

Forest Youth Success 2011 Report

Overview of FYS 2011

2011 was a highly successful season for the Forest Youth Success program. 47 of the 48 students completed the season successfully. Project sponsors were consistently pleased with the amount of work accomplished on each project, and evaluations from students and staff were universally positive regarding the FYS summer 2011 season.

Employment

- 48 high school students were employed: 32 workers, and 16 mentors
- One student lost their job in the last week of the program, because they chose to go on a vacation instead of attending the mandatory campout to the high ropes course.
- 10 adult staff were employed
- 1 Program Director, employed from March - August
- 1 Assistant Director, employed intermittently in May, and full-time from mid-June – August
- 8 crew leaders, employed from end of June – August.
- Total labor days on projects = 18.5 x 8 crews of 7 people = 1036 labor days
- Number of labor hours dedicated to work projects for public agencies: 6216 hours in 2011 (maximum number, without subtracting absences)

Project Work

FYS 2011 had a diversity of work projects for a variety of public agencies. Crews completed or exceeded the expected outcomes for all projects planned for 2011. The only exception to this was one project with the Pacific Crest Trail Association, which was canceled by the project sponsor, due to lack of appropriate conditions for the project (snow levels).

New/interesting projects

- Students participated in a unique survey, researching Golden Chinquapin presence and survival at the Wind River Experimental Forest, thus being exposed to the scientists and scientific research being conducted at that site.
- FYS was a large part of the workforce which worked on the Cape Horn trail improvements and reroutes with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area USFS. All crews and students worked on the project over the course of the season. Students got to feel some pride and ownership of the new sections of trail that they completed.
- The labor that FYS contributed to a trail project sponsored by the City of Stevenson was an important element in securing grant money for the City to continue working toward creating a trail system that connects the towns along the Columbia Gorge.



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New/interesting projects (Continued)

- FYS crews assisted not only in the Western Pond Turtle reintroduction project at Pierce National Wildlife Refuge, but also with a project protecting them from potential wintering hazards. Crews fenced around slash piles in order to prevent turtles from hibernating in habitat that is scheduled to be burned over the winter.
- Students participated in several wildlife habitat improvement projects over the summer. 1900 ft of fence were removed with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Columbia Land Trust. The Columbia Land Trust provided students with an educational presentation on their purpose and work in the Gorge.
- FYS crews working on the Boundary project got to participate in surveying and clearing new boundary lines with USFS personnel.

Project Accomplishments

Boundary - 35 Crew Days

- 3 miles of USFS/Private boundary cleared & blazed
- 2 miles of "Survey Line" decals: finding posts on old National Forest Boundary
 - Replacing "Property Boundary" decals with "Survey Line" decals;
 - Brushing around the posts
- 0.5 mile of new USFS/Private land boundary surveyed, cleared & blazed
- 1.39 miles of property boundary cleared at Willard National Fish Hatchery
- 0.62 miles of fence line brushed at Willard NFH

Trails - 52 Crew Days

- 9.7 miles of trail work
- 6.95 miles of Gifford Pinchot recreation trails
 - 1 mi of Whistle Punk brush/drain
 - 1.2 mi of Bunker Hill brushing/tread/drains
 - 0.75 mi of PCT north & south from Whistle Punk TH
 - 3 mi of McClellan Meadows trail #157 brush/drains
 - 1 mi of Falls Creek Tr # 152 brush/tread
- 0.75 mile of trail at Cape Horn, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
 - 0.25 mile of reroute constructed and opened
 - 4 switchbacks, 3 climbing turns
 - 1 crib retainer wall
 - 0.5 mile of trail maintenance: brushing
- 1.25 mile of trail at Beacon Rock State Park
- 0.5 mile of trail at Little White National Fish Hatchery
- 0.25 mile of trail in Stevenson, as part of Gorge trail system
- 1 trail sign installed at the bottom of Lava Butte trail

Habitat Maintenance and Restoration - 57 Crew Days

- 25 acres of forest stand improvements: western white pine pruning
- 400 conifer seedlings and 200 livestock plantings watered as part of a riparian restoration project w/ Underwood Conservation District 3 times
- 20 acres of invasive species control
 - 3 acres of tansy removal w/ SCNWCP at Old Man Pass
 - 1 acre of ivy removal along Nelson Creek with UCD
 - 2 acres of blackberry removal w/ USFW at Pierce NWR
 - 4 acres of ivy & tansy at Beacon Rock SP



