

Oregon/Washington BLM 2011 Youth Programs Summary, Accomplishments, and Highlights

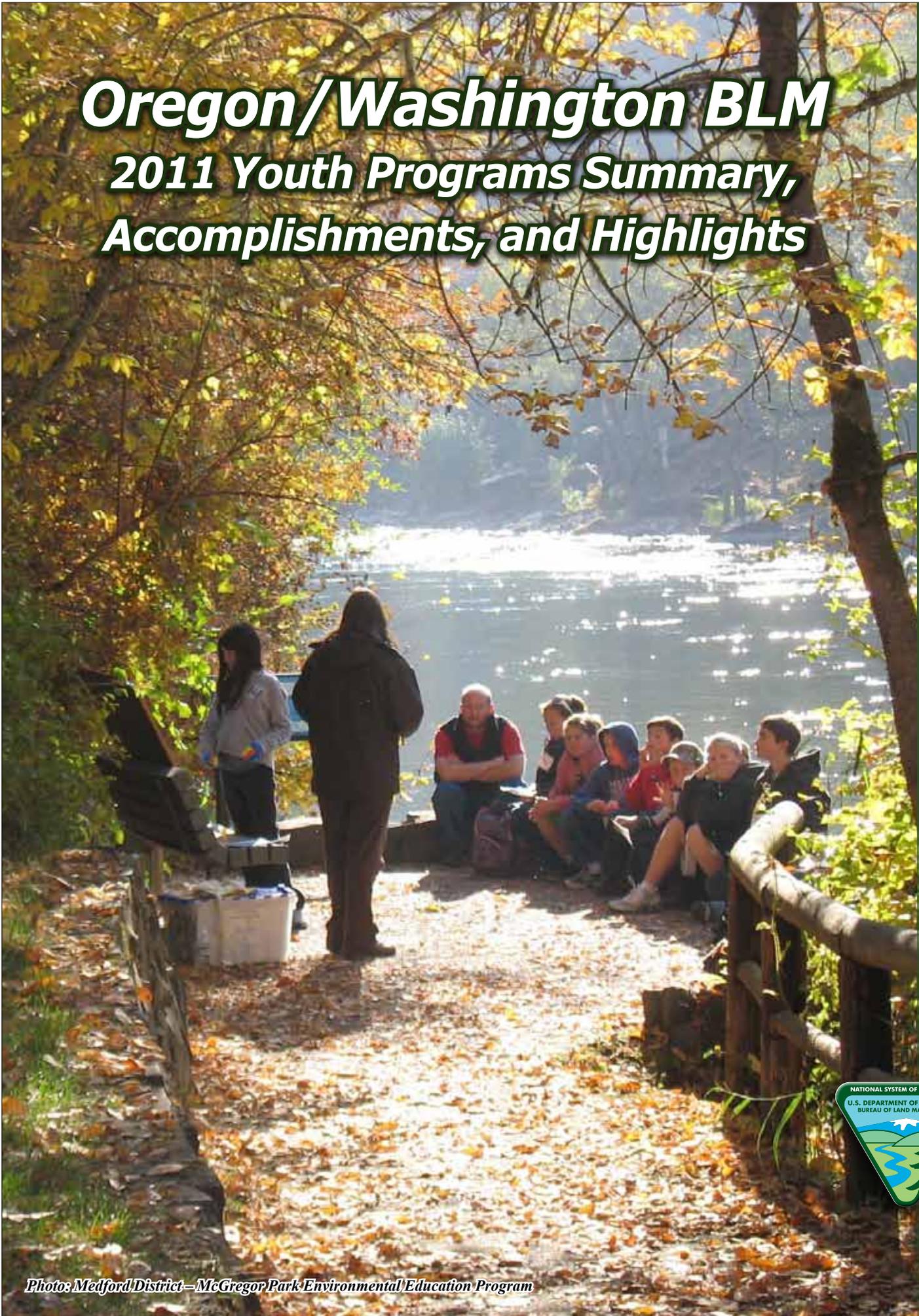


Photo: Medford District—McGregor Park Environmental Education Program

Medford District – Jefferson Conservation Corps Award Winners



Oregon/Washington BLM

2011 Youth Programs Summary, Accomplishments, and Highlights

Summary

The Secretary of the Interior’s Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative focuses on youth from early childhood through young adulthood and features a variety of programs that educate, engage, employ, and include young people. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed and maintains programs for youth that build on the spark of childhood wonder about the natural world, sustain interest through hands-on education and volunteer experiences, and develop into long-term engagement and stewardship, as well as pursuit of natural resource careers.

