



Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature Activity Report FY 2013

Festivals and Events

Siskiyou Golden Fair – Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. August 7-11, 2013. The theme of the Yreka FWO and Klamath National Forest shared booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair this year was bird diversity and bird watching. Approximately 51,000 visitors came to the fair, and several of them stopped by the booth to learn about local birds; view bird skulls, feathers, nests, and mounted specimens; win prizes with the “Name that Bird” identification game, handle “ducks on a stick”, and learn about local birding “hot spots”. The booth highlights the partnership between the agencies' conservation outreach programs, "NatureWatch" (USFS) and "Connecting People with Nature" (FWS).



Bike Rodeo – Fort Jones Elementary School, Ft. Jones, CA. May 3, 2013. Jennifer Jones and Emily Frisbee from the Yreka FWO taught 64 students from Fort Jones Elementary School about watershed ecology and hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit during the 3rd annual Bulldog After School Studies (BASS) Bike Rodeo. A total of 18 people from six agencies participated in the event, including volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service, city of Fort Jones firefighters, Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department, Scott Valley Bikes, Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion, and special guest, Smokey the Bear.

Salmon River Watershed Fair – Junction Elementary School, Somes Bar, CA. May 23, 2013. Mark Cookson from the Yreka FWO participated in the Salmon River Watershed Education Fair by teaching the students and public about watershed ecology and streamflow hydrology 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.

Quartz Valley Water Festival – Quartz Valley Gymnasium, Quartz Valley, CA. May 28, 2013. Trevor Super and Celena Grant from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 200 students from local elementary schools about watershed ecology and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit at the Quartz Valley Water Festival.

Winter Wings Festival – Klamath Falls, OR. February 15-17, 2013. Brian Woodbridge and Dave Topolewski of the Yreka FWO participated in the Winter Wings Festival by leading an all-day “Raptors of Butte Valley” field trip with 30 eager hawk-watchers. Brian also gave a 1-hour presentation “Science, Policy, and the Northern Spotted Owl: Evolution of a Conservation Icon” during the festival.



Ag Awareness Day – Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. May 16, 2013. Jennifer Jones, Sheri Hagwood, and Emily Frisbee from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 343 mostly 4th grade students from 14 different schools throughout Siskiyou County about pollination biology and the essential role of pollinators to agriculture at the Siskiyou County Cattle Women’s Ag Awareness Day. The event featured a wide variety of agricultural-themed presentations and activities where students learned about subjects such as beneficial insects, horseshoeing, soil composition, livestock herding, invasive plants and local food sourcing. The goal of the event is to reconnect youth to their food sources, help them understand what is involved in the production of food, and preserve the land for future generations.



Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo - Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka, CA. March 16-17, 2013. Jenny Ericson, Jennifer Jones, Lyndsay Hellekson, and Emily Frisbee from the Yreka FWO partnered with Sam Cuenca from the Klamath National Forest to staff the wildlife booth at the 8th annual Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo. The booth included a wildlife display with skins, skulls, tracks, and scat; nature coloring sheets; snag display; and information about the Connecting People with Nature Program. Over 3,200 members of the public attended this two-day event.



Trinity Salmon Festival – Weaverville, CA. October 13, 2012. Celena Grant and Darla Eastman of the Yreka FWO presented the “Fiona the Fisher” mascot at the annual Trinity County Salmon Festival to provide public education and outreach on fisher. Other participating organizations included U.S. Forest Service, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Watershed Stewards Project, Trinity River Restoration Program, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

Seiad Bird Banding Station – Seiad Valley, CA. August 2, 23, and 30, September 13, 2013. John Morris, Katherine Fitzgerald, and Jesse Hogg from the Yreka FWO assisted the Klamath National Forest with the Seiad Bird Banding Station, a long-term monitoring station along the dense riparian habitat of the mid-zone of the Klamath River. John and Jesse helped remove birds from the mist-nets and collect and record data, including age, species, and sex of the birds. The information collected from these migratory songbirds helps to provide vital information on site productivity and reproductive success of many riparian obligate species.



Ashland Ponds Project – Bear Creek, Ashland, OR. April 22, 2013. Dave Johnson from the Yreka FWO worked with 40 Helman Elementary school 1st and 4th graders on the Ashland Ponds project by

helping the students plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive weeds, and collect trash and other debris.

