



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District

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Natural Resource Education Program

The F5 Experience: Fur, Feathers, Fins, Flames and Flora: Connecting Youth to the Outdoors

To: Pre-school, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High Schools, and Science, Spanish, Geography Classrooms; Other Community Organizations with a focus on Natural History, Biology, Science, and Geography.

Dear Teachers, Instructors and Coordinators:

Again this year the Willamette National Forest will be offering conservation education talks and field trips conducted in English, Spanish, or German. Programs are available for pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle and high school and may be of particular interest to Biology, Science, Conservation Education, Spanish, German, Chemistry, and Geography classes.

Our new Naturewatch program, **The F5 Experience**, emphasizes providing outdoor learning opportunities to youth through field trips and active restoration projects. The 2014 theme for this program is Wilderness, because this is the year of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. There are several programs which concentrate on wilderness topics, and each individual program will also include various aspects of that subject, including the "so what, what can I do?" There are also new talks about Raptor Migration and Medicinal Chemistry.

Our 2012-2014 Visiting Biologist, Iliana Arellano will coordinate and implement much of this program. She is a Biologist who just graduated from the National University of Mexico. Iliana has been in Oregon since June 2012 working on a variety of projects on the Willamette National Forest as well as the Okanogan National Forest in Washington, including a broad range of educational programs. Currently, she is continuing with the natural resources education programs she and many past visiting biologists developed, some of which may be conducted with other Forest Service employees.

During the past seven years that we have been offering these education programs, many schools and organizations have taken advantage of them, including Baumans Tree Farm, Lane County Audubon Society, the McKenzie schools, Eugene 4J School District including Buena Vista Elementary, Edison Elementary, River Road, Springfield School District, Jefferson, Camp Creek and Oakhill Schools, as well as Lane Community College, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University.

The attached program flyer provides more information about these programs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require more details, or if you have any specific requests. We may be able to also offer programs about other topics such as fisheries, water, botany, archeology and forestry. These programs can be offered at your school or organization meeting place or as field trips on the Willamette National Forest. For more information please contact Iliana directly at 541-822-7269 email: iarellano@fs.fed.us or Ruby Seitz ruseitz@fs.fed.us.

/s/Terry Baker

District Ranger

Enclosures: Education activities offered through the summer of 2014.

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