

# FY2012 Partnerships Report

## MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

When the forest published its Strategic Stewardship Plan in 2006 it included a list of nearly 400 partners. While we have not taken the time to update that list, our group of meaningful partner relationships has continued to expand.

### Partnership Value to the Forest

**\$4.76 million**

- **\$2.6 million in IWEB partner contributions to agreements**
- **\$1.5 million in program estimates for value not captured in IWEB**
- **\$900,000 in volunteer & hosted hours value**
- **\$260,000 Retained receipts)**

The following summarizes our collaborative and successful partnership with the Forest Service in the basin-wide

Sandy River restoration effort in fiscal 2012. The Council worked closely with USFS in three major areas: with the Zigzag Ranger District in major restoration efforts in the Salmon River and Still Creek, and with Columbia Gorge Scenic Area staff in restoration work in the Sandy River Delta.

On the Salmon River, the Council participated in reconnection and revegetation work in several side channels, as well as informal camping sites adjacent key restoration sites. The Council, Forest Service, and other partners including The Freshwater Trust and BLM, completed restoration in Salmon River side channels 1, 4, 5, 18, and 23a, representing thousands of lineal feet of habitat reconnected. In each case, monitoring showed biological response, including presence of juveniles and spawning by returning wild Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead in the months following restoration. Council activities with USFS personnel and community volunteers restored about four acres of riparian vegetation, utilizing native plantings to fill in areas impacted by campsite expansion. Forest Service biologists were instrumental in accomplishing the re-meandering and replacement of culverts on Side Channel 18, which flows through 12 private landowners' property, and which saw wild coho spawning in large numbers for the first time in decades following restoration.

On Still Creek, the Council joined the USFS and other partners in restoring .4 miles of main-stem and 1.4 miles of side channel area. The Council worked with volunteers from the National Forest Foundation on an Earth Day planting to plant conifers alongside Summer Homes in the restoration zone on Still Creek. Postproject observations included beaver activity and steelhead spawning in restored areas, encouraging immediate results. And on the Sandy River Delta, the Council worked with the USFS, contractors from Ash Creek Forestry, and youth corps volunteers to complete plant establishment on about 100 acres of previously treated area, and also to initiate construction of a fence to deflect visitors walking their dogs from sensitive wetlands on the Sandy River Delta.



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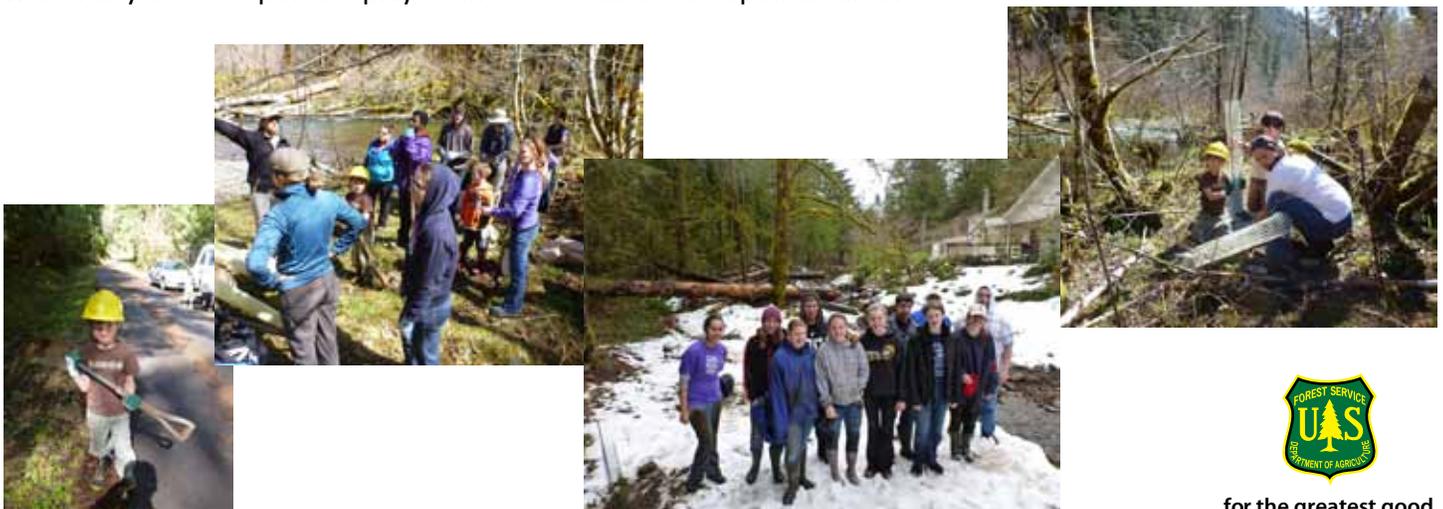
In each case, the Council engaged with youth crews, especially the Mt Hood Community College Youth Employment Support Services (YESS) program, as well as the Mazamas, Educational Recreational Adventures, Mazamas club members, and high school students from Sandy and Sam Barlow High Schools. The Council also hosted a quarterly meeting of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, highlighting projects on Still Creek and the Salmon River during a field tour as among highlights of recent achievements and collaboration. Salmon side channels 18 and 23a were featured in a Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District video about restoration efforts, available on-line and broadcast on countywide cable television.

The Council also collaborated with the Forest Service on fundraising for collaborative projects, gaining support from OWEB, the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative, Portland General Electric Habitat Fund, and National Forest Foundation Ski Recreation Fund, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as submitting additional proposals to the Fish America Foundation and others to increase resources available to restoration in Sandy River basin priority restoration areas managed by the Forest Service.

## YOUTH FOCUS

NAYA youth are given the opportunities to explore the field of forestry and forestry-based careers by participating in NAYA's Forestry Enrichment and Career Exploration Program through spring and summer break camps. The spring camp includes a career presentation by the Forest Service and an overnight trip to Twin Rocks Camp, located on the Oregon Coast south of Rockaway Beach. The summer camp includes students exploring in the Gorge with Big City Mountaineers, participation in the WolfTree Inc. Summit at Timberline Lodge, and leadership exercises with rope courses.

Staff uses a strengths-based approach, utilizing positive youth development and the Native American Relational Worldview service models while working with students. All activities and curriculum are hands-on and experiential, which has been demonstrated as the best teaching model for Native American Youth. Through this program, NAYA's goal is to create a lasting impression of the importance of working hard academically in order to be eligible for opportunities in exciting Forestry-based careers. NAYA's partners include United Way, Nike, and Portland State University Volunteer's. STEP and SCEP career recruiting with the Forest Service is underway. This year, the Forest Service hired three youth in Fisheries, Recreation and Fire and four youth volunteered with various other departments. Through these collaborative efforts, the Forest Service ensures future generations of dedicated employees and visitors to their forests while nurturing relationships with many other important players in the Portland metropolitan area.



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