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Metro Greenspaces 2001-02
Salmonid Education and Enhancement Grant

FINAL REPORT
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Summary of Project:

The Environmental Information Cooperative planned and coordinated a two day water festival in the fall of 2001 and 2002. The 2001 Columbia River Watershed Festival was an outdoor environmental education event for 48 fourth and fifth-grade classes in Clark County. The 2002 festival was expanded in order to invite 56 fourth and fifth grade classes from throughout the County. Participants included teachers involved in the Salmon in the Classroom Program, a salmon rearing project involving a 55-gallon classroom aquarium, teachers planning to join the Salmon in the Classroom Program, and teachers seeking creative ideas on how to integrate environmental education in their existing curricula. In 2001, classes were bused to the Water Education Resources Center in Vancouver. In 2002, classes were bused to Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. Students, teachers and classroom volunteer parents spent two hours at the Festival where everyone had an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and interactive presentations about fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, macroinvertebrate sampling and identification, fish species identification, fishing, groundwater flow, water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, water cycle and water use, air quality, naturescaping, and natural resource appreciation. A block schedule enabled each class to experience two - three of the 12 - 14 activity stations. Activity stations were staffed by environmental educators and volunteers from local and regional public agencies, stewardship groups, businesses, and service programs.

Participating teachers and other educators were invited to attend a follow-up one-day "Salmon Go to School" workshop following the Festival to help them integrate the activities and concepts learned at the Festival and the workshop into their existing curricula. Teachers received free curriculum guides, handouts, and local resources and were offered clock hour credit for participation in the workshop.

Funds from the Greenspaces Salmonid Education and Enhancement Grant helped to support two programs sponsored by the Environmental Cooperative (EIC): the Columbia River Watershed Festival and the Salmon Go To School teacher training workshop. These programs are described separately and in further detail as follows:

I. 2001 Columbia River Watershed Festival

The 2001 Columbia River Watershed Festival was planned and implemented by four partners: the EIC, City of Vancouver, Clark County, and Clark Public Utilities.

Through hands-on activities and presentations, students learned about the benefits of watershed enhancement, local salmon recovery efforts and other water issues. They participated in a celebration of community and natural resources – fish and wildlife habitats, and populations. Multiple partners, both public and private, collaborated to deliver environmental programming that was mutually beneficial, avoiding duplication of services and demonstrating the collective power to create change.

Planning: Planning for the festival began in November 2000 with the development of a draft workplan, budget, by EIC and WREC staff. In January 2001 the program planning committee, comprised of six representatives from the four partnering agencies, met to review the draft and discuss options for dates and presenters. Because the location for this festival was the Water Resource Education Center, many of the activities were planned for inside the building, with five of the activities planned in tents located outside. Because of the scope of this project, tasks were divided among the various EIC partners.

Assigned Responsibilities: EIC staff oversaw coordination of the project. Representatives from the six partners had various roles: developing and staffing festival activity stations; providing and coordinating volunteers for festival operations; contacting teachers and promoting the festival and workshop; providing resources for distribution at the festival and workshop; arranging for volunteers and refreshments; arranging for and providing bus transportation for elementary classes to the festival; serving as trainers for the Salmon in the Classroom workshop; and providing a facilities for the workshop.

Community partners provided other support including presenters, volunteers, educational materials, and other services for the Festival and Workshop. Community partners included:

- Bonneville Dam Visitors Center
- Master Composter/Recycler Program
- U.S. Forest Service
- Vancouver Audubon Society
- Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Water Resources Education Center
- Environmental Education Center
- Clark County Water Quality and Solid Waste
- Clark Public Utilities

School districts in Clark County were asked to make both the festival and the teacher training workshop a priority by supporting teacher participation in both events. District transportation directors were asked to help plan the bussing of students to the Festival.

Promotion: Washington State mandates that environmental education be integrated across the K-12 curriculum (WA Administrative Code 180-50-115). Participation in the Watershed Festival and the follow-up Salmon Go To School teacher workshop, to learn how to integrate salmon education, habitat enhancement and related issues and concepts into existing curricula, assisted teachers in meeting this mandate.

