

2007  
OYCC  
Youth River Stewards  
Final Report



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*



**OREGON YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS  
FINAL REPORT  
SUMMER 2007**

<b>PROGRAM NAME:</b> Oregon Youth Conservation Corps		<b>DUE DATE: December 1, 2007</b>	
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Multiple		
<b>SPONSORING AGENCY:</b>	OYCC – Youth River Stewards Program		
<b>WORKSITE LOCATION:</b>	Willamette River		
<b>NAME &amp; ADDRESS OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM:</b> Doug Denning 255 Capitol St. NE, Third Floor Salem, OR 97310		<b>TITLE:</b> Program Administrator	<b>PHONE:</b> 503-378-8648 Ext. 254

<b>NUMBER OF APPLICANTS:</b>	N/A	<b>YOUTH SERVED:</b>	42
<b>NUMBER OF APPLICANTS INTERVIEWED:</b>	N/A	<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE EVER HAD CONTACT WITH THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM:</b>	Unknown

<b>CORPS MEMBER NAME:</b>	<b>CORPS MEMBER ADDRESS:</b>
1. PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED LIST	

<b>PROJECT STARTING DATE:</b>		09/10/07		<b>PROJECT ENDING DATE</b>		11/01/07	
<b>NUMBER OF CREW LEADER(S) OVER AGE 24:</b>		9		<b>HOURLY WAGE OF CREW LEADER(S) OVER AGE 24:</b>		0	
<b>NUMBER OF CREW LEADER(S) UNDER AGE 24:</b>		0		<b>HOURLY WAGE OF CREW LEADER(S) UNDER AGE 24:</b>		0	
<b>NUMBER OF CORPS MEMBERS:</b>				<b>HOURLY WAGE OF CORPS MEMBERS:</b>		0	
<b>CREW LEADER WORK DAYS</b>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CORPS MEMBER WORK DAYS</b>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CREW LEADER HOURS OF WORK PER DAY</b>				10			
<b>CORPS MEMBER HOURS OF WORK PER DAY</b>				8			
<b>NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS PER CREW LEADER</b>				3			
<b>NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS PER CORPS MEMBER</b>				3			
<b>TOTAL NUMBER HOURS FOR ALL CREW LEADER(S) OVER AGE 24</b>				270			
<b>TOTAL NUMBER HOURS FOR ALL CORPS MEMBER</b>				1008			
<b>TOTAL NUMBER HOURS FOR ALL CREW LEADER(S) UNDER AGE 24</b>				0			
<b>DID YOU OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT?</b>						YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
						NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<small>DETAIL SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES. INCLUDE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT IN EACH ACTIVITY</small>	
1. Local History 36 Hours	2. Plant ID 36 Hours
3. Geological History 60 Hours	4. Animal ID 36 Hours
5. Water Quality Testing 16 Hours	6. Cooking/Meal Prep 40 Hours

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS ACCOMPLISHED:**  
THIS YEAR THE MAIN FOCUS WAS ON THE EQUESTRIAN TRAILS AT WILLAMETTE MISSION STATE PARK. IN THE END, APPROXIMATELY 7 MILES OF HORSE TRAILS WERE CLEARED OF BLACKBERRY, TREE LIMBS AND BRUSH. THE CREW ALSO REMOVED GARBAGE FROM THE WILLAMETTE RIVER, CLEARED GRAND ISLAND STATE PARK OF GARBAGE AND PERFORMED MINOR CAMPSITE MAINTENANCE. THE FINAL CREW OF THE YEAR TRIMMED SUCCORS FROM THE FILBERT ORCHARD AT WILLAMETTE MISSION STATE PARK.

<b>WORK ENVIRONMENT</b> LIST WORK SKILLS LEARNED	<b>PROJECT OUTCOMES</b> LIST IN MEASURABLE TERMS (i.e., 25 MILES OF TRAIL BUILT, 500 SEEDLINGS PLANTED, ETC.).
1. INVASIVE SPECIES ID AND REMOVAL	1. CLEARED 7 MILES OF TRAIL

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2.	PROPER TOOL USAGE	2.	NO BROKEN OR LOST TOOLS
3.	TRAIL MAINTENANCE	3.	CLEARED 7 MILES OF TRAIL
4.	RIVER STEWARDSHIP	4.	REMOVED GARBAGE FROM 30 MILES OF THE WILLAMETTE RIVER
5.	WATER TESTING	5.	TOOK TEMPERATURE AND WATER OXYGEN LEVEL MEASUREMENTS
6.		6.	LEADERSHIP SKILLS
7.		7.	COMMUNICATION SKILLS
8.		8.	ADAPTABILITY
9.		9.	CAMPING/SURVIVAL SKILLS
10.		10.	TEAMWORK
11.		11.	
12.		12.	
13.		13.	
14.		14.	

**HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS PROJECT IF YOU WERE TO DO IT AGAIN?**

We ran into an issue this year running a trip over Halloween. Many of the youth wanted to stay home and trick or treat. Next year we might be wise to have the trips end the week prior.

