montague, CA. Fall 2012.** The Yreka FWO provided \$2,768 for students at the Big Springs Elementary School to attend the 3-day environmental science program at French Creek Outdoor School.

**“Frog Pond” Sign – Siskiyou County Office of Education, Mt. Shasta, CA. Winter 2012.** The Yreka FWO provided \$1,500 to the Siskiyou County Office of Education for a welcome sign for the “Frog Pond” Larry Wehmeyer Environmental Education Area (LWEEA). The LWEEA is a 10.5-acre outdoor study area one mile outside the Mt. Shasta city limits where students and community members can recreate, hike, and learn about nature and science through experiential education.

**Winter Ecology Program – Siskiyou County Office of Education, Mt. Shasta, CA. Winter 2012.** The Yreka FWO provided \$2,750 to the Siskiyou County Office of Education to help fund a Winter Ecology Program in which 100 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Siskiyou County schools learn about avalanches, how wildlife adapt to winter conditions, map and compass orienteering skills, snow science, and how to cross-country ski at the Mt. Shasta Nordic Center.