In Fiscal Year 2011 (FY 11), Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) BLM successfully implemented the national Youth Initiative by ensuring a balanced “portfolio” of youth programs statewide that engage, educate, employ, and include youth. The State Leadership Team (SLT) established key tactics and provided ongoing support and monitoring of the 2015 Strategic Plan Youth Theme. The State Office Youth Programs Core Team provided technical assistance, shared information with the Washington Office and district offices, and continued emphasis on streamlining processes and documenting accomplishments. This level of administrative and policy support increased organizational capacity, allowing districts to focus efforts on delivering and expanding programs and activities that make meaningful connections between youth and the outdoors. As a result, OR/WA BLM met and, in most cases, substantially exceeded assigned performance goals.

The following report highlights significant program accomplishments achieved in FY 11 and demonstrates how Oregon/Washington BLM is ensuring youth education, engagement, employment, and inclusion efforts are delivered in a focused and coordinated manner.

Key Program Accomplishments

Together, OR/WA's 10 Districts and State Office:

- **Conducted over 227 programs** and projects that engaged, educated, and included approximately 36,687 youth as well as another 17,078 adults that accompanied them.
- **Employed 856 youth** for 80 hours or more and another 164 youth less than 80 hours. A total of 281 youth were directly hired by the agency and 575 youth were hired indirectly through partner organizations, representing an overall thirteen percent increase in youth hiring from FY 10.
- **Co-branded numerous district events** and activities in support of national campaigns, initiatives, and programs including:
 - 44 Take It Outside Programs
 - 14 Let's Move Outside Programs
 - 15 National Public Lands Day Events
 - 5 Free Fishing Day/Week Events
 - Others were tiered to Get Outdoors Day, Earth Day, National Trails Day, Migratory Bird Day, Oregon Archeology Month, River Clean-up Month, and Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T) Day, and specific community-support related efforts.
- **Continued participation in 7 Hands on the Land projects** including: Table Rocks and McGregor Park (Medford); Alder Creek and Glide School (Roseburg); West Eugene Wetlands Education Center (Eugene); National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (Vale); Wildwood (Salem).
- **Received the national "Partners in Conservation" Award** from Secretary of the Interior for the Medford District's work with youth in the Jefferson Conservation Corps.
- **Completed the first full year of implementing the statewide Assistance Agreement with Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC)**, the state agency that serves as a clearinghouse for all youth corps operating in Oregon, successfully resulting in a streamlined system for allocating youth corps funds for partner-supported hires. A combination of more \$230,000 in national youth initiative and District funds was directed through OYCC to projects in all 9 Oregon Districts, accomplishing important recreation and cultural resources work with a variety of community partners.



Coos Bay District – Northwest Youth Corps Student

Leadership

Youth is one of 12 Themes contained in the OR/WA BLM 2015 Strategic Plan. Five State Leadership Team (SLT) members, including two District Managers and three State Office managers (Prineville District Manager, Medford District Manager, Management Services Deputy State Director, Equal Employment Office Manager, and Human Resources Officer), guide and monitor Youth Theme actions. Updates are provided to the entire SLT as part of their regularly scheduled meetings. Each district office has established a Youth Program Point of Contact to help facilitate information sharing, local coordination, and accomplishment reporting.



Prineville District – Leadership Recognition of Boy Scout Troup 198

An Oregon State Office Youth Programs Core Team facilitates information sharing and coordination between statewide programs in order to guide district offices with “one voice.” Bonnie Lippitt, designated OR/WA Point of Contact co-coordinates the program with Maya Fuller, Outreach Specialist. Both work in the Division of Natural Resources. Other Core Team members represent: Partnerships and Volunteers, Human Resources, Equal Employment, visitor centers, and the field.

In FY 11 the Youth Programs Core Team:

- Allocated and tracked \$275,000 from WO funding to the district offices received under two statewide Budget Planning System youth initiative proposals.
- Conducted conference calls with each of the 10 district offices to ensure understanding of the State Director’s performance elements and gain a better insight of each District’s approach to youth programs.
- Tracked youth employment figures (direct and indirect) on a monthly basis in response to the assigned target from the WO.
- Completed the first statewide inventory and assessment of existing youth programs and activities using the innovative SharePoint database system created for the OR/WA Youth Program.
- Ensured youth activities were well-integrated with local, state, tribal, national, Departmental and BLM-specific initiatives including student hiring, diversity, and child health and wellness programs.
- Confirmed nearly every program area in OR/WA had demonstrated a youth component as part of the priority work being done.