Juvenile Fish Release with Golden Eagle Charter School – Randolph Collier Rest Stop, CA. March 20, 2013.



Ryan Fogerty of the Yreka FWO assisted the Golden Eagle Charter School with releasing juvenile Chinook salmon on the main stem of the Klamath River. The students raised the eggs through the Aquarium Incubator Project, an outreach partnership between the Siskiyou County Office of Education and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Located along a shared migration route, the release was timed to coincide with another release of the same species from the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery. Approximately 20 children from the school were in attendance, ranging in ages from three to eleven, along with parents and two staff members from the school.

The students were guided down to the river bank where water temperatures were taken to ensure the fish would not experience any thermal stress or shock upon release. Students were given a brief explanation of the importance of clean, cold waters for salmon and the dangers they might face on their voyage to the ocean. When the salmon were released, school faculty read letters of “Bon Voyage, Salmon” from the students expressing their hopes and wishes for safe travels on their voyage. Ryan, a Fisheries Biologist, answered questions from the students and parents about salmon and habitat restoration, and provided information about how to participate in future programs, ways to conserve resources, and how to help protect the environment. Participants were actively involved in the open dialogue, enjoyed the activities, and learned a lot about salmon, the environment, and the importance of both preservation and restoration.

Kids and Bugs – Bear Creek Park, Medford, OR. October 13, 2012. John Hamilton of the Yreka FWO participated in the "Kids and Bugs" education program at Bear Creek Park in Medford, OR. About 25 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.

French Creek Outdoor School – J.H. Guest Ranch, Scott Valley, CA. Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.

Sheri Hagwood, Ryan Fogerty, Jennifer Silveira, Jennifer Jones, and Jenny Ericson from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education in the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013 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. Students were led by YFWO staff through a challenge course to improve self-confidence and build cooperative, team-building skills. YFWO staff taught 6 sessions at the outdoor school program and interacted with approximately 15 students per session, for a total of about 90 students.



Johnny O’Neil Field Trip – Klamath National Forest, CA. May 10, 2013. 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 five conducted a daytime search for an historic northern spotted owl pair, learned about owl nesting habitat, practiced mapping and orienteering, saw fire suppressed forested stands, and measured the diameter of a large old growth tree.

Winter Ecology Tour – Mt. Shasta Nordic Center, Mt. Shasta, CA. February 13 & March 1 and 15, 2013. Katherine Fitzgerald, Jennifer Jones, and Lyndsay Hellekson from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with the Winter Ecology Tour program by teaching 18 5th graders from Etna Elementary, 11 4th-6th graders from Little Shasta, and 26 7th and 8th graders from McCloud, respectively, about animal winter adaptations. The YFWO staff gave students descriptions of the animals, including information about their adaptations and life history, and had the students guess the names of the animals and find them along the trail based on the clues. The program also included cross-country ski lessons, a demonstration and discussion on avalanche rescue from the U.S. Forest Service, training on compass use and orienteering, and a snowpack investigation, including study of snow crystals, layers, density, and temperature.



Open House School Days – Shasta Big Springs Ranch, CA. October 25-27, 2012. The Nature Conservancy hosted the “Open House School Days” event to coincide with the returns of fall-run Chinook salmon. The event was located on the Big Springs Ranch which encompasses 3 miles of the upper Shasta River, as well as 2.2 miles of Big Springs Creek. Sixty-five volunteers, staff, and partners from the local community (in addition to 135 parents and teacher chaperones), including Mark Cookson and Ryan Fogerty from the Yreka FWO, joined efforts to provide a day of learning for 560 children from 15 schools and 27 classrooms. The grades of the children that attended the event ranged from K-12, with the bulk of the kids from 3rd-7th grade.



The students were guided through three informative and unique field stations. One station was an art project where students could see a dissected adult salmon carcass close up and also create a salmon totem art project. At the salmon survival game station, students learned about the rigors salmon endure from hatching as a sac-fry to survival into adulthood. The final station provided display tables showing the variety and diversity of aquatic macro invertebrates and native plants found in the stream and riparian corridor. In addition to these displays the children were encouraged to watch salmon pass directly under the bridge the display tables were set upon. The emphasis of the event was to keep the

children engaged and entertained through interactive activities and informative sessions. The children learned the importance of restoration and maintaining healthy stream habitats.

