

**Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
2011 WNTI Small Grant Project
Completion Report**

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers



Western Native Trout Initiative
Attention: Small Grants Coordinator
134 Union Blvd.
Suite 665
Lakewood, CO 80228

May 15, 2012

Dear Sir,

On the behalf of the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), I would like to thank you once again for funding our 2011 *PUR Education Supplies and Outreach Materials* proposal for \$2,000. Our 2011-2012 youth and community outreach program was very successful and we are grateful for WNTI's support. Below are some of our program's accomplishments:

- **Participating in the Umpqua Fishermen's Association (UFA) Canyonville Fish Release.** PUR hosted the invasive species station for this three-day program. Over 250 4th and 5th grade students rotated through six 20-minute stations and learned about salmonids, their life cycle, habitat, management, and threats. Our take-home lessons for this program were: 1) invasive species harm the environment and people; 2) always clean, drain, and dry boats and equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species, including quagga mussels, zebra mussels, and New Zealand mud snails; and 3) never use live fish for bait or release unwanted aquarium plants or pets into waterways.
- **Instructing at the Glide Forestry School Tour.** Organized by the Douglas County Oregon State University Extension Service and community partners, over 1,000 fifth-grade students from all over the Umpqua participate in this forestry education program each year. For the first time, PUR staff taught at one of the two "fisheries" stations all four days of the event. Through a whole-group activity, we: 1) explained the difference between native and non-native fish; 2) discussed the terms "anadromous" and "salmonid;" 3) identified and described the Umpqua's salmon and trout species; and 4) discussed ways we can all help the Umpqua's fish (keep our waterways clean and prevent the spread of invasive species).

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- **Hosting a booth at the Douglas County Earth Day and Energy Fair:** Held the Saturday of Earth Day weekend, this family-friendly, one-day event draws thousands of visitors. We used our booth space to: 1) promote our *September Umpqua Clean-up*, an event that encourages kids and community members to pick up trash along our waterways ("We've enjoyed our rivers and streams all summer; now let's clean it up for the fish!"); and 2) host a "Spinners for Beginners" station to encourage youth and families to get outside and go fishing.
- **Hosting educational youth activities at the Douglas County Fair:** In 2011, we partnered with the Douglas Timber Operators to host the Fish Toss Game in the popular Forestry tent. The Fish Toss Game is an effective, hands-on way of teaching kids and adults the value of replacing small, elevated culverts with large, fish-passage-friendly culverts. Participants listen to a lesson about fish passage and then toss plastic fish through culverts of varying sizes. This year, we plan to continue this partnership and expand our involvement to include hosting an educational "Spinners for Beginners" table.

Thanks to the support of programs like the Western Native Trout Initiative, PUR's education and outreach program is growing. Earlier this year, we received a grant to launch a new program, "Salmon Schools." The purpose of this program is to work with local schools to implement long-term projects that will engage school-aged youth in hands-on, fish habitat- and water quality-benefiting activities. During the 2012-2013 academic year, we will train youth and teachers at Elkton High School (Elkton, Oregon) and Phoenix High School (Roseburg, Oregon) to monitor streams for temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and macro-invertebrates. The trainings, which will involve students and educators over multiple days, will have three components: 1) stream ecology, so participants understand how the parameters monitored relate to salmonid habitat and can be used to gauge stream health and watershed function; 2) field implementation, so participants understand how to safely and properly operate equipment and gather data; and 3) data analysis, so participants are able to correctly and insightfully understand monitoring results.

Attached are photographs from the 2012 Earth Day Fair and the February Canyonville Fish Release. We are grateful for WNTI support of our education and outreach program and hope to partner with you again in the future. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Riley
PUR Executive Director

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers



Martyne Reesman (ODFW) and Bridget Ayers Looby (PUR) at the 2012 UFA Fish Release in Canyonville, Oregon



PUR Earth Day booth volunteer Joe Linn making spinners with beginners.



Our "Spinners for Beginners" activity is very popular with kids.

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