Information was distributed to all 4th and 5th grade teachers in the Clark County area through the *Greenlines*, a monthly newsletter produced by the EIC. A direct mail to the teachers was also implemented. The information described the upcoming festival and workshop and their value in helping to meet the state mandate. As an additional incentive, monies (received in part through this grant) were made available to pay for substitute teacher reimbursement for teachers who participated in a follow-up workshop.

Location/Dates: The 2001 Festival was held on Thursday, September 25 and Friday, September 26, 2001 at Marine Park along the Columbia River and adjacent to the City of Vancouver, Water Resources Education Center. This location, several acres of natural, wooded grounds overlooking the Columbia River and its adjoining wetlands, was a natural compliment for the information that was presented.

Presenters/Volunteers: Presenters from participating agencies and organizations led the student activities at 9 different stations located throughout the site, one of those being able to accommodate 3 classes at one time. Over 50 volunteers were recruited to serve as class guides, assist presenters, direct parking and oversee first-aid, check-in, and information centers.

Audience Served: The Festival was directed at students and teachers in fourth and fifth-grade classes in Clark County schools. Over 1500 students from ? different schools participated. Teacher

participants included 1) teachers involved in the Salmon in the Classroom Program, a salmon rearing project involving a 55-gallon classroom aquarium, 2) teachers planning to join the Salmon in the Classroom program, and 3) teachers seeking creative ideas on how to integrate environmental education in their existing curricula.

The Program: Classes were bused to the Water Resource Education Center according to a prescribed schedule that staggered arrival times. Each class spent a two-hour period of time participating in 2 or 3 different activities. Each activity station was developed and staffed by volunteer educators from local and public agencies, stewardship groups, businesses and service programs.

Stations included hands-on activities and interactive presentations about fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, macroinvertebrate sampling and identification, fish species identification, groundwater flow, water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, water cycle and water use, naturescaping, and natural resource appreciation.

Volunteers directed parking, coordinated refreshments, staffed the information and first aid stations, assisted presenters, and served as class guides.

Evaluation: The immediate success of the Festival was measured by the number of classes, teachers, and students who attended the Festival, how many community partners participated in the Festival, and the feedback received from the festival evaluations distributed to all participants. The future success of this program will be evidenced by the increased support and results that enhanced watershed protection and salmon recovery efforts receive in Clark County.

II. 2002 Columbia River Watershed Festival

The 2002 Columbia River Watershed Festival was coordinated by the EIC and planned and implemented by four partners: the EIC, City of Vancouver, Clark County, and Clark Public Utilities.

Through hands-on activities and presentations, students learned about the benefits of watershed enhancement, local salmon recovery efforts and other water issues. They participated in a celebration of community and natural resources – fish and wildlife habitats, and populations. Multiple partners, both public and private, collaborated to deliver environmental programming that was mutually beneficial, avoiding duplication of services and demonstrating the collective power to create change.

Planning: The first planning and budget meeting was held in December 2001 with actual work beginning in February of 2002 when the program planning committee, comprised of five representatives from the four partnering agencies, met to discuss division of responsibilities and options for presenters. The location for the 2002 festival was determined to be Columbia Spring Environmental Education Center. This site required that all but two of the activity stations be planned in tents located outside. It was decided that the site could accommodate 11 activity stations, one large activity to accommodate 3 classes at a time. This meant that 14 classes could attend each morning and afternoon, for a total of 56 classes in two days.

Assigned Responsibilities: EIC staff oversaw coordination of the project, contacting and responding to teachers, arranging for presenters, coordinating volunteers, contacting bus barns and coordinating buses. Representatives from the five partners had various roles: developing and staffing festival activity stations; providing volunteers for festival operations; providing materials and resources for distribution to teachers at the festival and workshop; arranging for volunteers and refreshments; providing bus transportation for elementary classes to the festival; serving as trainers for the Salmon in the Classroom workshop; providing and assisting with site preparation for the workshop.

As in the past, school districts in Clark County were asked to make both the festival and the teacher training workshop a priority by supporting teacher participation in both events. District transportation directors were asked to help plan the bussing of students to the Festival.