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- 3 acres of blackberry, Scotch broom, and thistle at Collins Slide site
- 5 acres of bull thistle removal with Columbia Land Trust
- 2 acres of various species removed on Willard NFH property
- 1900 ft of fence removal for wildlife habitat improvements
 - 150 T-posts and 1000 ft of fence moved to storage with CLT
 - 900 ft of fencing removed at Collins Slide site with WDFW
- 60 cu. yds of debris removal at Little White National Fish Hatchery
- 7 cu. yds. of mulch spread over 6500 sq. ft of Skamania Co. native plant garden
 - Removal of 7 large garbage bags of weeds from the site (with UCD)
- 50 tree cages constructed with Columbia Land Trust
- 4 slash piles fenced to prevent turtle winter hibernation at Collins Slide area with WDFW
- 9.8 miles of roadside brushing in GP for USFS Roads dept.
- 26 wildlife structures inspected at Skamania Lodge's CRGNSA nature trail site
 - 17 bird, 4 bat, 5 butterfly houses monitored for nesting activity & assigned new numbers
- 5 sites of water testing around Skamania Lodge/CRGNSA natural areas temperature, phosphate, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, biochemical oxygen demand assessed at each site
- 9 Western Pond Turtles released at Pierce NWR in collaboration w/ several agencies
- 2000 (total) fingerling brook trout planted in 4 Indian Heaven Wilderness lakes
- 6.5 acre survey in WREF Arboretum, collecting data on chinquapin presence & age, measured, mapped & flagged chinquapins alongside trail



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Friday Classes

Map & Compass
 Tree Measurements
 Using Plant Characteristics, Sketches, and Dichotomous Keys to Identify Trees & Plants
 Water Quality in the Columbia River
 Hemlock Dam Removal Project- educational class & field trip
 Money Management
 How to Find, Get & Keep Your Next Job
 The Teen Brain- Development and Function

Afternoon Classes/Activities

Resources as Renewable and Nonrenewable
 Goal Setting
 Study Skills
 Communication Skills
 History of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
 Citizenship
 Work Ethic

Afternoon Classes/Activities (Continued)

Nutrition

Noxious Weed Powerpoint w/ Skamania Co.

Developing an Effective Resume (+ time in computer lab working on resumes)

Wildlife Encounters

Fish and Water Quality

Wood Products/Trees as a Renewable Resource

Working Forests & Northern Spotted Owl

Wildland Fires

Entomology and Adaptations

Salmon Decline and Recovery

Each crew did a newscast/skit on social, economic, ecological importance of their work projects

Leadership Curriculum for Mentors

One-on-one mentoring in leadership skills by adult staff

Leadership-oriented goal setting

Integrity and Values

Relationship Building

Tolerance/Diversity training and activities

Communication Skills: Nonverbals, Active Listening, "I" Statements

Conflict Management and Resolution

Personal Skills Assessment

Leadership Styles/Situational Leadership

Public Speaking

Motivating your Team

Group Development and Roles

Completion of 3-page Leadership Essay

Trainings

- Tool Training/ Trail Work Training with USFS Trail Crew
- Leave No Trace Principles training with the USFS
- 1st Aid/CPR for adult staff and mentors

High School Credit

43 out of 48 students earned the Forest Teamwork Credit (1.0 high school elective credit), by having sufficient attendance, satisfactory evaluations, and passing the final examination. The students who did not earn the credit had unexcused absences and/or insufficient performance evaluations.

8 out of 16 mentors earned the additional Forest Leadership credit (0.5 high school elective credit). Mentors needed to write a 3-page Leadership Essay and receive satisfactory evaluations on their leadership abilities in order to earn this credit.



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Other Program Activities

Overnight Campout

Oxbow Regional Park, Gresham, OR

- High Ropes Course facilitated by Team Synergo, Inc. at YMCA Camp Collins
- 46 youth participants and 10 adult staff attended 8 hours on high ropes course

Last Day Activities

Map & compass course; tree, plant & weed identification; litter collection; tree measurement quiz; ropes initiatives; appreciation circle; evaluations; van cleaning; gear return

County Fair and Parade

FYS booth staffed by two adults and 4-5 students for 5 days at the Skamania County Fair; photos of past years of FYS, ropes activities with visitors. Participation in County Fair Parade, 2nd place ribbon awarded to FYS group.

Evaluation

Completion of evaluations of program, staff and participants

Celebratory Luncheon

End of season luncheon and slide show at Rock Creek Center, with approximately 85 attendees

Community Outreach

Community slideshow for public viewing (free) at Rock Creek Center, with approximately 50 attendees

Resource Management

All gear inventoried, cleaned if necessary, and moved into storage

Reporting

Reporting of accomplishments and other program activities to appropriate agencies



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