

DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 2012 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Deschutes National Forest

Partnership Program

- 98 Major Partners
- 19 new partners
- \$25,524,047 of funding contributed
- 145 agreements
- 49 new agreements

Youth, Volunteer, and Hosted Programs

- 2,376 Participants
- \$1,834,962 in value contributed through all programs
- 85,588 hours donated for the equivalent of 47.5 FTE

TOTAL VALUE

\$27.4 million

Partnership Focus



Deschutes Children's Forest

Imagine all children in Central Oregon are getting outside to learn and explore. That was the idea that Sean Ferrell, Forest Partnerships Program Manager, and Larry Berrin, Education Director for Discover Your Northwest, were telling potential partners in December 2010 when describing the concept of the Deschutes



**DESCHUTES
CHILDREN'S
FOREST**

Children's Forest. The idea caught on fast as community partners quickly jumped on to the concept and began meeting in June 2011 to figure out how to make an idea become reality.

Common threads during the initial meetings to develop a strategic plan were the importance of *adding value and not adding work, being more efficient and effective, and marrying conservation education, recreation, and well-being.*

"It was those initial meetings that it became clear to me, this just wasn't an idea. It was a belief. Every partner came with passion, integrity, fairness, and respect for each other, which made it easy to get to the ultimate outcome," Ferrell said.

The ultimate outcome was a strategic plan that outlined how all the partners would work together to get every child outside, participating in the Deschutes Children's Forest. Without hesitation, the planning team formed an Advisory Board and moved quickly to sign into an MOU.



for the greatest good

Deschutes Children's Forest Continued...

The MOU created authority for the Advisory Board to operate under the legal structure of non-profit Discover Your Northwest (DYNW) doing business as Deschutes Forest Conservation Association (DFCA). DFCA is a new venture set up by DYNW to facilitate large community projects that benefit public lands in Central Oregon. The MOU also established that High Desert Education Service District (HDES) would host the Board's new paid staff member, the Deschutes Children's Forest Coordinator.

"Most exciting to me is the talent and variety of organizations who have signed into the MOU," Ferrell expressed. "We've forged new partnerships never before seen by the Forest Service."

The Advisory Board consists of 3 school districts (Bend LaPine, Redmond, Sisters), 2 health care organizations (Central Oregon Pediatrics Associates, St. Charles Health System), 5 leading conservation education non-profits (Environmental Center, DFCA, High Desert Museum, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, WolfTree), an award-winning recreation district (Bend Park & Rec), education service district (HDES), and the Forest Service.

Together, the Board has set up a children's forest model that could be implemented Anywhere, USA and launched priority initiatives in Fall 2012 to set the course for achieving their goal of reaching the 30,000 plus youth in Central Oregon:

- Website
- Prescription: 2 Thrive
- Inclusion
- NatureHoods
- Teacher Engagement
- Resource Co-op
- Intern

Website: deschuteschildrensforest.org was launched in October 2012 with resources for educators, students and families, including a user-friendly map of the children's forest that helps guide you to opportunities for learning and exploration.



*The Deschutes Children's Forest partnership has furthered the conservation education goals of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council by increasing the volume of local, regional & national conversations about connecting youth to the natural world. Thanks to the collaborative work of Deschutes Children's Forest partners, the importance of getting **all** children outside to learn, grow, and play is reverberating through our community and beyond.*

- Kolleen Yake
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council



The Forest Service has a long tradition and commitment to pursuing the stewardship of our natural resources. Our Forest Service mission becomes more complete as we more fully extend our stewardship and commitment to the children of the communities of central Oregon. In our new partnership with the DCF Board, I'm excited about the passion, commitment and expanded reach of our conservation education message and the public's role in stewardship.

-John Allen
Forest Supervisor





Skyliner Lodge is becoming a centerpiece of outdoor education in Central Oregon, because of the Deschutes Children's Forest. When we took over as caretakers of the lodge 4 years ago, it was barely being used. Last October, in contrast, the lodge was used 21 out of the 31 days that month. Children are accessing it to learn about the water cycle, wildlife biology, and the role of forest fires. It is gratifying to see it finally beginning to be used to its fullest.

- Paul Andrews
High Desert Education Service District



Partnering with all of the organizations connected to the Deschutes Children's Forest is the perfect opportunity for us to work collaboratively, using all of the unique skills and resources that each organization brings to the table, to provide broader exposure and richer, more complete experiences to the youth in our community.

- Sue Jorgensen
Bend Park & Recreation District

Rx:2Thrive: Through a unique partnership with the healthcare industry, families receive actual prescriptions for healthy active living, with recommendations to participate in Deschutes Children's Forest programming.