Prineville District – Heart of Oregon Conservation Corps Youth



Burns District – High Desert Range Camp



Burns District – High Desert Range Camp



Coos Bay District – Umpqua Tree Plant

Program Highlights

Through partnerships and collaboration, OR/WA BLM has developed and maintains a broad spectrum of youth-related programs and activities focused in four areas: **Engage, Educate, Employ, and Include**. Additional details on the following highlights and all 227 programs can be found on the OR/WA Youth Programs Sharepoint site.

Engaging Youth

The OR/WA BLM has outstanding opportunities to reach young people through family-friendly interpretation, outdoor skills training, stewardship activities, and nationally-branded programs such as Take it Outside and Let's Move Outside that emphasize the connection between outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles. The agency also manages numerous interpretive and Watchable Wildlife sites, providing opportunities for self-guided exploration and connecting to the outdoors.

Burns District: High Desert Youth Range Camp

The BLM Burns District participated in a week-long High Desert Youth Range Camp for high school students led by the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center. For no cost, 30 youth were educated on current issues and rangeland management practices. They increased their knowledge rangelands management; developed leadership skills; networked with other students and career professionals; received college credit; discovered options for careers in the Rangeland and Natural Resource fields; and earned the chance to represent Oregon at the Society of Range Management High School Student forum.

Coos Bay District: Umpqua Tree Plant

In longstanding annual tradition, almost 100 fifth-grade students and 20 adults spent a half day planting trees in the Umpqua watershed. The event was organized by a variety of forestry agencies, including the BLM Coos Bay and Roseburg Districts, Roseburg Forest Products, volunteers, and retired foresters who helped provide the trees, equipment, location, and a barbecue.

Eugene District: Play in the Rain Day

This free family event takes place each fall to encourage kids and their parents to get outdoors and have fun regardless of the weather. In FY 11, the event offered nearly 650 youth and 350 adults numerous outdoor activities including tree climbing, campfire cookery, archery, a visit from Smokey Bear, nature activities, hiking, and more. The event is conducted by the Youth in Nature Partnership, comprised of the Willamette National Forest, Eugene District BLM, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Northwest Youth Corps, Willamette Resources Education Network, Nearby Nature, and the City of Eugene.



Eugene District – Play in the Rain Day Event

Lakeview District: Promoting Lifetime Activities for Youth Day (P.L.A.Y)

The Lakeview District’s Klamath Falls Resource Area teamed-up with local partners to introduce youth to shooting, fishing, trapping, duck and goose calling, outdoor safety and survival, archery, horse packing, wildlife identification, and camping through an engaging mix of seminars, demonstrations, and activities. The BLM staffed a display booth at the event, which familiarized youth to the local area's wildlife as they walked along a trail through simulated range and forest lands. Other partners included: Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Back Country Horsemen, Kingsley Bowman, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Henley ROTC, and Home Depot.



Lakeview District – Promoting Lifetime Activities for Youth

Spokane District: Wenatchee River Salmon Festival

For more than 20 years this free, award-winning annual event, set on the grounds of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, has connected families to nature in a fun and entertaining way. In FY 11 the salmon festival hosted nearly 10,000 participants that took part in the many hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, wildlife “edutainment”, music, and art, and experienced a meaningful cultural exchange with Native Americans in their tribal village. The BLM Wenatchee Field Office hosted a “Salmon Obstacle Course” highlighting the journey of the salmon, natural resource issues, and nearby recreation opportunities. Partners of the Salmon Festival include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Chelan PUD, Go Play Outside Alliance of Washington, and many more.



Spokane District – Wenatchee River Salmon Festival



Eugene District – McGowan Creek Environmental Science Program



Medford District – Southern Oregon University Students Field Seminar to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument



Medford District – Pilot Rock, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Educating Youth

OR/WA BLM offers both short-term and ongoing formal education programs with local and regional schools and universities. In addition, the agency operates two major visitor centers that provide opportunities for both self-guided and curriculum-based educational experiences.

Eugene District: McGowan Creek Environmental Science Program

A hands-on field trip to Eugene District’s McGowan Creek Environmental Education Area complements the 5th grade “Environments” science kit taught in Springfield, Oregon public schools. McGowan Creek features a unique low elevation old growth forest, stream, wetland, and two ponds all used for educational learning. In FY 11, 520 students and 90 adults participated in field trips to the site, completing the “Forest Environments” lesson with an old-growth hike and beaver pond activity. Partners in the Environmental Science Program include: WET/WELL Program with the Springfield Public Schools, Lane Education Service District, and the City of Springfield.

