Welcome to “Connecting~” The new Oregon Natural Resources Education Program newsletter. In this two page monthly newsletter you will find highlights about ONREP programs and projects, workshop summaries, upcoming opportunities, information and ideas to help you continue to deliver high quality professional development opportunities for educators. You may also find interesting ideas you can use in workshops or to further your professional development, and other miscellaneous information from the office or advisory board. If you have an idea to share please submit it to LeeAnn. ONREP reserves the right to decide and edit the content that is featured in our newsletter.

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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)
Oregon Project WILD

Facilitator Highlight - Jody Einerson

Genuine collaboration, innovative approaches, and enthusiasm describe how Jody approaches education.

She has been an integral part of bringing outstanding ONRE Program workshops to K-12 educators. Her workshops incorporate relevant topics ranging from Watersheds to Birds and their Habitats, as well as using new instructional strategies and best practices in education. She has solidified a terrific team and network that brings together Benton County OSU Extension 4-H Wildlife Stewards, Institute of Applied Ecology and Benton Soil & Water Conservation District as well as many other organization and agencies in Oregon.

She is strongly dedicated to helping educators and students see the connections between wildlife, habitat and human interaction and truly engage them in meaningful learning experiences.

Teachers as Watershed Researchers

The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program has teamed up with the Andrews Forest LTER Program to connect Oregon K-12 educators with Andrews Forest LTER research. The main activity of the partnership is the “Teachers as Researchers” project. In 2008, 13 high school teachers from around Oregon participated in a year-long project, comprised of a series of three, 2-day workshops located at 3 different experimental forests. The overall goal of the project was to increase teachers’ understanding of environmental science research and to expand their capacity to design relevant field-based science inquiry projects for their students.

Our final data and feedback indicated that the inaugural project was a success. A grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board as well as the Oregon Community Foundation, Gray Family Fund is providing funding for the ONRE Program to continue the project as “Teachers as Watershed Researchers”.

Eighteen teachers from around Oregon will participate with scientists, teacher mentors from the Andrews LTER Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program, and watershed council coordinators in three watersheds along a gradient from the forest to the sea: the Andrews Forest’s in the McKenzie River Watershed; Oregon State University Campus in the Mary’s River Watershed; and the Oregon Hatchery Research Center in the Alsea River Watershed.

Submitted By Kari O’Connell
Photo taken by: Mike Baker

“Truly enjoyed the instructors' professionalism and respect for teachers”
Portland Teacher 2009
MISC.

The No Oregon Child Left Inside Act (NOCLI) will establish a state environmental literacy plan, an environmental education grant program and an Environmental Education Advisory Council to guide Oregon in a common strategic vision for environmental education. This framework will support our youth in getting outside and reconnected with local forests, backyard streams, local farms, and nearby rivers. NOCLI will help our youth develop the knowledge and skills they will need to devise creative solutions to complex natural resources challenges. It will result in no new educational mandates, nor will it take away funding from current educational programs and efforts.

Excerpt from, and to learn more go to:
http://www.eeao.org