

PROJECT: Portland State University - Portland Education Network (PEN)
PO Box 751 Portland, OR 97201

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BUDGET: Metro grant - \$3,671
Approximate Volunteer Hours -
Total project - \$7,341

QUESTION: Can restoration activities help provide endangered youth meaningful, real-life projects?

GOAL: Provide restoration training and education materials to youth involved in conservation activities and create educational opportunities for at-risk youth. To develop curriculum which would provide information on the wildlife and ecosystems at Smith and Bybee Lakes, and to produce a video that would support educational materials at the lakes, and document the programs results.

COMMUNITY:

Roosevelt High School students in the Natural Resources class had already taken field trips to Smith & Bybee Lakes. Outreach efforts by the Portland State University team were a means of intervention to keep youth interested in school.

DESCRIPTION:

Students enrolled in the Natural Resources class at Roosevelt High School worked with graduate students and faculty from Portland State University on restoration projects at Smith & Bybee Lakes. The PSU teams developed curriculum to supplement the instruction students received in their classes. Also created were educational materials on animals in the Smith & Bybee Lakes area and positive impacts student restoration would have on the health of the ecosystem. Students were instructed on plant removal techniques, identification, planting techniques, monitoring, and the effects of removing non-native plant species. Class and field instruction were documented on video for future classes.

ACTION:

January - June 1994

- curriculum development
- video documentation of activities
- plant identification
- wildlife inventory
- technical training in restoration techniques
- on-site instruction in restoration work
- blackberry removal
- plantings of cuttings
- loosestrife removal

- monitoring impacts of removals and plantings

PARTNERSHIPS:

Roosevelt High School
City of Portland Parks Bureau
Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Metro

RESULTS:

This project provided a long-term, cost-effective approach to restoration activities at Smith & Bybee Lakes while providing youth with field experiences incorporated into their education and job skills in resource management. This project also created curriculum for future educational efforts and a video documenting the program.

BARRIERS:

Students with little outdoor experience can have an adverse reaction to working in the wetlands.