

921709

Amphibian Monitoring and Youth Education in the Sandy River Gorge

Interim Report -- 1

June 6, 2000

The Nature Conservancy of Oregon

Principal Investigator: Curt Zonick - zonick@teleport.com
Project Coordinator: Jonathan Soll - jsoll@tnc.org; 230-07070 x329

Project Description

Monitoring Amphibians along the Sandy River Gorge

Major project goals are to:

- Establish a complex of amphibian sampling station arrays in different habitats along the Gorge. We proposed establishing at least 6 arrays.
- Develop Barlow Woods (and potentially other campus greenspaces in the Sandy River Area) as an ecological station supporting inquiry investigations by Sam Barlow High School students.
- Map habitat features (e.g., forest structure, wetland features, noxious weed populations) occurring at amphibian sample sites along the Gorge.

Progress

- *Sampling Arrays.* Currently we have 3 partial arrays established and are scheduled to complete these and establish 5-7 more arrays in the Gorge in late summer, 2000. We are presently working with students at Reynolds and Sam Barlow High Schools, Reed College, Portland Community College, and the Multnomah ESD Outdoor Schools, as well as about a dozen regular volunteers.
- *Barlow Woods.* We helped the Gresham-Barlow School District write a grant that was awarded funding for teacher training hours. We'll be conducting teacher training workshops in August that will introduce our project to the science staff and focus on the development of a management plan for Barlow Woods.
- *Mapping.* Mapping will begin in the fall, after several of the arrays have been established (and after Bigleaf Maple leaf-fall!).

Challenges

Our greatest challenge has been organizing activities that expose the maximum number of participants to the project while, at the same time, cause the smallest degree of impact to the study areas. We anticipated this challenge and are generally working with 1-3 individuals, and occasionally groups as large as 8 individuals.

Next Steps

Completing our initial project goals:

Sampling Arrays (projected completion, 12/2000)

Barlow Woods (projected completion, 12/2000)

Mapping (projected completion, 3/2001)

We are also working to extend the dimension of the sampling arrays beyond amphibians to other taxa, potentially including arthropods, plants, macrolichens, fungi, and gastropods, and developing inquiry lessons to support these new dimensions.