Medford District: Southern Oregon University and Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) Interpretive Specialist and Monument Manager provided a coordinated package of presentations, field trips, and professional guidance to approximately 15 Southern Oregon University (SOU) graduate students and 3 staff members over the course of the academic year. University students helped develop a “Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Education Trunk” as part of SOU’s education trunks library distributed throughout the region. In addition, SOU students developed interpretive waysides implementing the CSNM Interpretive Plan. Guest lectures and a field seminar to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail helped demonstrate interpretive opportunities, themes, and techniques.

Roseburg District: Phoenix Charter School Winter Fisheries Habitat Education

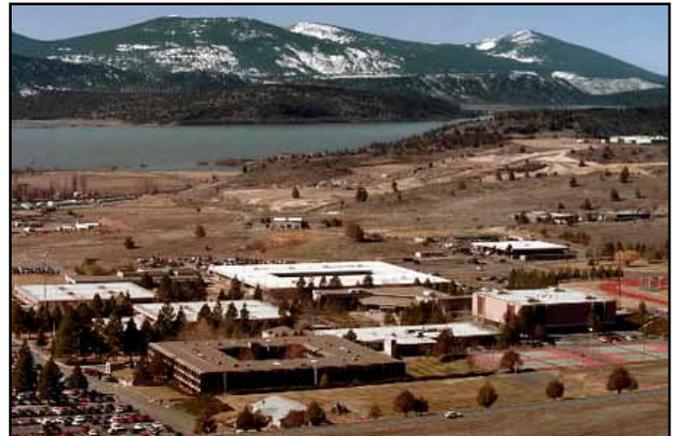
The BLM Roseburg District established a formal relationship with the local Phoenix Charter School serving many at-risk students. Together BLM staff, teachers, and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer developed curriculum to engage students and provide hands-on field work to apply the concepts learned in the classroom. Once a week during the winter, six to eight students conducted winter habitat survey work on approximately 3 miles of stream in the North Bank Habitat Management Area, introducing work that an entry level fisheries biologist would perform as one of their job duties. This is new program will be expanding in FY 12.



Roseburg District – Phoenix Charter School Students

Lakeview District: Oregon Institute of Technology

In 2005, the BLM established an ongoing partnership with the Oregon Institute of Technology that affords senior-level students direct field experience assisting the Klamath Falls Resource Area with the surveying of property lines and corners as part of a senior year project. New projects are planned annually to enhance the skill set of students and assist the BLM and U.S. Forest Service in the completion of necessary land survey field work.



Lakeview District – Oregon Institute of Technology

Spokane District: "On the Rock" Environmental Education Program

The BLM management in the San Juan Islands focuses on the conservation of the area's unique natural and cultural resources. Spokane District staff partnered with the Lopez Island Conservation Corps (LICC) and the Lopez Island School District to offer the "On the Rock" Program, a full day of environmental education and community service. Agency staff shared the special management considerations for the island's Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and identified career options in resource management. The event included a stewardship component eradicating a nonnative plant called "sweetbriar" that brought it all together.



Spokane District – On-the-Rocks San Juan Islands Education Program



Salem District – Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area



Salem District – Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area



Vale District – National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Visitor Center Education Opportunities

Salem District: Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) is home to some of Oregon's most accessible and ecologically diverse tide pools. BLM offers ranger-led educational science programs to students grades 3 through 8, as well as self-guided programs for groups of all ages. In FY 11, just over 6,500 students participated from schools across the state. The guided programs engage students and teachers in hands-on exploration of the intertidal area, using standards linked to state curriculum. Through its educational program, YHONA and its partner, Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses, also provided six months indirect employment to three interns from April through October. The interns, recent college graduates seeking initial job experience and training, received housing at the Oregon State University Hatfield Science Center and a weekly stipend through the friends group.

Vale District: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) offers living history demonstrations, education programs, interpretive exhibits, multi-media presentations, special events, and more than four miles of interpretive trails to tell the story of the emigrant experience and the impact of the Oregon Trail. In FY 11, over 630 youth participated in educational programs at NHOTIC; nearly 2,600 students visited on school-sponsored field trips; and nearly 100 youth participated in Junior Ranger Programs. Many more youth were educated through self-guided informal interpretation, demonstrations and performing arts, special events, and workshops. The NHOTIC has also developed numerous teacher resources including: two Education Resource Guides, available for download to help with classroom study or group field trips; Oregon Trail related videos; teacher packets and field trip planning guides; traveling education trunks; and activity pages and homework helpers.