Classroom Education Programs

Wildlife Presentation – Evergreen Elementary School, Yreka, CA. April 19, 2013. Matt Baun from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 25 kindergarten students from Evergreen Elementary School about the importance of wildlife conservation and provided examples of species that are receiving federal protections locally and nationally.



Wildlife Presentation – Gan Neve Shalom Preschool, Ashland, OR. May 29, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO taught 8 students from the Gan Neve Shalom preschool about wildlife using tracks, skins, scat, and skulls. 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. December 13, 2012. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO taught students about wildlife using tracks, skins, scat, and skulls to 24 1st 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 Presentation – Fort Jones Elementary School, Ft. Jones, CA. January 14, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO taught students about wildlife using tracks, skins, scat, and skulls to 18 2nd graders from Ft. Jones Elementary School. Jennifer taught the students how to make plaster molds of wildlife tracks that they could take home with them.

Conservation Presentation -- Cub Scout Pack 3058, Yreka, CA. Sept. 11, 2013. Matt Baun from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation to about 20 cub scouts and their leaders on the importance of national resource management and conservation in the local area.

Fun in the Mountain Sun – Grenada Elementary School, Grenada, CA. April 26, 2013. Sheri Hagwood and Emily Frisbee from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 175 K-8th graders about wildlife using tracks, scat, skins and skulls at the Fun in the Mountain Sun event at Grenada Elementary School. The field day event, which included games, activities, and other learning opportunities, was made possible by the HEROs grant from Youth Service of America.

Fish Dissections – Fort Jones Elementary School, Fort Jones, CA. April 15, 2013. Ryan Fogerty from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with fish dissections at Fort Jones Elementary School. The 24 4th graders learned the internal and external anatomy of fish, including the functions of each organ.



Fish Dissections – Golden Eagle Charter School, Mount Shasta, CA. April 10, 2013. Ryan Fogerty from the Yreka FWO assisted the Golden Eagle Charter School with fish dissections. The 15 K-5th graders learned the internal and external anatomy of fish, including the functions of each organ.

Fish Dissections – Jackson St. Elementary School, Yreka, CA. March 8, 2013. Emily Frisbee from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with fish dissections at Jackson St. Elementary School. The 115 4th graders learned the internal and external anatomy of fish, including the functions of each organ.



Frog Dissections – Jackson St. Middle School, Yreka, CA. March 22, 2013. Jennifer Jones and Lyndsay Hellekson from the Yreka FWO assisted the Siskiyou County Office of Education with frog dissections at Jackson St. Middle School. The 100 5th graders learned the location and basic function of all internal organs.

Slime and Goop – Fort Jones Elementary School, Ft. Jones, CA. March 20, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO helped 45 K-5th graders from Ft. Jones Elementary School make “slime and goop” science experiments, such as “Elephant Toothpaste” and “Frog Egg Slime”, using common household items that including dish soap, hydrogen peroxide, food coloring, yeast, white glue, cornstarch, water, liquid laundry starch, Borax laundry soap solution, tapioca, and polyvinyl alcohol.



Jackson Street Science Fun Day – Jackson Street School, Yreka, CA. May 6, 2013. Jennifer Jones and Jesse Hogg from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 200 3rd and 4th graders from Jackson Street Middle School how to identify pollinators and about the important role they play in nature.



Jennifer and Jesse then led a pollinator observation activity by helping the students catch and observe insects using butterfly nets, magnifying boxes, identification guides, and other tools from the Pollinator Kit. Emily Frisbee also worked at the Science Fun Day by teaming up with Karen Mallory of the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District and Ayn Perry of the Yreka Community Garden to teach about local watersheds and stream hydrology using the stream simulator exhibit.

Willow Creek Science Day – Willow Creek Elementary School, Montague, CA. April 26, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO taught approximately 125 K-8th graders from Willow Creek, Bogus, and Delphic elementary schools 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.

Siskiyou Songbird Workshop – Yreka FWO and Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. April 17, 2013.

Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO teamed up with Sam Cuenca from the Klamath National Forest and Jeanine Moy and Teresa Wicks from the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) to hold a birding workshop to educate 9 local teachers. The workshop organizers first taught the basics of bird identification using bird specimens and field guides, followed by a bird walk in Greenhorn Park. The group then went over the lesson plans and materials provided by KBO, including overviews of the Migratory Mapping lesson and Biology of Birds and Burns activity, and introduced the concept of Citizen Science and how to use the eBird website.