Inclusion: Opportunities for exploration and learning for students with physical and cognitive disabilities. Strategies include teacher trainings, vocational learning through the Greenhouses to Greenscapes Program, and developing the Children's Forest Discovery Center, an inclusive outdoor classroom with assistive technology ("There's an App for That").

NatureHoods connect children to the natural world close to where they live and go to school. Bend Park & Rec launched their first series of NatureHoods community programs with Treehouse Puppets in the Park in summer 2012 with over 800 participants. This was followed by the first school based NatureHood, Pine Nursery Park, which abuts the new FS office and Ponderosa Elementary. 30 teachers and 700 students have participated to date. Three more NatureHoods are slated to come on board in 2013.

Teacher Engagement: Funding to cover bus and substitute costs to encourage teachers to take their classroom learning outside. Teacher trainings are offered to provide skills needed to implement lessons in the outdoors. Forest Service piloted the Engagement Fund in 2010 with 4 school districts in Central Oregon. The Board is seeking funds to expand the program to include all 7 school districts that access the Children's Forest.

Resource Co-op: Lending library with field equipment and tools to be used by teachers and educators from Central Oregon. The Board is actively seeking funds to expand the library and create a physical location.

Intern: Generate a pipeline of opportunities for high school and college-aged youth to further the career pathway for youth interested in the mission of the Deschutes Children's Forest. The Board through Forest Service sponsorship will receive Title II Funds in 2013 to launch the intern program.

The Board has also focused its attention on being more efficient with program delivery, allowing programs to expand to more classrooms and students. In our first school year (2011/12), 286 Children's Forest programs reached over 8000 students in 244 classrooms in 63 schools. Through the relationship building and a common vision created by the strategic plan, Children's Forest programming expanded to 3 more schools in Fall 2012. While there is more to achieve to reach our ultimate goal of all students in Central Oregon, we are well poised to reach our interim goal of reaching 15,000 (50%) students by 2014.





Youth Focus

Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps

The Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) is a rural-based environmental stewardship and job training program modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps and authorized through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Act of 1970. In 2012, the three ranger districts of the Deschutes National Forest hosted 11 YCC crews, employing 58 youth and 9 adult crew leaders from six communities in Deschutes and Northern Klamath counties.

The highly successful program is made possible through a partnership between Heart of Oregon Corps, a non-profit youth organization; Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, a job training and educational program funded through the Workforce Investment Act; Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, a state agency; the National Forest Foundation and other private foundations, as well as the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests.

During the eight week summer program, youth earn approximately \$2,500, gain valuable job skills and contribute to environmental stewardship on public lands. In addition to earning wages, fifteen youth also qualified to receive an AmeriCorps educational scholarship of \$1300 to be used for post-secondary education.

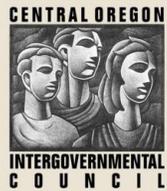


While the accomplishments of eleven YCC crews on the Deschutes National Forest are significant and extensive, below is a sampling of the type of work that motivated teenagers can do:

- 3,800 lodgepole pine removed from aspen stands
- Maintained 60+ miles of recreational trails
- Pruned 1,940 trees for hazardous fuels reduction
- Brushed out 700 trees from recreational trails
- Installed or maintained 200 water bars
- Pulled 15,155 knapweed and 1000 mullein plants
- Pruned 300 fir and pine trees
- Removed 120 acres of conifers for meadow restoration
- Hand piled 100 acres of slash within WUI areas
- Removed hundreds of unauthorized fire rings

Todd Lake Restoration Project and Partnership

COYCC crews worked in partnership with the Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC) to construct a 1000 foot lodgepole fence around sensitive riparian areas at Todd Lake. Materials for the restoration project were funded through a \$10,000 National Forest Foundation grant and youth wages were provided by private foundations and Heart of Oregon Corps.



Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Work - Education Program



Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is a significant and important partner throughout Central Oregon, working on public land projects throughout the region, but most significantly with the Sisters Ranger District.

COIC offers alternative high school education to allow students to make up credits and return to their regular classrooms, or to earn a state high school diploma or GED. Students may also participate in Work-Education, a work experience program that combines classroom credits with community service and natural resource projects.

Sisters Ranger District and the COIC Work Education Program have been working together for more than 10 years, with the primary work accomplished in silviculture, forest management and fisheries management.

In 2012, COIC crews contributed over 3500 hours of labor towards natural resource projects on the district. They accomplished work in hazardous fuels reduction, planted native species, removed noxious weeds, constructed fences and wildlife exclosures. Youth learned about careers by working with natural resource specialists and earned high school credits in the program.