Employing Youth

From outreach and mentoring to recruitment and hiring, all ten OR/WA BLM districts provided direct and indirect employment for local youth. A total of 856 youth were hired, a thirteen percent increase from FY 10. There were 281 youth directly hired by the agency through SCEP, STEP, and related programs and 575 youth, working 80 hours or more, were hired indirectly through partner organizations. An additional 164 youth worked less than the 80 hour requirement, but still contributed significant benefits to the agency.



Coos Bay District – Northwest Youth Corps at Dean Creek

Coos Bay District: Northwest Youth Corps

Coos Bay District sponsored 30 weeks of Northwest Youth Corps crews to complete recreation, wildlife habitat restoration, and forestry projects on various sites throughout the district. Crews were typically 10 members in size, with a mixture of younger and older crews. The program teaches youth skills with tools, working together, problem solving, and getting necessary work done on public lands. This year's program reached 300 youth and an additional 87 adults, although not all youth employed met the 80 hour requirement.



Coos Bay District – Northwest Youth Corps at Dean Creek

Vale District: Kids Art Program

The Vale District hired a high school intern to coordinate a new Kids Art Program with Vale Middle School. Working with seven different classes and 175 students over a 5 month span, the intern, along with BLM specialists, introduced students to the BLM mission, natural resource issues, and career opportunities available through the agency. Following the presentations, students created artwork about what they learned. The BLM provided the necessary supplies including paint sets, watercolor paper, brushes, and colored pencils. The finished artwork was mounted in the Vale District Office conference room and the intern coordinated student visits to the BLM office to see their artwork professionally displayed. The intern also worked with the SO PAO staff to produce the artwork as a poster, which was shared with School Board Members, hung at the middle school, and provided to each participating student to take home. The intern continues to work for the District while she now attends college, inspiring other Vale High School students to volunteer with BLM.



Vale District – Kids Art Program



Prineville District – Heart of Oregon Corps Working Along Deschutes River

Prineville District: Heart of Oregon Corps

Supported by a consortium of government and nonprofit partners, the Heart of Oregon Corps hires youth to work on public lands in a natural resources-based, hands-on education and employment program. Participants do hard physical work, earn minimum wage, and can earn a high school “skills based learning credit.” This past summer, BLM Prineville District indirectly employed 30 Heart of Oregon Corps youth to begin implementing a Recreation Area Plan for Cline Buttes, a popular destination between Sisters and Redmond, Oregon. Participants removed and installed fences and gates and built a kiosk, all to help manage public access. The crew also completed trail work, developed parking areas, decommissioned roads/routes, and removed noxious weeds.



Salem District – Woape Youth Crew Building New Sandy Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System

Salem District: Woape Partnership

The BLM Salem District worked with Woape, a non-profit organization based in Brightwood, Oregon, to employ local youth 14 to 18 years-old to build and maintain the new Sandy Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System. Woape provides community and occupation-based teaching using indoor and outdoor classrooms to support spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical development of local area youth. Under the direction of the International Mountain Biking Association and BLM trail specialists, 24 Woape youth crew participants worked on the Sandy Ridge Trail System from May through September, constructing 10 miles of the planned 18 miles of specialized trail. In a companion effort, the district leveraged youth program funds with an \$8,500 grant from corporate giant Nike, Inc. to develop and implement a youth-focused mountain biking program, run out of Woape’s new youth development center.



Salem District – Sandy Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System

Inclusion and Diversity: Outreach to Underserved Youth

In FY 11, outreach to diverse, underserved youth was strengthened in the OR/WA BLM Youth Program. All ten districts demonstrated at least one partnership focused on expanding education, engagement, or employment opportunities for underserved youth.

Burns District: Paiute Tribe Birds of Prey Presentation

A Burns District Biologist teamed up with elders of the Burns Paiute Tribe to offer a unique, cross-cultural presentation about birds of prey to area youth. Immediately prior to the presentation, Tribal elders were teaching the children native Paiute language. The biologist was able to use those lessons, the presence of the elders, and notes on a drawing board to incorporate the Paiute language into the birds of prey discussion. A hand-drawn (then photocopied) birds of prey coloring book was distributed to each participant.