Endangered Species Presentation – Yreka High School, Yreka, CA. April 24, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO teamed up with Sam Cuenca from the Klamath National Forest to give a presentation on endangered and threatened species to Yreka High School's Natural Resources class. 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 students an understanding of the successes and challenges wildlife biologists face in their work conserving species and their habitats.

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.

Principles of Wildlife Management – College of the Siskiyous, Weed, CA. Spring, 2013. Katherine Fitzgerald from the Yreka FWO taught 5 students about wildlife management through the College of the Siskiyous Principles of Wildlife Management course. In addition to the classroom lectures, students gained hands-on experience during the labs, which focused on field techniques, including radiotelemetry, non-invasive survey techniques, and field identification of birds, amphibians, and mammal tracks. The highlight of the class was when students set up remote camera stations in a wooded area of campus, and captured photos of a fisher! Scott Yaeger of the Yreka FWO was an invited guest lecturer for the course, and spoke to the class on February 15 about field techniques to ecological studies of forest carnivore surveys, with an emphasis on non-invasive survey techniques, and February 22 about interpreting results of non-invasive survey techniques. John Morris of the Yreka FWO was also an invited guest lecturer for the class, and instructed students on the set up and operation of remote trail cameras on February 15 and assisted with checking the cameras a week later on February 22. John also gave a presentation on predation management on March 8 and talked about his recent experience

trapping and radio-collaring mountain lions at Kofa NWR in SW Arizona as part of an ongoing study to monitor mountain lion predation on desert bighorn sheep.



Guided Nature Walks

Pollinator Nature Hike – Siskiyou Crest, Mt. Ashland, OR. July 20, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO teamed up with Sam Cuenca and Danika Carlson from the Klamath National Forest and Jeanine Moy from the Klamath Bird Observatory to lead a Pollinator Nature Hike on the Siskiyou Crest in celebration of National Pollination Week. The day began with presentations by Sam, Jennifer,



Jeanine, and entomologists Dr. John Carlson and Dr. Rob Fernau, followed by a hike to observe hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and native plants that occur in high elevation meadows of the Siskiyou Crest. During the hike, the approximately 40 participants caught and observed insects using butterfly nets, magnifying boxes, identification guides, and other tools from the Pollinator Kit. The event included discussions on pollinator life histories, the status of local pollinators, and what people can do to help conserve these important species.

Trees and Shrubs Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. October 17, 2012. Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO led a 2-hour guided walk to help 9 members of the public identify trees and shrubs and to enjoy the fall colors at Greenhorn Park.

Nature Crafts – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. November 14, 2012. Jennifer Jones and Scott Yaeger from the Yreka FWO got creative with 4 kids and 4 adults and showed them how to make crafts from items found in nature, including pine cone bird feeders, leaf rubbings, leaf presses, table centerpieces, nature journals, flower fairies, acorn necklaces, and “animal friends”.



Wildlife Tracking Techniques – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. December 19, 2012. Jennifer Jones and Scott Yaeger from the Yreka FWO taught 6 members of the public wildlife tracking techniques.

Waterfowl Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. January 16, 2013. 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 11 participants.

Nature Photography Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. February 20, 2013. Erin Williams from the Yreka FWO helped 9 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 nature images of trees, plants and birds.



Yreka Creek Walk – Oberlin Trailhead, Yreka, CA. March 20, 2013. Jeannette Hook from the City of Yreka Department of Public Works gave an overview of past, current, and future restoration projects at the Oberlin Trailhead Yreka Creek site to 5 participants. This segment of the Yreka Creek Greenway was selected for funding by the California River Parkways Grant Program for its benefits to the community and stream resources, and the award will help pay for upcoming projects with the goal of restoring the creek's hydrologic function so it can safely pass stormwaters and enhance riparian vegetation, both of which will increase the local ecosystem's resiliency to major flood events.

