SOLV – Oregon Trout Habitat Enhancement Workshop

Final Report to

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces

US Fish and Wildlife Service

July 1999

Working To Preserve This Treasure Called Oregon

Oregon Trout

Part I: Summary of Grant Activities

Summary of Grant Activities:

SOLV and Oregon Trout presented our pilot Habitat Enhancement Workshop to 28 Middle and High School teachers and agency staff on March 4, 1999 at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

The goal of the workshop was to provide training on coordinating habitat enhancement projects with students. SOLV and Oregon Trout provided training on engaging and recruiting community volunteers, setting the scope for a restoration project, working with the media, and working with the local community in order to solicit funding and in-kind donations. Four restoration ecologists, James Allison of the Bureau of Environmental Services, Dick Caldwell of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kendra Smith of the Unified Sewerage Agency, and Mark Griswold Wilson, provided the technical aspect of the workshop. They led activities on subjects such as selecting appropriate projects, permitting requirements, appropriate species and planting techniques for different sites, harvesting and planting cuttings, erosion control, and monitoring and maintaining restoration sites. As an educational activity, we were able to revegetate two sites at Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

Through funds from the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Program, SOLV and Oregon Trout were able to offer the workshop free of charge, and to reimburse a limited number of teachers for substitute costs. In exchange, each educator is required to complete a restoration project with their students by the end of the 1999 – 2000 school year. This requirement was waived for representatives of the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, who provided free use of their Education Hall and outdoor sites, tools, and monitoring and maintenance of the demonstration planting area. The workshop was followed by an optional site tour of a student-built enhancement project, the Naturescaping site at Rau Junior High School in North Clackamas.

Relationship to Metropolitan Greenspaces Program

This project embodies the goals of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program. By training teachers to coordinate environmental restoration and enhancement projects and require each participant to complete a project, this project applies to Goals 2 and 5 of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan (Protecting and Managing Significant Natural Areas and Restoring Green and Open Spaces). Through encouraging teacher and student-based restoration projects and local community involvement, the workshop also applies to goals 7 and 8, Encouraging Local Awareness and Educating Citizens About the Regional System of Greenspaces.

Ongoing Coordination with Teachers

Draft Project Proposals, describing the project they will undertake in exchange for the free training and substitute reimbursement, have been returning to SOLV. Twelve of 18 teachers have submitted proposals as of July 1999. Oregon Trout and SOLV staff will work over the summer on reviewing these proposals, providing suggestions, and helping make contacts with technical expertise, community partners, and other assistance. SOLV and Oregon Trout are somewhat concerned that ongoing follow through on with all teachers may prove a challenge due to their many commitments and some teacher turnover. On the positive side, several participants have already applied for SOLV mini-grants for various costs associated with their projects.

In 1999 SOLV also began the Team Up For Watershed Health program, which will forge effective partnerships to restore and enhance watershed health in the Portland Metropolitan Area. As teachers begin to develop their restoration projects, this program will be an additional resource that can be applied to their efforts. Jude Rubin, the program's ecologist, has already consulted with several workshop participants. SOLV's hiring of a full-time, statewide Education Coordinator in May of 1999 will also increase the assistance SOLV can provide to teachers as they develop their projects and accompanying curriculum linked to new education standards.

Work Tasks and Timeline

Determine workshop concept and goals	Summer 1998
Submit funding request	October 1998
Grant application accepted for funding	November 1998
Visit potential sites for workshop; tour sites with site managers	December 1998
Confirm date and site for training	January 1999
Begin outreach and teacher recruitment	January 1999
Confirm participation of trainers; meet with trainers on-site to develop agenda	January 1999
Link with service learning at Dept. of Education and incorporate CIM & CAM benchmarks into program outcomes	January 1999
Participant registration and waiting list registration	Began January 1999
Meet with THPRD and USA Staff to confirm demonstration projects as part of workshop	February 1999
Walk site with USFWS	February 1999
Compile resource material and print participant handbooks	February 1999
Finalize workshop agenda	February 1999
Secure donations of materials, tools, and food	February 1999
News release sent out	February 1999
Conduct Workshop	March 4, 1999
Workshop debrief & evaluation	March 5, 1999
Mail training attendance list and information to participants	April 1999
Provide assistance and site visits to participants in designing projects and proposals	March – June 1999

Review project proposals and provide assistance for teachers working on projects during summer	July – August 1999
Provide feedback to teachers on project proposals, help link with assistance and resources	August 1999 – May 2000
All projects completed	June 30, 2000

Project Staff, Workers, and Volunteers

Primary staff for the project were Neil Schulman, SOLV Outreach Coordinator, Rebecca Martin, Oregon Trout Education Director, and Jay Hopp, Oregon Trout Education Coordinator. Assistance was provided by Amy Cortese and Jude Rubin, SOLV Program Coordinators, and Jennie Winston, Oregon Trout Volunteer Coordinator.

