

Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) 2008 Pacific Northwest Competition: Awards Summary



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant program promotes locally relevant, experiential environmental education in grades K through 12. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for students, teachers and communities. The criteria for these competitive awards emphasize sustained, hands-on, environmental activities that are aligned with academic learning standards.

NOAA B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation. In 2008, the NOAA Office of Education received new funding to expand the program to include the Pacific Northwest. Of the eighteen applications reviewed in the Pacific Northwest competition, five projects have been recommended for funding for up to three years of work.

Recipient	Total Federal Funding	Program Type	State(s) Reached
Oregon Trout Portland, Oregon	\$167,707.00	Exemplary*	OR
Pacific Education Institute Olympia, Washington	\$274,384.00	Exemplary	WA
River Center Foundation Sequim, Washington	\$70,160.68	Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for Students	WA
Salish Sea Expeditions Bainbridge Island, Washington	\$133,585.00	Exemplary	WA
WA State Department of Ecology Mount Vernon, Washington	\$279,999.38	Exemplary	WA

*Exemplary projects combine meaningful watershed educational experiences for students and teacher professional development.

Total Funding Awarded: \$925,836.06

Summary of Funded Projects:

Oregon Trout

Project Title: *Healthy Waters Institute - Program Delivery Expansion*

Primary Investigator: Ms. Traci Price

The Oregon Trout Healthy Waters Institute uses watersheds as an integrated context for multi-disciplinary learning, linked to inquiry-based learning standards and current curricula. Program expansion will include teacher workshops and trainings, and authentic field-based research and restoration project opportunities designed to empower and inspire the next generation of watershed stewards.

Pacific Education Institute

Project Title: *Coastal Ecosystem Education: Teaching Watershed and Ocean Literacy through Hands-On Student Projects*

Primary Investigators: Ms. Lynne Ferguson, Dr. Margaret Tudor

Funding will be used to train teachers, project mentors, and field experts to support student projects that collect real field science data and improve the local environment. Projects will be used to educate students, teachers and community members about watershed and ocean issues.

River Center Foundation

Project Title: *Watershed Science and Stewardship on the North Olympic Peninsula*

Primary Investigator: Mr. Robert Boekelheide

River Center Foundation offers hands-on inquiry-based science and social studies experiences for elementary and middle school students and teachers. Students will participate in studies to investigate the health of the Dungeness River watershed and Dungeness Bay, the river's estuary. They will study riparian, estuarine and marine problems and solutions, and they will carry out stewardship activities in the watershed.

Salish Sea Expeditions

Project Title: *Salish Sea Expeditions Sound and Source Project*

Primary Investigators: Mr. Stephen Streufert, Ms. Jenny McColloch, Ms. Mollie Caka

Project activities include a 3-5 day research expedition on Puget Sound, 3-5 days of pre- and post-trip planning and synthesis in classrooms, and follow-up research at a local watershed site. In addition, an end-of-year symposium will be held at which students share their research findings with the public and learn from each other and from professional scientists.

WA State Department of Ecology

Project Title: *Puget Sound K-12 Watershed and Estuary Education for Teachers and Students*

Primary Investigator: Mr. Glen Alexander

Teachers will be guided to use training materials including *The Estuary Guide* curriculum to ensure effective use of pre-, post- and on-site student activities. Teachers will be trained each year through Teachers on the Estuary Workshops (TOTE) in extensive interdisciplinary watershed and estuary studies and assist in the development of new lessons that address targeted state standards. Lessons will allow students to participate in field-based experiential learning about watersheds, estuaries, and stewardship behaviors.

NOAA recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Carefully selected experiences driven by rigorous academic learning standards, engendering discovery and wonder, and nurturing a sense of community will further connect students with their watershed, help reinforce an ethic of responsible citizenship, and promote academic achievement.

Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) 2008 Pacific Northwest Award Ceremony



Students at work at the River Center Foundation, Sequim, Washington.
Photo: River Center Foundation

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program and Pacific Education Institute are hosting a public event to mark the presentation of \$925,000 in competitive grants to support environmental education programs in the Pacific Northwest.

- WHAT:** Ceremony to mark awarding of funds to five grant recipients who use the outdoors as a classroom.
- WHEN:** Thursday, January 8, 2009
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- WHERE:** Governor's Conference Room
Capitol Building
Olympia, Washington
- WHO:** Governor's Office (invited)
State and Federal Legislators, Tribal Leaders (invited)
NOAA B-WET Leadership
B-WET Grant Recipients

2008 Pacific Northwest B-WET awards:

Five recipients were awarded a total of more than \$900,000 to enhance and expand locally relevant, hands-on environmental education for K-12 students. Projects were selected through a rigorous competitive process.

Funding has been awarded to:

- *Oregon Trout* was awarded \$167,707 for its program "Healthy Waters Institute - Program Delivery Expansion."
- *Pacific Education Institute* was awarded \$274,384 for its project "Coastal Ecosystem Education: Teaching Watershed and Ocean Literacy through Hands-On Student Projects."
- *River Center Foundation* was awarded \$70,160.68 for its project "Watershed Science and Stewardship on the North Olympic Peninsula."
- *Salish Sea Expeditions* was awarded \$133,585 for its project "Salish Sea Expeditions Sound and Source Project."
- *Washington State Department of Ecology* was awarded \$279,999.38 for its project "Puget Sound K-12 Watershed and Estuary Education for Teachers and Students."

Please join us for this very important opportunity to recognize the 2008 grant recipients and to thank state leaders and legislators for their support of the Pacific Northwest B-WET Program!

To RSVP, contact Margaret Tudor, Pacific Education Institute, 360-705-9291, mtudor@pacifieducationinstitute.org

For more information about the B-WET program, please contact Bronwen Rice, B-WET National Coordinator, 202-482-6797, Bronwen.rice@noaa.gov or visit <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET>