

Overview of FYS 2014

2014 was a highly successful season for the Forest Youth Success program. This season saw 23 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 2014 FYS summer season.

Employment

- 29 individuals were employed during the 5 week season
- 1 program director employed from March - August
- 4 adult crew leaders received leadership and facilitation training in preparation for the season, and employed from June - August.
- 4 junior and senior age students served as mentors and received leadership training in addition to the summer work experience. Employed: July - August.
- 20 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 80 crew days or 560 labor days of project time (maximum number of days without subtracting absences)
- An estimated \$56,369 worth of project time (GS-4 and GS-5 rates used to establish value of project time)
- Over \$1,120,497 worth of project time has been completed since 2002

Projects

FYS 2014 worked on a variety of project during the season. Project included trail maintenance, road brushing, ground maintenance, stocking of remote lakes, habitat restoration and creation, 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 Mt. St. Helen's District
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Fish and Wildlife
- Underwood Conservation District
- Skamania County Noxious Weeds
- Pacific Crest Trail Association

Accomplishments

US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

- .2 acres of brush and woody plants removed to improve habitat
- 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.



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US Forest Service Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helen's Districts

- 9.5 miles of tread maintenance and brushing
- 458 drains maintained or created
- 1.25 miles of cave cleanup at Ape Cave
- 67 campsites cleaned
- .75 miles of road cleanup
- 15 garbage bags of trash removed from campsites
- 200+ lbs. of ash removed from campsites
- Crews learned the importance of trail maintenance and campsite cleanup to Skamania County residents and visitors.

US Fish and Wildlife

Pierce National Wildlife Refuge

- 2 bridges cleaned
- 1 beaver dam removed to improve water flow
- .4 acres of blackberry cleared
- 2.5 acres of false indigo and tansy cleared
- Crews also learned about the importance of wildlife refuges and maintaining habitat for a variety of species.

Willard NFH

- 2.5 miles of property boundary line maintained
- 1.5 miles of road brushed
- Removal of Canada thistle, scotch broom, St. Johnswort, tansy ragwort, Japanese knotweed, and oxeye daisy across 80 acres
- Fence boundary maintenance
- 1.5 miles of trail maintenance
- Crews received a hatchery tour. 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.

Washington Fish and Wildlife

Remote Lake Stocking

- Released 8,950 Eastern Brook and 1000 Brown Trout into 12 remote lakes.
- Crews learned about fish culture, the importance of stocking lakes, and the role of fish in local ecosystems.

Bergen Road Project

- Scotch-broom removed over 2.46 acres
- 500 feet of trail brushed and cleared
- 6 Western Pond turtles released
- 14 basking log structures built and deployed
- Crews also learned about habitat restoration and creation and the role it plays in maintaining and supporting the Western Pond turtle.



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Underwood Conservation District

- 2 acres of fuel reduction
- Creation of burn piles, wood piles, and chipping piles
- 150 yards of trail and firebreak
- Watered trees and surveyed plants at Wind River restoration site
- Created natural dam to improve irrigation to small trees at Wind River restoration site
- Crews learned about the importance of Firewise in Skamania County, restoration efforts along the Wind River, and the value of maintaining defensible space around homes and out buildings.

Skamania County Noxious Weeds

- Noxious and invasive plant removal over 158 acres of land at the Bonneville Dam project site
- Crews learned how to identify plants and about the impact invasive species have on the environment.

Pacific Crest Trail Association

- 1.35 miles of tread maintenance and brushing
- 27 drains cleared or installed along trail south of Trout Creek
- Crews learned about the importance of the PCT to Skamania County. They also interacted with through hikers and learned about what the PCT means to them and the hiking community.

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:

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- Fish necropsies led by US Fish and Wildlife
- Job search skills
- Resume development and Interview skills
- History of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Money management
- Challenges facing pacific salmon
- Entomology
- Work ethic development

All 23 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



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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
- Personal skills assessment
- Leadership styles / situational leadership
- Public speaking
- Motivating a 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 (5) and mentors (4)

Changes / Improvements in 2014

Marketing Materials:

T-shirts were printed up and given to all 2014 participants. Students wore the T-shirts while representing FYS at the Skamania County Fair parade. 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.



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