Spring Bird Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. April 17, 2013. Jan Johnson and Dave



Topolewski from the Yreka FWO led 7 participants on a 2-hour walk to observe and identify local birds and spring migrants in various ecosystems in Greenhorn Park. Ruby-crowned kinglet, blue-gray gnatcatcher, hermit thrush, and other songbirds were spotted in the oaks, upland shrubs, and conifers; dusky flycatcher and yellow-rumped warbler were seen in the riparian trees and shrubs; red-winged blackbird, American robin, and killdeer were observed on the grass and lakeshore vegetation; ring-necked duck, bufflehead, and ruddy duck were seen in the reservoir; and red-shouldered hawk, turkey vulture, and American crow were seen in the sky. In total, 31 different bird species were seen or heard.

Fall Bird Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. September 18, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO led 8 members of the public on a 2-hour walk to observe and identify local birds and fall migrants in various ecosystems in Greenhorn Park.

Nocturnal Wildlife – Barnum Cave, CA. August 21, 2013. The Yreka FWO, Shasta Area Grotto, and the Klamath National Forest co-sponsored an evening of presentations and hiking during the Nocturnal Wildlife Guided Nature Walk at Barnum Cave. The 39 participants learned about bat ecology and adaptations and local monitoring efforts from local biologists and bat experts Ray Miller, Liz Wolff, Mellen Colberg, and Sam Cuenca. The evening ended with an interpretive led journey thru Barnum Cave, which is gated to human entrance because it serves as an important hibernating area for Townsend's big-eared bats during the winter months.



Yreka Phlox Walk – China Hill, Yreka, CA. May 4, 2013. Sheri Hagwood and Nadine Kanim of the Yreka FWO led a two-hour guided walk through Yreka's rare native phlox habitat on city property through the Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*) China Hill population. Yreka phlox is an endangered plant that is a narrow endemic, known to occur only on serpentine soils in the vicinity of Yreka. Besides enjoying the beautiful display of pink Yreka phlox flowers, the 15 participants learned about the biology of the plant, the history of its discovery, and about the on-going conservation activities for this lovely native plant.

Weeds Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. June 19, 2013. Jodi Aceves, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner with the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture, taught 6 participants about invasive noxious weeds, including plant identification, and described local eradication efforts.



Soils Study Walk – Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA. July 17, 2013. Jim Patterson and Lorrie Bundy from the Natural Resources Conservation Service led 8 participants in a 2 hour exploration of the physical properties of soil. Jim presented information about soil formation, classification, forming factors, structure, and pH, followed by a walk where participants learned how to conduct a soil profile and determine soil texture.

Schoolyard Habitats and Garden Projects

Schoolyard Habitat Project – Fort Jones Elementary School, Ft. Jones, CA. Fall-Spring, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted staff at Fort Jones Elementary School with applying for and securing Schoolyard Habitat Program (SYH) funding for their SYH project on school grounds. The funding was used to convert parts of the traditional campus to areas of habitat to encourage wildlife use and included planting of small plants, shrubs, and trees. The project was centrally located on campus and was an extension of the existing school garden.



Schoolyard Habitat Project – Willow Wind Community Learning Center, Ashland, OR. Ongoing, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO assisted Lomakatsi Restoration Project staff to apply for and secure Schoolyard Habitat Program (SYH) funding for a SYH project at the Willow Wind Community Learning Center. The project will involve restoring and enhancing riparian habitat through the re-establishment of native trees and vegetation to enhance salmon and wildlife habitat along the confluence of Paradise and Bear Creeks. The project also includes habitat enhancement along two seeps on the property.

Schoolyard Habitat Project Site Visit – Cascade Christian High School, Medford, OR. August 27, 2013. Sheri Hagwood and Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO and Niki Del Pizzo from Lomakatsi conducted a Schoolyard Habitat site visit at Cascade Christian High School (CCHS). The group met with staff members from CCHS to view the potential SYH project and discuss ideas to restore the roughly 1,500 feet of riparian forest along the school side of Bear Creek. The majority of the work will consist of removal of invasive weeds and planting and maintaining native vegetation.





Schoolyard Habitat Project Site Visit – Oak Grove Elementary School, Medford, OR. August 27, 2013. Jennifer Jones and Sheri Hagwood from the Yreka FWO and Niki Del Pizzo of Lomakatsi Restoration Project met with Ginny Kriz and Ashley Anderson from the Oak Grove Elementary School to assess the school grounds for a potential Schoolyard Habitat (SYH) project. The site is located in the back of the school campus and consists of a grove of mature Ponderosa pine and a larger grove of mixed species, including maple, redwood, cedar, black oak, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, and spruce. There is no understory, so the plan is to plant native understory species to provide habitat to encourage wildlife use.