**ACCIDENTS OR SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS:**

There were NO accidents this year. We did have a problem with programs upholding their commitments to participate. John and Doug will be evaluating this year's program in the months to come and determine if there is a way to improve programs' participation.

**SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES:**

Having Jeff Gottfried of Educational Recreational Adventures as an Educational Guide was hands down the program changing event. Youth and Teachers/Crew Leaders left the program with an incredible amount of new knowledge and understanding of the environment and watershed we live in.

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

OYCC will be looking for new funding streams to help support future Youth River Stewards Programs as the OPRD Category A funds are no longer available.

**DID CREW LEADER TRAINING EFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAM IN TERMS OF TEAM BUILDING, TEACHABLE MOMENTS, ENRICHMENT OF PROGRAM AND AMOUNT OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED?**

Crew Leader training was essential to this year's project.

ON A SEPARATE PAGE, PLEASE PROVIDE A NARRATIVE AND ANECDOTAL INFORMATION.

**MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO:**

OYCC  
255 CAPITOL STREET NE, THIRD FLOOR  
SALEM, OREGON 97310

**OYCC**  
**2007 Youth River Stewards Program**  
**Final Narrative**

Each of the seven trips started at Wallace Marine Park in West Salem. The first pullout/overnight sight was at the slough at Willamette Mission State Park. The first day of each trip started with introductions between the Corpsmembers and OYCC staff. Youth were then introduced to the world of canoeing. Some of the youth had paddled before but this was the first canoeing experience for the majority of the groups. Safety was gone over in detail and each Personal Flotation Device was checked for proper fit by OYCC staff. The first day on the water is meant to be a learning day where the participants get their "sea legs". Even though there was a lot of concentration on learning balance techniques, paddling strokes, etc. there was also time to talk to the groups about the history and importance of the Willamette River.

This year OYCC contracted with Jeff Gottfried of Educational Recreational Adventures. Jeff developed a full river curriculum for the Youth River Stewards Program and paddled every trip acting as the Educational Guide. Jeff also took photos of each trip and posted them on his website along with blogs he wrote each week. These can be viewed at <http://www.edurecadv.org/Welcome.html>. The students, and Crew Leaders, learned so much it is impossible to list every subject. Some of the highlights include: learning to identify a plethora of bird species, learning the history and importance of the Willamette River Highway, studying the Missoula Floods, taking water temperature readings, testing the oxygen levels of the river, finding shells of fresh-water mussels (and learning the relationship they have with Cutthroat Trout), harvesting Wapato and learning how to throw Atlatl Darts and shoot a bow and arrow.

Each canoe carried a garbage bag and the youth were instructed to stop along the way and pick up garbage when they saw it along the banks of the river. The crews learned the delicacies of landing and pushing off without assistance in a hurry! The first nights' camps were set up in the slough area at Willamette Mission State Park. The crews were told of the history of the park and then had an hour long session with Jeff on the Missoula Floods. The first dinners were always interesting as many of the youth had never cooked before. When weather permitted, the students were taken out on the slough for a night paddle and were able to check out the local beaver population.

On day two, the crews woke up, ate large breakfasts and then worked on projects at Willamette Mission. The majority of the work was done on the equestrian trails at the park. In the end, crews cleared over seven miles of horse trails. The final crew worked trimming succors off of filbert trees in the park's Filbert Orchards. Camps were broken down in mid-afternoon and the canoes hit the water headed for Grand Island. While on the water the crews learned the importance of the Wheatland ferry, past and present. The second day is an easy paddle to Grand Island where we stayed for the second evening. By the second night there was always a greater feeling of team spirit and belongingness. This is when Jeff brought out the Atlatl Darts and the bows and arrows. The third day

was strictly a paddle day except for trash removal along the riverbanks. The trips concluded at San Salvador State Park west of St. Paul, Oregon.

Even though the trips were successful and the educational component was a huge addition this year, there were some issues that need to be addressed in this report. OYCC proposed to serve approximately 80 youth. This figure was calculated based on the number of youth served in previous years. After purchasing 6 replacement canoes early in the spring, OYCC decided to limit the maximum number of participants to 12 per trip. This would mean a maximum of seven canoes on the water each paddle. This allowed OYCC to keep one of the old canoes, use the six new canoes and donate the rest of the old canoes to the Kennedy Alternative School in Cottage Grove. During the application process, programs assured OYCC that they would be able to bring 10 students and two staff each week. In reality, programs brought fewer students. This year one program was unable to participate due to staffing issues on the planned paddle dates. The replacement program brought a small crew over the Halloween holiday. In the end, 56 people participated in the 2007 Youth River Stewards Program. The OYCC Director and Program Administrator are evaluating the amount of time, effort and resources that go into each trip. They are also looking at ways to insure the commitment from the programs that each trip will be filled to capacity. After the evaluations are complete, they will make the necessary changes making next year's Youth River Stewards Program even stronger.