Promotion: Information about the festival was sent directly to all 4th and 5th grade teachers in public and private schools throughout Clark County. The information described the upcoming festival and workshop and their value in helping to meet the state mandate. The *Greenlines*, a monthly newsletter produced by the EIC was sent to all 742 persons currently subscribed, announcing the Salmon Go to School teacher workshop. As an additional incentive, Monies (received in part through this grant) were made available to pay for bus transportation and substitute teacher reimbursement for teachers who participated in a follow-up workshop.

Washington State mandates that environmental education be integrated across the K-12 curriculum (WA Administrative Code 180-50-115). Participation in the watershed festival and the follow-up Salmon Go To School teacher workshop, to learn how to integrate salmon education, habitat enhancement and related issues and concepts into existing curricula, were designed to assist teachers in meeting this mandate.

Location/Dates: The 2002 Festival was held on Thursday, September 26 and Friday, September 27, 2002 at the Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. The center is located at the Evergreen Fish hatchery and provided several acres of natural, wooded grounds, fish rearing ponds and adjoining ponds and wetlands, a natural compliment to the information that was presented.

Presenters/Volunteers: Presenters from participating agencies and organizations led the student activities at 11 different stations located throughout the site. Over 50 volunteers were recruited to serve as class guides, assist presenters, direct parking and oversee first-aid, check-in, and information centers.

Community partners provided other support including presenters, volunteers, educational materials, and other services for the Festival and Workshop. Community partners included:

- Bonneville Lock and Dam
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Bureau of Land Management
- Master Composter/Recycler Program
- U.S. Forest Service, Mt. St. Helens NVM
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Waste Connections, Inc.
- Cascade Earth Force
- Water Resource Education Center
- Clark Public Utilities
- Clark County Solid Waste, Water Quality, and ESA Program
- Watershed Stewards
- NWSA Americorp
- Coffee Laboratories, Inc.

In addition, the 2002 festival contracted with professional environmental educators, including:

- Storytellers Ed Edmo, Isaak Trimble, and Will Homyak
- CITE, Inc., As the Faucet Turns
- Earthtone Productions, Fish Out of Water

Audience Served: The Festival was directed at students and teachers in fourth and fifth-grade classes in Clark County schools. Over 1680 students from 15 different schools, seven different school districts, participated. Teachers participating in the 2002 festival included teachers involved in the Salmon in the Classroom Program, and teachers planning to join the Salmon in the Classroom program and teachers seeking creative ideas on how to integrate environmental education in their existing curricula.

The Program: Classes were bused to CSEEC according to a prescribed schedule that staggered arrival times. Each class spent a two-hour period of time participating in 2 -3 different activities. Activity stations were developed and staffed by environmental educators from local and public agencies, stewardship groups, businesses and service programs. This year, five professional environmental education individual or groups were contracted to perform.

Stations included hands-on activities and interactive presentations about fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, macro-invertebrate sampling and identification, fish species identification, groundwater flow, water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, water cycle and water use, naturescaping and natural resource appreciation.

Volunteers directed parking, coordinated refreshments, staffed the information and first aid stations, assisted presenters, and served as class guides.

Evaluation: The immediate success of the Festival was measured by the number of classes, teachers, and students who attended the Festival, how many community partners participated in the Festival, and the feedback received from the festival evaluations distributed to all participants as well as the verbal delights expressed by teachers and students as they participated throughout the day. Many classes had pre-arranged to have their lunch at CSEEC and enjoy the grounds and the fish rearing ponds. The future success of this program will be evidenced by the increased support and results that enhanced watershed protection and salmon recovery efforts receive in Clark County.

III. Salmon Go To School Workshops

Background: The Salmon Go To School teacher training was developed in response to teachers' requests for ways to integrate their classroom salmon tanks into broader curricula and community salmon issues. Teachers were also struggling with trouble-shooting the maintenance of their fish and aquarium. Additional training could provide them with this much needed information.

