

Overview of FYS 2013

2013 was a highly successful season for the Forest Youth Success program. This season saw all 36 students completed the season successfully. Project sponsors were consistently pleased with the amount and quality of work accomplished on each project. Evaluations from students and staff were universally positive regarding the 2013 FYS summer season.

Employment

- 43 individuals were employed during the 5 week season
- 1 program director employed from March - August
- 6 adult crew leaders received leadership and facilitation training in preparation for the season, and employed from June - August.
- 12 junior and senior age students served as mentors and received leadership training in addition to the summer work experience. Employed: July - August.
- 24 freshman and sophomore age students served as workers and gained valuable teamwork and work ethic skills during the summer work season. Employed: July - August.
- This season 114 crew days or 798 labor days of project time (maximum number of days without subtracting absences)
- \$68,851 dollars worth of work completed
- Over \$1,064,128 worth of project have been completed since 2002

Projects

FYS 2013 worked on a variety of project during the season. Project included trail maintenance, road brushing, ground maintenance, stocking of remote lakes, white pine pruning, habitat restoration and creation, animal and plant surveys, maintenance and establishment of private / public land boundary, road surveying, and noxious weed removal and surveying.

Project Sponsors included the following agencies and organizations:

- US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- US Forest Service Mt. Adams District
- US Forest Service Wind River District
- US Forest Service Supervisors Office
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Fish and Wildlife
- Underwood Conservation District
- Gifford Pinchot Task Force
- Skamania County Noxious Weeds

Accomplishments

- US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- 5 acres of blackberry clearing at St. Cloud State Park
- 10 acres of tree debris piling at Collins Slide
- 2 miles of trail brushing
- 1 mile of tread maintenance



Skamania County
Forest Youth Success
Stevenson-Carson School District
PO Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
360.772.6370
director@forestyouthsuccess.org

- Crews learned the importance of treatment of non-native plants in enhancing habitats for native species, role of fire in managing ecosystems and habitats, the importance of resources management in maintaining the local environment.

US Forest Service Mt. Adams District

- 75 drains maintained or created
- 2.5 miles of tread maintained
- 3 units of white pines pruned to prevent blister rust near Goose Lake

US Forest Service Wind River District

- 4.1 miles of road brushed
- 5 culverts cleared of debris at entry and exit
- 3 bags of trash removed from roadside
- Crews learned about the importance of road brushing and drainage.

US Forest Service Supervisors Office

- 1.25 miles of new public / private boundary cleared and marked
- 1 corner monument installed
- Crews learned how to use a compass, brushing techniques, blazing standards, history of PLSS, property corner maintenance and documentation, and cross country navigation.

US Fish and Wildlife

Spring Creek NFH

- 10 acres cleared of invasive plants (false indigo, blackberry, and scotch broom)
- .25 miles of trail maintained

Little White Salmon NFH

- Planted native vegetation at entrance to
- 2 building and 2 picnic tables painted
- Removal of brush and Himalayan blackberry

Willard NFH

- Improved fire break trail around housing loop
- Removal of Canada thistle, scotch broom, St. Johnswort, tansy ragwort, Japanese knotweed, and oxeye daisy across 80 acres
- Maintenance of right away to domestic water springs
- Fence boundary maintenance
- Property line maintenance
- Crews received hatchery tours at all three hatcheries. Crews learned about the process of raising fish, the role played by hatcheries in the maintenance of salmon populations, and the importance of having hatcheries open to the public.



Skamania County
 Forest Youth Success
 Stevenson-Carson School District
 PO Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
 360.772.6370
 director@forestyouthsuccess.org

Washington Fish and Wildlife

- 2300 sterile fingerlings stocked in Indian Heaven Wilderness, Thomas, Dee, Heather, Eunice, and Brader lakes.
- 250 brook trout and 250 brown trout backpacked into Soda Peaks Lake in the Trapper Creek Wilderness.
- Crews learned about fish culture, the importance of stocking lakes, and the role of fish in local ecosystems.

Underwood Conservation District

- Fuel reduction assistance at 12 residential properties in three communities
- Approximately 78 cubic yards of woods chips created from cut material
- 9.5 acres treated
- Crews learned about Firewise practices, fire behavior and ecology, forest health, native plant and noxious weed identification, and tool safety.

Gifford Pinchot Task Force

- Assisted GPTF in surveying 70 miles of road during the 2013 season around Upper Swift Creek.
- Crews learned how to use GPS and maps to survey roads, check for culverts, evaluate the status of culverts, record and track data, document findings with digital cameras, and navigate using GPS coordinates and maps.

Skamania County Noxious Weeds

- 2.62 acres surveyed
- 2.62 acres treated
- Crews learned how to identify plants, surveying techniques including GIS, the impact invasive species have on the environment.

Education

The education portion of FYS comes in many forms. Project sponsors are expected to incorporate an educational component into each project making everyday a learning experience. Students also complete an environmental education curriculum along with afternoon and Friday classes.

Classes this summer included:

- Fish necropsies led by US Fish and Wildlife
- Tour of WKO mill operations
- Forestry practices (tree measurement and backcountry navigation using a compass)
- Job search skills (including presentation by DVR)
- Resume development and Interview skills



Skamania County
Forest Youth Success
Stevenson-Carson School District
PO Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
360.772.6370
director@forestyouthsuccess.org

- History of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Renewable and nonrenewable resources and our future
- Money management
- Challenges facing pacific salmon Nutrition
- Entomology
- Work ethic development

All 36 students earned the Forest Teamwork credit. Credit is awarded by SCSD and is counted as an elective credit. To receive credit students had to fulfill the following requirements:

- Pass the final test
- Receive satisfactory marks on their end of the season evaluation
- Attend all Friday classes or complete a makeup assignment

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
- 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
- 1st Aid/CPR for adult staff (7) and mentors (12)

Changes/Improvements in 2013

Website Launch:

The site has been an important marketing, recruitment, and communication tool. This year alone 10% of student applications and 20% of adult applications came through the website. The goal is to continue to increase the number of digitally submitted applications to reduce waste and increase efficiency.

The site also offers project sponsors, interested parties, community members, past and future participants, and parents easy access to information about the program and employment opportunities. Visitors can view photos from past years, read year end reports, stay up to date through the blog and social media, and learn more about the program.



Skamania County
 Forest Youth Success
 Stevenson-Carson School District
 PO Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
 360.772.6370
 director@forestyouthsuccess.org

Marketing Materials:

Banners were printed to promote Forest Youth Success at public events and support the efforts of creating further brand / program recognition in the community. T-shirts were printed up and given to all 2013 participants. Students wore the T-shirts while representing FYS at the Skamania County Fair, both in the parade, and at our Public Service Booth. Participants will keep the T-shirts as a reminder of their experience with FYS.

Sustainability Efforts:

Efforts continued to develop a sustainable funding model that will meet the needs and requirements of financial partners, project sponsors, staff, and the community as a whole. This year marked the most diverse year of funding for FYS in its 12 year history. FYS is committed to meeting the needs of the community, partner agencies and organizations, and the environment and the sustainability efforts undertaken this year will ensure that FYS continues for years to come.



Skamania County
Forest Youth Success
Stevenson-Carson School District
PO Box 850 Stevenson, WA 98648
360.772.6370
director@forestyouthsuccess.org