Children’s Garden Project – Yreka Community Garden, Yreka, CA. Summer, 2013. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO attended planning and budget meetings for expanding 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 team members representing the Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou Arboretum, Yreka Garden Club, Yreka Resource Center, and other community members and organizations. Accomplishments in 2013 include planting the educational garden beds and butterfly garden, adding shade and play structures, and maintaining existing garden features.

August Institute Teacher Training – OSU Extension, Central Point, OR. August 13, 2013. Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO teamed up with Rachel Werling from the OSU Extension and Niki Del Pizzo of Lomakatsi Restoration Project to lead a teacher training workshop called, “Schoolyard Habitats: Use What You Have, Design Something New” at the 2013 August Institute. Jennifer first gave a powerpoint presentation to the almost 30 teachers about the FWS Schoolyard Habitat Program (SYH). The presentation first covered the attributes of a SYH project and benefits to both wildlife and students. Jennifer then described the steps to create a successful SYH project, including forming a team, developing a master plan, site assessment, project design, budget, installation, maintenance, and use of the project. Jennifer answered several questions from the teachers and guided them through the process of applying for SYH funding. Rachel then brought the teachers outside to introduce them to engaging and educational activities they could use as part of the outdoor classroom experience to fulfill the math, science, literature and art school curriculum standards. Activities included a “Sound Map” to hone the student’s observation skills, “Biodiversity Survey” to teach about the diversity of plants and animals in the local environment, and “Up on the Rooftop” to teach about the water cycle and water catchment. Niki finished up the 3 hour workshop by having the teachers practice hands on learning about site selection and design using the OSU outdoor gardens as examples. Jennifer, Rachel, and Niki all had booths at the Resource Fair held later that week to provide information to participants about their various programs.

August Institute was a 4 day teacher training hosted by the Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leaders (SOREEL) and held at the OSU Extension Service office in Central Point. The theme of the week was “Schoolyard learning: Harnessing nature to deliver the Common Core!”



Through learning sessions and field trips, teachers explored how place-based learning and environmental education in schoolyards support the Common Core standards and STEM learning. The Institute provided a venue where regional teachers and administrators were able to access and connect with resource information, programs, education kits, materials, and curricula to support their educational needs.

Restoration Programs

Yreka Creek Greenway Work Party – Yreka Creek Greenway Visitor Center, Yreka, CA. August 24, 2013. John Morris from the Yreka FWO helped remove invasive plants and litter from the Greenway Visitor Center and along the streamside Greenway Trail during the Yreka Creek Greenway Work Party. The 12 volunteers, which included half from local Rotary Clubs and the other half from the Yreka Creek Committee, refurbished the Yreka Creek Greenway Visitor Center's planter beds, removed trash from this most public reach of Yreka Creek, and cleared its trails to give people access to enjoy streamside habitats.



Yreka Creek Greenway Work Party – Yreka Creek Greenway, Yreka, CA. September 14, 2013.

John Morris from the Yreka FWO worked with 8 members of the Yreka Creek Committee and Karuk Tribe to clear the Greenway Visitor Center's east streamside trail of thorny blackberries to make it more accessible to visitors. The work party also cleared half mile of the Yreka Creek Greenway of 10 large bags of trash and trailside star thistle.



Earth Day Restoration Event – Yreka Creek Greenway, Yreka, CA. April 20, 2013. Ryan Fogerty and John Morris from the Yreka FWO helped remove invasive plants and streamside trash along Yreka Creek during the Earth Day Work Party. The 15 volunteers, which included members of the California Conservation Corps; Siskiyou Parks, Gardens, and Greenway Association; and local neighbors hauled two truckloads of garbage and noxious weeds from the stream on the north end of town to prepare for this summer's North Yreka Creek Greenway Project, which will involve the

construction of Greenway trails, trailhead, picnic area and stream overlooks. This segment of the Yreka Creek Greenway was selected for funding by the California River Parkways Grant Program for its benefits to the community and stream resources, and the award will help pay for these projects. The goal of the Greenway clean-up effort and other projects is to improve the creek's ability to safely carry floodwaters, restore wetlands and stream habitats, and enhance public access with trails and picnic facilities.