Kendra Smith, Unified Sewerage Agency, Dick Caldwell, ODFW, Mark Griswold Wilson, and James Allison donated critical professional time. Additional assistance was provided by Ralph Cook, Joan Andersen-Wells, and Laura Miller of Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District.

Part II: Evaluation of Project

Community Response

The community response to the workshop was enthusiastic and at times overwhelming. The workshop filled quickly and a substantial waiting list developed. Although the primary audience was middle and high school teachers, there was also interest from agency staff, friends groups, and watershed councils. This enthusiasm indicates that future workshops would continue to be successful.

Participant Response

Workshop participants had almost universally high opinions of the Workshop and several mentioned specifically that the workshop was well worth repeating in the future. The outdoor activities focusing on different restoration techniques generally tended to receive the best reviews. One consistent comment from participants was that a 2-day workshop would have been preferable given the amount of information conveyed. This format would incorporate more discussion, problem-solving, and time to apply skills to individual projects and time to explore topics in greater depth. Presenters largely shared this experience in debriefing sessions held after the workshop and discussed several changes to future workshop agendas that would fine-tune the experience.

Continuation of Habitat Enhancement Training and Future Needs

We believe that the Habitat Enhancement Workshop was a very successful pilot project worthy of continued effort. There was an enthusiastic response, and the need for restoration and enhancement continues to grow, matched by a growing number of interested community members in need of the skills to successfully carry out restoration and enhancement projects.

SOLV and Oregon Trout are currently exploring the feasibility of a second workshop in the Rogue River Basin during the late fall of 1999. Likely partners would include the Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners, a group of teachers in the Medford – Talent – Ashland region, the Bear Creek Watershed Council, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The further development of Team Up For Watershed Health will also include training on various aspects of watershed restoration. In May of 1999 SOLV also hired a full-time statewide Education Coordinator. The shaping of the SOLV education program may provide additional oppotunitiesfor teacher and student involvement in restoration projects.

The pilot workshop conducted on March 4th also highlighted two future needs if similar workshops are held in the future. First, significant professional time was donated by four ecologists, in presentations, the planning stages of the workshop, and in serving as a resource to project coordinators as they plan and implement their projects between now and June of 2000. This work came on top of already heavy workloads and without any financial compensation. In future workshops, we have discussed seeking funding to partially compensate these agencies and/or individuals for their time, or to approach this program on a broader level and obtain support from the leadership of these agencies.

Secondly, the number of projects generated by workshops such as this adds to a growing list of individuals who are seeking technical assistance from agency and private ecologists, such as assistance with site design, reviewing plans, site visits and other activities that require professional advice and guidance. While this increase in public commitment to restoration is one of the goals of this workshop, care must be taken not to overwhelm the ability of these agencies, many of which are already stretched very thin, to respond to the growing number of requests for assistance.

Attachments:

- Project budget and financial documentation
- Project photos
- Participant and presenter list
- Workshop Agenda
- Presenter's Outline (used by presenters for key information)
- Participant Handbook

SOLV – Oregon Trout Habitat Enhancement Workshop for Middle and High School Educators

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
March 4, 1999
Tualatin Hills Nature Park

8:30 - 8:45	Welcome, introductions, goals for the day	Neil Schulman, SOLV
8:45 - 8:55	The Need for Ecological Restoration	Rebecca Martin, Oregon Trout
9:00 - 9:45	Organizing a Restoration Project	Kendra Smith, USA
9:30 - 9:40	Break	
9:45 - 11:15	Community Involvement in Restoration	Neil Schulman, SOLV
11:15 – 11:30	Overview of Tualatin Hills Nature Park	Bruce Barbarasch, THPRD
11:30 – 12:20	Lunch	
12:30 – 1:30	In the field: Restoring Developed Areas	Mark Wilson, Ecologist Kendra Smith, USA James Allison, BES Dick Caldwell, ODFW
1:30 – 2:50	Restoration Techniques in the Park:	Mark Wilson Kendra Smith James Allison Dick Caldwell
2:50 – 3:20	Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring	Kendra Smith Dick Caldwell Mark Wilson
3:45 – 4	Linking Restoration to CIM and CAM	Jay Hopp, Oregon Trout
4:00 – 4:30	Where do we go from here?	Neil Schulman Rebecca Martin

This workshop has been funded by:

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces

US Fish and Wildlife Service

SOLV – Oregon Trout Habitat Enhancement Workshop for Middle and High School Educators

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
March 4, 1999
Tualitan Hills Nature Park

Presenter's Outline

8:30 – 8:45
I. Welcome, Introductions, Goals of Workshop **Neil**
Introductions, project agreements, ground rules

8:45 – 8:55
II. The Need for Ecological Restoration **Rebecca Martin, Oregon Trout**
*Why
*Benefits to environment, community, education
*A quick snippet of types of restoration projects (school grounds, developed sites, plantings, etc.)