The long term partnership between the Sisters Ranger District and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council's Work Education Program is phenomenal. For more than ten years the district has provided hundreds of central Oregon youth the opportunity to gain important job skills and learn about careers in natural resources while accomplishing meaningful work on public lands.

- Kevin Bradley
Work-Education Director



YOUTH, VOLUNTEER, & HOSTED 2012 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Deschutes National Forest

The Deschutes National Forest is a leader in Region 6 in its Youth, Volunteer and Hosted programs.*

Approximately **2,053 Volunteers** contributed nearly **45,000 hours** of donated labor to forest projects and targets on the Deschutes this past year. The Deschutes strengthened volunteer management through Sponsored Volunteer Agreements with many large volunteer partner groups as well as focusing on individual volunteer opportunities. Additionally, the Forest committed to hiring a permanent Volunteer Coordinator in the Trails program to improve quality control and volunteer experiences.

This past year the Deschutes hosted program had agreements with Deschutes County Community Justice (including programs for youth), Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Student Conservation Association, and Oregon Dept. of Corrections, leading to over **23,000 hours** of job training labor for **215 participants**.

Youth employment programs engaged **108 students** from across Central Oregon contributed nearly **15,000 hours** of labor in the management of the Deschutes National Forest (see "Youth Focus" story).

*- Overall data includes 130 volunteers (2 international), 5,052 volunteer hours, and 3,525 hosted hours that were managed out of the Supervisor's Office.

Overall Volunteer Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	38,681	\$842,858.99	21.49
Watershed	1,295	\$28,218.05	0.72
Fire Protection and Fuels	1,263	\$27,520.77	0.70
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	1,199	\$26,126.21	0.67
Forest Management	900	\$19,611.00	0.50
Minerals & Geology	472	\$10,284.88	0.26
Law Enforcement	400	\$8,716.00	0.22
Ecosystem Management	70	\$1,525.30	0.04
TOTAL	44,280	\$964,861.20	24.60

Overall Hosted Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Watershed	9,842	\$214,457.18	5.47
Fire Protection and Fuels	9,000	\$196,110.00	5.00
Recreation	2,038	\$44,408.02	1.13
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	1,320	\$28,762.80	0.73
Forest Management	802	\$17,475.58	0.45
Range Management	275	\$5,992.25	0.15
TOTAL	23,277	\$507,205.83	12.93

Overall Youth Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	6,676	\$145,470.04	3.71
Fire Protection and Fuels	4,303	\$93,762.37	2.39
Watershed	2,029	\$44,211.91	1.13
Forest Management	1,759	\$38,328.61	0.98
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	1,712	\$37,304.48	0.95
Range Management	1,360	\$29,634.40	0.76
Facilities	192	\$4,183.68	0.11
TOTAL	18,031	\$392,895.49	10.02

Sisters Ranger District

In 2012 the Sisters Ranger District continued to grow its Volunteer program, in large part due to its continuing partnership with National Forest Foundation and the Tale of Two Rivers program.

Approximately **574 Volunteers** contributed energy to the Sisters Ranger District, with most volunteer activities organized in partnership with NFF. Volunteer projects included: Trail improvements, road decommissioning, Earth Day Clean up, Ride for Two Rivers, Friends of the Forest Day, Paint Outs, & Nat'l Public Lands Day. Additionally, Green Ridge Fire Lookout Volunteers logged nearly 1300 hours.

The hosted program on Sisters Ranger District continued the inmate work program with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, Deer Ridge Facility as well as expanded into partnerships with Deschutes County Community Justice, and Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

Sisters Youth employment programs engaged **56 students** in resource management work during the summer through COYCC and the COIC Work-Education Program (see "Youth Focus" story).

Grand Total:

- **22,817 hours,**
- **\$497,171 and**
- **12.67 FTE**

Volunteer Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	10,274	\$223,870.46	5.71
Watershed	1,283	\$27,956.57	0.71
Fire Protection and Fuels	1,264	\$27,531.67	0.70
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	90	\$1,961.10	0.05
TOTAL	12,911	\$281,319.80	7.17

