

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).



Photo: Robert Coffan, left, owner of Katalyst Inc., demonstrates the use of a flow meter with the assistance of teacher John Barber and student Shelby Allensworth on May 31, 2012 at the mouth of Bear Creek, near Central Point, Oregon. Photo taken by Haven Combs.

June 7, 2012

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 March 2013

Date of Event: May 30 and 31, 2012

Participants: 45 students from the Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School.

Contributors:

- Haven Combs, John Barber and Anna Warntjes; Teachers from the Environmental Studies program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School (School District #6).
- Guest Instructor: Robert Coffan, Principal Hydrologist, Katalyst, Inc.
- Guest Instructor: Craig Tuss, Rogue Valley Council of Governments

Description of the Event:

On May 30 and 31, 2012, students, from the Environmental Studies Program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon, learned about a unique habitat restoration project in their back yard. The 45 sophomores and juniors are part of two blocks which meet daily (a morning session and early afternoon session)

The first day students were provided with a 1-hour classroom presentation regarding the former Gold Ray Dam and impoundment area and the work associated with removing the dam, restoring some of the area impacted by the removal activities and the ongoing monitoring to document the effects of removing the dam on the physical, biological, economic and social character of the area.,

On the second day two field trips provided the same students an opportunity to visit the area. The two, 2-hour visits were 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).

Teachers Haven Combs and John Barber, responsible for the Environmental Studies Curriculum along with volunteers from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments and Katalyst, Inc., provided information during the classroom sessions and field trips describing actions taken to remove the dam, tools used to monitor water quality, groundwater and wetland characteristics and actions taken to control invasive species.



Photo: Robert Coffan, Hydrologist and owner of Katalyst, Inc., demonstrates the use of a flow meter with the help of Alexis Brown, a student in the Environmental Studies Program at Crater High School. Photo taken by Haven Combs.

Photo: A portion of the students participating in the visit to the former Gold Ray Dam site, near Central Point, Oregon. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding paid for the bus service provided by First Student. Photo taken by Craig Tuss.



Students were exposed to river restoration techniques such as engineered log jams, stream bank stabilization, and planting methods. They received hands on experience with flow meters and measuring ground water depth. They also were able to see a great blue heron rookery.

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 contribute to conservation efforts. The teachers are also looking for student projects (such as adopting lower Bear Creek as a water quality monitoring area) to contribute to future conservation, restoration and monitoring in the local area.

This project will continue during the fall and winter of 2012/2013. The students will visit vernal pools and emergent wetlands on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Denman Wildlife

Management Area along with a return trip to assist with planting native plant species in the former Gold Ray Dam and impoundment area.



Photo: Robert Coffan demonstrates the use of a hand-held conductivity meter with the assistance of student Shelby Allensworth at the mouth of Bear Creek near Central Point, Oregon. Photo taken by Haven Combs.



Photo: Part of a Great Blue Heron rookery along the Rogue River near the former Gold Ray Dam and impoundment area. Photo taken by Craig Tuss.

The Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School Environmental Studies Program Visits the Denman Wildlife Area, Located 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).



Photo: Service Botanist Sam Friedman provides a powerpoint regarding vernal pool plants to Environmental Studies Class on October 23, 2012. Photo taken by Craig Tuss.

October 30, 2012

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 March 2013

Date of Event: October 23 and 24, 2012

Participants: 83 students from the Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School.

Contributors:

- Haven Combs, Anna Warntjes and Chris Rennaker; Teachers from the Environmental Studies program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School (School District #6).
- Guest Instructor: Sam Friedman, Botanist, USFWS.
- Guest Instructor: Craig Tuss, Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Guest Instructor: Clayton Barber, ODFW

Description of the Event:

On October 23 and 24, 2012, students from the Environmental Studies Program at Crater Renaissance Academy and Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon, received instruction on the importance of wetlands and wetland plants. The 58 sophomores and juniors and 25 seniors are part of two blocks which meet daily (a morning session and early afternoon session)

Teachers Haven Combs, Anna Warntjes and Chris Rennaker, responsible for the Environmental Studies Curriculum; along with guest instructors from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Rogue Valley Council of Governments and the Service, provided information during the classroom sessions and field trips describing wetland characteristics and actions taken to control invasive species.

The first day provided students with a 1-hour classroom presentation regarding the importance and types of wetlands and their role in the physical, biological, economic and social character of the area.

On the second day two field trips provided the same students an opportunity to visit wetlands on the ODFW's Denman Wildlife Management Area. Clayton Barber, the manager of the management area provided information regarding the values of the area to the community and the fish and wildlife resources that depend on the area for habitat. During the visits, students observed vernal pools during their dry phase, invasive species and had an opportunity to collect native wetland plant species to take back to the School's wetland project area. The two, 2-hour visits were 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: Clayton Barber of ODFW and Sam Friedman of FWS discuss native and non-native vegetation issues with students at a dry vernal pool.



Photo: A constructed pond at the Denman Wildlife Management area. Note the cocklebur, an invasive species.



Photo: A group students standing on the edge of a dry vernal pool.

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 contribute to conservation efforts. The teachers are also looking for student projects (such as adopting lower Bear Creek as a water quality monitoring area) to contribute to future conservation, restoration and monitoring in the local area.

This project will continue during the winter and spring of 2012/2013. The students will re-visit vernal pools and emergent wetlands on the Denman Wildlife Management Area during the late winter (to see them during the “wet” phase) along with a trip in April to visit the vernal pools and wild flowers on top of Upper Table Rock.