Mount Shasta Trail Clearing – Whitney Glacier Trail, Weed, CA. June 2, 2013. John Morris from the Yreka FWO worked with Donald Flickinger from NOAA Fisheries and John Golay to clear the Whitney Glacier Trail on the northwest side of Mt. Shasta in honor of National Trails Day.

Weed Removal Day – Cracker Gulch, Yreka, CA. May 20, 2013. Sheri Hagwood and Nadine Kanim of the Yreka FWO led a weed pull at the endangered Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*) Cracker Gulch population on private



lands. Twelve members of the Yreka FWO and one volunteer spent three hours pulling dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) from within the Cracker Gulch population and a 50 feet buffer zone. The Yreka FWO staff learned how to identify dyer's woad, how to correctly pull this noxious weed, and its threat to Yreka phlox. Staff members were also taught the identification of many of the native plant species at Cracker Gulch. And everyone enjoyed the baked goodies provided after a hard morning of pulling on the steep slopes of Cracker Gulch!

Outreach

Career Fair – Yreka High School, Yreka, CA. May 15, 2013. Darla Eastman from the YFWO gave a presentation to more than 100 high school students about working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the Yreka High School Career Fair. Darla first gave an overview of the FWS's mission and purpose, and then described the various job opportunities within the FWS, including Wildlife Biologist, Fishery Biologist, Fire Crew, Field Supervisor, Environmental Outreach Specialist, Public Affairs Specialist, and Administrative Officer.

California Conservation Corps Career Awareness– Yreka FWO, Yreka, CA. May 10, 2013. Darla Eastman and Jennifer Jones from the Yreka FWO gave a presentation to two California Conservation Corps (CCC) members about working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the CCC's "Career Pathways" program. After the presentation, the CCC crew interviewed Bob Carey and Katherine Fitzgerald from the Yreka FWO about their education and prior work experience, and about their current job position.

Connecting People with Nature Presentation – Aquarium Incubator Inservice, Yreka, CA. January 30, 2013. 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, provide information about the Schoolyard Habitat Program, and develop partnerships with local educators. Approximately 10 people attended the workshop and participants included local educators and California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Connecting People with Nature Presentation – Yreka FWO, Yreka, CA. February 4, 2013. Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO gave a presentation at the Yreka FWO staff meeting to update staff about the Connecting People with Nature program, provide information about the Schoolyard Habitat Program, and encourage staff participation in CPWN activities.

Women in Science Interview – Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR. May 8, 2013. 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.

Trinity Alps Presentation – Ashland and Yreka Libraries, Ashland, OR and Yreka, CA. August 19 and September 7, 2013. Jennifer Jones and Jenny Ericson of the Yreka FWO helped sponsor and publicize a presentation about the Trinity Alps at the Ashland and Yreka libraries for 25 and 15

The Yreka Library presents

The Trinity Alps

Our presenter, Tim Sims, will share photos and excerpts from his recent book, then entertain questions about the Trinity Alps and the Russian Wilderness. Tim, a Mount Shasta resident, is the recent author of *My Trinitities*, a book that is part trail guide, part memoir, all mountain love story.



My Trinitities
Playing in
England's Northern California's
most spectacular wilderness
by Tim Sims

**Saturday, Sept 7
11 a.m.**

Yreka Library
419 South 4th Street

Free admission
All ages welcome

My Trinitities is
available in all
eReader formats at
Smashwords.com

For more information,
please call 530-847-4275

members of the public, respectively. Author Tim Sims presented his new eBook *My Trinities: ~~Exploring~~ Playing in Northern California's Most Spectacular Wilderness*. Sharing photos and excerpts, Mr. Sims entertained questions about the Trinity Alps and the Russian Wilderness and shared his first-hand knowledge of 138 lakes, all major peaks and trails, plus backcountry information not found in other books. Tim also talked about the geology, history, botany, swimming holes, and bear dens of this region with life-or-death narratives and humor throughout.

Connecting People with Nature Website – Yreka FWO, Yreka, CA. Ongoing, 2013. Juanita Quijada and Jennifer Jones of the Yreka FWO updated the Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature website to include current information about the program, including annual activity reports, guided nature walk flyers and press releases, and “10 Things to Do in Siskiyou County” brochures. Jennifer provided the information to Juanita, who then did all the technical work to make the website current.