Objectives: The objectives of this workshop were two-fold:

1. To provide classroom teachers participating in the Columbia River Watershed Festival and/or Salmon in the Classroom aquarium program with the tools to integrate festival and other watershed activities into the classroom.
2. To provide teachers access to local endangered species experts and other resources about why salmon recovery is a community-wide issue.


Location/Dates: Teachers were offered the opportunity to attend workshops on October 2, 2001, Feb, 12, 2002, and October 17, 2002, all held at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver. A total of 21 teachers and educators attended the workshops on 10/2/01 and 2/12/02. Low registration for the 10/17/02 workshop resulted in the workshop being postponed until 2003.

The Program: Staff from the EIC and the Water Resources Education Center planned these all day workshops for teachers entitled, "Salmon Go to School." Agency representatives discussed community salmon issues and provided information to teachers to assist them with the goal of integrating salmon and fish recovery issues, concepts and activities with their existing curriculum.

The workshop provided hands-on activities and instruction from various curricula such as Project WET, Aquatic Project WILD, and A-Way With Waste, like the ice-breaker activity called, "Dams, Fishhooks & Bears, Oh My!", an Aquatic Wild modification.

The objectives of the workshop were met through hands-on activities, small group discussions and a panel discussion. Teachers received free curriculum guides, handouts, and local resources. They were also offered clock hour credits for the workshop.

IV. Conclusion and Advise for Other Project Managers: Based on the reports and experience provided by the EIC staff, its partners, and all those who participated in the 2001 and 2002 Columbia River Watershed Festivals and the Salmon Go to School teacher training workshop, both of these events proved to be very successful and valuable. However, not without a considerable commitment on the part of all those who provided the planning and coordination.



**SALMONID EDUCATION & ENHANCEMENT GRANTS
WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE for 2001 Activities**

Proposed date	TASK	Actual Completion Date
12/00 early	Set date for planning meeting at WREC; secure meeting room	12/00 early
12/00 late	Invite co-sponsors to planning meeting Set tentative dates for Festival & Workshop	12/00 late
01/01 early	Begin project	01/01 early
01/01 mid	Hold planning meeting at WREC for Festival & Workshop priority scheduling	01/01 mid
02/01 early	Finalize Festival dates & Workshop dates	02/01 early
02/01 early	Secure facility for Workshop	02/01 early
04/01 mid	Mail first Festival & Workshop newsletter	04/01 mid
04/01 mid	Inform potential presenters & volunteers of Festival & Workshop dates	04/01 mid
04/01 early	Develop database for Festival & Workshop	04/01 early
04/01-05/01	Recruit & register teachers for Festival & Workshop	04/01-05/01
04/01-05/01	Secure buses for Festival classes	03/01-05/01
04/01-05/01	Secure substitute teachers & reimbursement funding	04/01-05/01
04/01-05/01	Recruit & register presenters & volunteers for Festival	04/01-05/01
05/01 mid	Determine class schedules for Festival	05/01 mid
05/01 mid	Determine presenter schedules for Festival	05/01 mid
05/01 late	Mail schedules to teacher participants	05/01 late
06/01 early	Request that presenters prepare written activity plan to share	06/01 early
06/01 mid	Begin planning Salmon Go To School workshop	06/01 mid
06/01 late	Determine Workshop goals & objectives	06/01 late
07/01 early	Recruit presenters & volunteers for Workshop	07/01 early