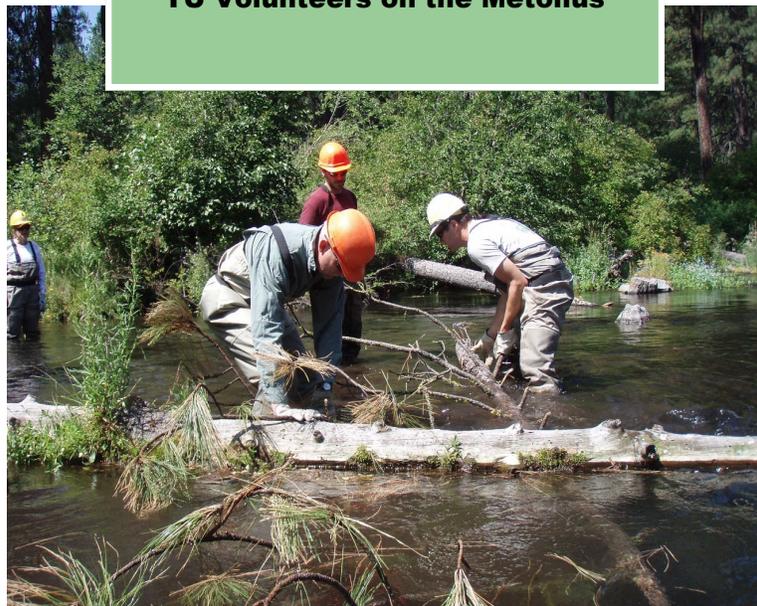
Hosted Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Fire Protection and Fuels	4,220	\$91,953.80	2.34
Watershed	242	\$5,273.18	0.13
TOTAL	4,462	\$97,226.98	2.48

Youth Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	1,328	\$28,937.12	0.74
Watershed	1,236	\$26,932.44	0.69
Fire Protection and Fuels	1,000	\$21,790.00	0.56
Recreation	820	\$17,867.80	0.46
Forest Management	660	\$14,381.40	0.37
Range	400	\$8,716.00	0.22
TOTAL	5,444	\$118,624.76	3.02

TU Volunteers on the Metolius





Constructed Fence at Todd Lake



**Sisters Volunteer Bank Coordinator,
Karly Hedrick**



**Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteers
at the Upper Whychus Portal**



**Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge
Crew at Nat'l Public Lands Day**

Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District

The Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District actively engaged in Youth, Volunteer, and Hosted programs.

Approximately **799 Volunteers** donated labor to the Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, primarily in the Wilderness and Trails programs. In addition, the Mt. Bachelor Snowshoe and Lava Lands programs had many dedicated volunteers, delivering conservation education messages.

Hosted programs continued with Deschutes County Community Justice, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Oregon Department of Corrections, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Youth Program and our continued involvement with the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

Bend-Ft. Rock Youth employment programs kept **37 students** engaged in resource management work.

Grand Total:

- **45,960 hours,**
- **\$1,001,462 and**
- **25.53 FTE**

Volunteer Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	19,173	\$417,777.49	10.65
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	763	\$16,625.77	0.42
Ecosystem Management	70	\$1,525.30	0.04
Watershed	12	\$261.48	0.01
TOTAL	20,018	\$436,190.04	11.12

Hosted Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Watershed	9,633	\$209,903.07	5.35
Fire Protection and Fuels	4,780	\$104,156.20	2.66
Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants	360	\$7,844.40	0.20
Range	275	\$5,992.25	0.15
Forest Management	142	\$3,094.18	0.08
Recreation	100	\$2,179.00	0.06
TOTAL	15,290	\$333,169.10	8.49

Youth Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	4,864	\$103,895.04	2.70
Fire Protection and Fuels	2,972	\$63,481.92	1.65
Range	960	\$20,505.60	0.53
Forest Management	768	\$16,404.48	0.43
Watershed	512	\$10,936.32	0.28
Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants	384	\$8,202.24	0.21
Facilities	192	\$4,101.12	0.11
TOTAL	10,652	\$227,526.72	5.92



Scouts at Lava River Cave

Crescent Ranger District

The Crescent Ranger District continued to explore opportunities in its Youth and Volunteer programs in 2012.

253 Volunteers worked on projects on the Crescent Ranger District during the year. Crescent focused volunteer energy on trail improvement projects. One committed volunteer added capacity to the pre-sale and timber program by providing services in GIS, database management, field assistance and conservation education.

In addition this year, Crescent Ranger District hosted two youth crews providing employment to **15 students**.

Volunteer Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	5,400	\$117,666.00	3.00
Forest Management	900	\$19,611.00	0.50
TOTAL	6,300	\$137,277.00	3.50

Youth Data

Resource Category	Hours	Value	FTE
Recreation	992	\$21,615.68	0.55
Watershed	331	\$7,212.49	0.18
Forest Management	331	\$7,212.49	0.18
Fire Protection and Fuels	331	\$7,212.49	0.18
TOTAL	1,985	\$43,253.15	1.10

Students coring trees to determine age



Grand Total:

- **8,285 hours,**
- **\$180,530 and**
- **4.60 FTE**



Volunteers constructing fence at Princess Creek