Burns District – Burns Paiute Tribe Birds of Prey Presentation

Medford District: “Catch A Special Thrill” for Kids Event

The BLM Medford District again hosted the annual C.A.S.T. “Catch a Special Thrill” for Kids Event. The event offers a supportive environment where disabled and disadvantaged children, aged 6 to 18, and their caretakers can share a day of fun on Hyatt Lake in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Participants received fishing rods & reels, t-shirts, hats, and tackle boxes from a variety of sponsors. The youth were paired with a volunteer guide, and escorted on a motor boat, under the supervision of their guardian. Guides demonstrated proper fishing techniques and offered education on natural resource topics. The morning’s fishing excursion culminated with a free lunch, provided by the Lions Club, and an awards ceremony. Games and other activities were also provided. BLM waived entrance and camping fees for participants.



Medford District – Youth from the Catch a Special Thrill for Kids Event

Medford District: Latino Kids and Bugs

This annual outdoor education day, conducted in partnership with the Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners (BCWEP) and other volunteers, offers hands-on watershed education activities for local Latino youth. The BLM Medford District provides bilingual educators to lead activities exploring the unique macro-invertebrate life of the local watershed. In FY 11, 90 youth and an additional 10 adults participated in the event. The partnership provides increased watershed education opportunities for all Rogue Valley youth and encourages educators, students, communities, and public agencies and organizations to work together to protect, enhance, and maintain Bear Creek and neighboring Rogue Basin watersheds.



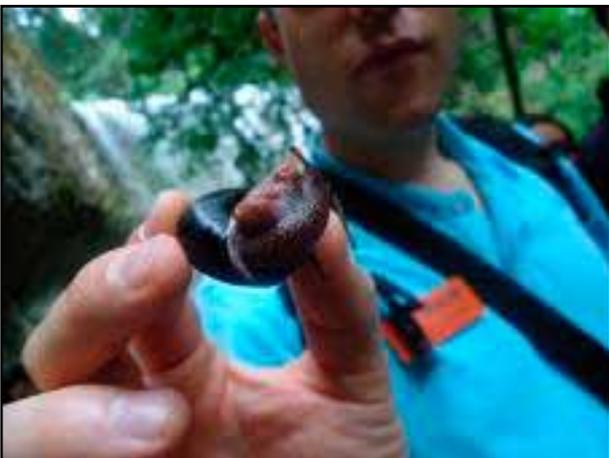
Medford District – Latino Kids and Bugs Program at Bear Creek



Salem District – Oregon Commission for the Blind Youth at Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site



Oregon State Office – Urban Nature Overnights Program at the Oregon Zoo



Oregon State Office – Urban Nature Overnights Program at the Oregon Zoo

Salem District: Oregon Commission for the Blind

The Oregon Commission for the Blind Youth Crew worked several days throughout the months of July and August at the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site splitting firewood and performing site maintenance. BLM staff worked with 10 visually impaired students, helping instill confidence and build skills for day-to-day life. The students were part of a seven week Summer Work Experience Program designed to promote work readiness, build confidence, and have fun! Students live and work with friends, experience life away from home, and earn money working 30-hours per week on a job-site, such as the BLM's Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site.

State Office Resources Staff: Urban Nature Overnights/ Zoo Animal Presenters Program

BLM sponsorship and involvement continued in the Oregon Zoo's Urban Nature Overnights (UNO) and Zoo Animal Presenters (ZAP) Programs. Via the UNO Program, the BLM helps provide more than 300 inner city, minority, and/or low income mid-elementary aged children an overnight camping experience either at the zoo or nearby public lands venues such as Wildwood Recreation Area on the Salem District. At the same time, via the ZAP Program, we help employ and train 17 at-risk inner city, minority and/or low income teens who serve as counselors for the UNO Program. These teens learn the same outdoor skills and natural resource information as the youth they are leading. BLM provides resource presentations to UNO participants, career awareness presentations for ZAP teens, field visits, and ongoing feedback as a founding member of this award-winning program now in its second decade.

State Office EEO Staff: Inner City Youth Institute (ICYI)

The ICYI Program targets middle and high school students in the greater Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan Area, increasing awareness and understanding of natural ecosystems for students of color. Emphasis is placed on sustaining the natural and cultural resources found in forest, grassland, and aquatic ecosystems. The ICYI conducts an annual week-long Natural Resources Summer Camp which helps expose teens to careers in natural resources. In FY 11, 35 participated in the program. The ICYI is a joint undertaking between Oregon State University, OR/WA BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition to funding, BLM staff volunteers during the summer camp and also provides career presentations as requested.

