

# NEWS Release Bureau of Land Management • Forest Service

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## LOCAL YOUTH GETTING WORK DONE ON BLM AND FOREST SERVICE LANDS

*Roseburg, OR* - Local youth, working in a program called the Phoenix Youth Corps, a part of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, completed much-needed work on both Roseburg District BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands throughout Douglas County during the summer of 2014.

The Phoenix Youth Corps have contributed to the Roseburg District BLM mission by collecting invaluable field data, removing invasive plant species on the Sawmill Trail, surveying downed wood and snags, and assisting with stream restoration work at the North Bank Habitat Management Area. The Youth Corps season concluded this year with crews snorkeling for fish species in tributaries to the Umpqua River. By completing surveys and accomplishing restoration work, youth are directly helping the Roseburg District better achieve its mission of successfully managing public lands and forests.

The Phoenix Youth Corps is also doing work with the U.S Forest Service and community organizations such as Umpqua Watersheds on a variety of projects. A total of 36 youth have been employed during the summer of 2014. "These youth are gaining invaluable life experiences, and learning the value of a hard day's work," said Joseph Edmonds, Vista Volunteer with the Bureau of Land Management and Phoenix Charter School.

Here's what two summer Corps members have to say about working in the Phoenix Youth Corps:

"OYCC has brought out the best of me. It has helped me mature over the years, and I have absolutely adored every day I've been here." (Kevin Wene)

"It's been a great opportunity working on the crew! I've learned a lot about plants, and hope to get a job in [botany] when I finish." (Shelbey Neifert)

The Phoenix Youth Corps' summer ended August 7, 2014.

The Phoenix Youth Corps was organized over twenty years ago and aims to educate and engage Douglas County youth in the critical field of natural resources, giving them real-world experience and needed skills to pursue a career in natural resources.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Phoenix Youth Corps and the work they are doing with the BLM, they can contact Joseph Edmonds at [jjedmonds@blm.gov](mailto:jjedmonds@blm.gov), or 541-464-3252.

**About the BLM:** The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

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