9:00 – 9:30
III. Organizing a Restoration Project **Kendra Smith, USA**
* Timelines
* Realistic expectations
* Maintenance commitments
* Permitting requirements
* Coordination with land managers
* You're not in this alone

9:30 – 9:40 Break

9:45 – 11:15
III. Community Outreach for Restoration Projects **Neil Schulman, SOLV**
* Developing partnerships with community groups
* Why involve the community?
* Draw a volunteer
* Recruiting volunteers
* Some quick volunteer troubleshooting0
* Public outreach and media strategies (very abbreviated version)
* Developing sponsors for restoration projects

11:15 – 11:30
IV. A brief overview of Tualatin Hills Nature Park **Joan Anderson-Wells or Ralph Cook, THPRD**
(tentative) T

11:30 – 12:20 Lunch

V. Restoration Techniques In The Field

A. Areas around THPRD Nature Center and Parking Lot

12:30
Introduction: Mark: visioning process for restoration: activity on seeing goals for the landscape

Concepts: *Stormwater as a restoration opportunity
*Working with building/site concerns (safety, etc.)

Activities: (break into 2 groups and swich) 12:30 – 1:30 (30 minutes each rotation (swale and tower))

1.Talk through the question: how would you come up with a plan for this area (soil, drainage, other considerations, what similar nearby natural areas look like) Use area behind outhouse fence as an example

First activity: Swale area: Led by Kendra and Dick

1. Can we as small groups develop a planting plan for the spot, and then...

2. Restoration of stormwater treatments sites, built landscape

3. Plant with sedges/rushes/small shrubs in a small portion of the swale assuming we get THPRD permission?

Supplies needed:

Emergents and small shrubs (USA) Shovels,

B. Planting in gravelly area near tower: (30 minutes)
Leader: Mark and James
Concepts: The idea of retrofit: repairing/enhancing existing efforts
In small groups or one big group:
What is wrong with this picture?
How can we improve this site?

20 minutes to gather gear and walk to bridge

1:50 – 2:50 for series of activities in groups
B. Near bridge and stream: Series of Activities

Introduction: Dick 5-10 minutes
Overview of stream/streambank restoration, effects of uplands on streams and fish
Safety

Concepts:
Restoration by subtraction (removing invasives)
Projects appropriate for sites with lots of traffic, sunlight, impact, possibly soil compaction
Streambank plantings
Keeping restoration projects safe from human traffic and as a barrier
Long-term multi-stage projects

We form two groups: one led by Kendra and James, one led by Dick and Mark.
Each group will go through the these activities in generally similar order in somewhat separate areas.

Activities: (2:00 – 2:50)

1. Demonstration of erosion control fencing
2. Taking, prepping, and installing red-osier dogwood cuttings in bank areas
3. Possibly "armoring" bridge with plantings (willow ssp?) and planting areas on the bench (ash & alder)
4. Installing plant protection

5. General discussion (possbile demonstration) about invasives control (blackberry, teasel nearby, discussion of reed canary-grass

Group gathers together at same area for next activitity:

2:50 – 3:20
C: Project Monitoring and Maintenance

Introduction: Kendra
*Big picture with monitoring and maintenance
Activities: as a large group
Demonstration: Gauging stations (Dick)
Photo Plots (Kendra)
Survival/growth sampling (Mark)

C. Near bridge or (if time allows) at tadpole ponds)
Concepts: Restoration maintenance and monitoring
Leader Kendra
Activities;
Set up photo plot sample (Kendra and Dick)
Measuring survival/growth rates of a sample of a planting (Mark and James)
Lots of questions (all)

Walk Back to Nature Center

3:45 – 4 pm
VI. Curriculum Connections: **Rebecca Martin & Jay Hopp, Oregon Trout**
*Linking restoration projects to CIM/CAM goals

4 pm – 4:30
VII. Conclusion **Neil Schulman, SOLV/Rebecca Martin, Oregon Trout**
* Taking the next step in choosing and organizing projects
* USA restoration funds (and other sources)
* Connections with technical experts, watershed and land managers, local groups
* Other resources and ongoing assistance from SOLV, Oregon Trout, USA
* Upcoming tours
* Follow up from SOLV/OT on projects, reporting on their projects

4:30 **Depart**

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
MAR. 1999 PRK

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
MAR. 1999 PRK