07/01 mid	Determine Workshop agenda & presenters	07/01 mid
07/01 late	Confirm Workshop presenters & volunteers	9/01 - 12/01
07/01 late	Order materials for Festival & Workshop	07/01 late
08/01 early	Meet with Festival sponsors	08/01 early
08/01 mid	Mail newsletter to returning & registered teachers	08/01 mid
08/01 mid	Mail newsletter to presenters & volunteers	08/01 mid
08/01 late	Confer with presenters about station needs	08/01 - 9/01
09/01 early	Determine layout of Festival area at Salmon Creek Park	09/01 early
09/01 early	Confirm teachers, classes, & buses	09/01 early
09/01 mid	Prepare Festival materials (maps, schedules, fact sheets)	09/01 mid
09/01 mid	Prepare teacher packets	09/01 mid
09/01 late	Hold 2001 Columbia Springs Watershed Festival at WREC	9/25, 26/01
09/01-11/01	Collect & review Festival evaluations	09/01 -11/01
09/01-11/01	Reimburse districts for bus transportation	09/01-11/01
10/01 early	Meet with Workshop sponsors & presenters	10/01 early
10/01 mid	Finalize Workshop plans	10/01 mid
10/01 late	Hold Salmon Go To School workshop	10/2/01 2/12/02
11/01 late	Review Workshop evaluations	11/01 late
12/01-01/02	Reimburse districts for substitute teachers	12/01-01/02
12/01 mid	Prepare Festival & Workshop reports	3/02
03/01-04/01	Recruit teachers, students, & projects for Watershed Congress	03/00-04/00
05/01 mid	Hold Watershed Congress	4/15/01
05/01 end	Prepare grant report	3/30/03
12/01	Project Completed	12/01

**SALMONID EDUCATION & ENHANCEMENT GRANTS
WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE for 2002 Activities**

Proposed date	TASK	Actual Completion Date
12/01 early	Set date for planning meeting at WREC; secure meeting room	12/01 early
12/01 late	Invite co-sponsors to planning meeting Set tentative dates for Festival & Workshop	12/01 late
01/02 early	Begin project	01/02 early
01/02 mid	Hold planning meeting at WREC for Festival & Workshop priority scheduling	01/02 mid
02/02 early	Finalize Festival dates & Workshop dates	02/02 early
02/02 early	Secure facility for Workshop	02/02early
04/02 mid	Mail first Festival & Workshop newsletter	04/02 mid
04/02 mid	Inform potential presenters & volunteers of Festival & Workshop dates	04/02 mid
04/02 early	Develop database for Festival & Workshop	04/02 early
04/02-05/02	Recruit & register teachers for Festival & Workshop	04/02-05/02
04/02-05/02	Secure buses for Festival classes	03/02-05/02
04/02-05/02	Secure substitute teachers & reimbursement funding	04/02-05/02
04/02-05/02	Recruit & register presenters & performers for Festival	04/02-05/02
05/02 mid	Determine class schedules for Festival	05/02 mid
05/02 mid	Determine presenter schedules for Festival	05/02 mid
05/02 late	Mail schedules to teacher participants	05/02 late
06/02 mid	Begin planning Salmon Go To School workshop	06/02 mid
06/02 late	Determine Workshop goals & objectives	06/02 late
07/02 early	Recruit presenters & volunteers for Workshop	07/02 early

07/02 mid	Determine Workshop agenda & presenters	07/02 mid
07/02 late	Confirm Workshop presenters & volunteers	9/02 - 12/02
07/02 late	Order materials for Festival & Workshop	07/02 late
08/02 early	Meet with Festival sponsors	08/02 early
08/02 mid	Mail newsletter to returning & registered teachers	08/02 mid
08/02 mid	Mail newsletter to presenters & volunteers	08/02 mid
08/02 late	Confirm with presenters about station needs	08/02 - 9/02
08/02 early	Determine layout of Festival area at CSEEC	08/02 early
09/02 early	Confirm teachers, classes, & buses	09/02 early
09/02 mid	Prepare Festival materials (maps, schedules, fact sheets)	09/02 mid
09/02 mid	Prepare teacher packets	09/02 mid
09/02 late	Hold 2002 Salmon Creek Water Festival at CSEEC	9/27, 9/28/02
09/02-11/02	Collect & review Festival evaluations	09/02 -11/02
09/02-11/02	Reimburse districts for bus transportation	09/02-11/02
10/02 early	Meet with Workshop sponsors & presenters	10/02 early
10/02 mid	Finalize Workshop plans	10/02 mid
10/02 late	Hold Salmon Go To School workshop	10/16/03
11/02 late	Review Workshop evaluations	11/02 late
12/02-01/03	Reimburse districts for substitute teachers	12/02-01/03
12/02 mid	Prepare Festival & Workshop reports	12/02 mid
10/02 end	Prepare grant report	3/30/03
12/02	Project Completed	3/30/03