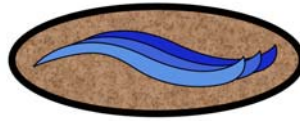


WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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F.I.S.H = Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats

FISH Steering Committee:

- ♦ Jen Seamens Blatner (Watershed Resource Center Coordinator, SW Neighborhoods, Inc.)
- ♦ Jane Hartline (Marketing Director, Oregon Zoo, Sauvie Island Landowner w/ active conservation plan, and WMSWCD Board Member)
- ♦ Sen Speroff (Environmental Advocate with Skyline Ridge Neighbors, Inc.)
- ♦ Margi Guilfoil (P2 Program Coordinator, Northwest Service Academy/AmeriCorps)
- ♦ Alison Wallisch (Neighborhood Clean Up Program Coordinator, Neighbors West-Northwest)
- ♦ Mary Logalbo (Conservation Planner/Technician, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District)

Summary: The FISH Steering Committee held its first grant evaluation meeting on November 20, 2008. The Committee members pooled their evaluation scores and discussed each applicant at depth. The Committee is happy to announce that it has chosen to award a total of \$16,100 to three worthy applicants. Please read on below for the funding breakdown as well as project summaries.

November Awards Granted:

Project Name: Backyard Habitat Certification	Amount Awarded: \$10000.00
Project Number: 11-08-1	Grant Award Date: 11/20/08

Backyard Habitat Certification (Project Summary):

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP) Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) engages landowners in conservation practices regardless of the size or setting of their property. This program is designed to help individual homeowners remove aggressive and invasive weeds and to use native plants in their garden and backyards.

Prior to this program being developed, landowners with small backyards who lived adjacent to or within natural areas were provided with very little on the ground support when it came to invasive plant removal and restoration work. Portland has a wealth of knowledgeable people and resources that can support landowners who want to learn more about smart gardening. The challenge is to make these resources available, accessible and enjoyable for homeowners who want more information and do not know how to access it. The current BHCP provides critical on the ground support to address a diversity of homeowners' needs, and advocates for homeowners to access available resources for invasive plant removal. For example, the west hills are under siege with garlic mustard. Many homeowners are seeing this plant move beyond the right-of-way and onto their property. The City of Portland and Three Rivers are working together, pending other funding, to address the garlic mustard infestation through herbicide spraying for homeowners who desire assistance to remove plant.

With a FISH grant, the program will expand its current focus, leveraging an in-kind match of \$63,200, on invasive plants and replanting with natives and include wildlife stewardship and stormwater management. With each focus area, resources and benefits are provided to homeowners to help them become certified, provide education, and assist with large-scale restoration efforts. Collectively, this will address watershed health, soil and water pollution prevention and the public's understanding of natural resource conservation throughout the District.

Project Name: McMahan Heavy Use Area	Amount Awarded: \$5600.00
Project Number: 11-08-2	Grant Award Date: 11/20/08

McMahan Heavy Use Area (Project Summary):

Lack of adequate overwinter area for horses and roof runoff from the McMahan's barn, coupled with deep, clayey soils created a mud & manure mess for the five horses that reside on the McMahan's Sauvie Island farm. In addition, the A1 canal (used by the SIDIC to drain the local area into the Columbia River) is within 500 feet of this barn area. The close proximity of this surface water along with the water quality concerns that have arisen from this site's mud and manure issues, including nutrient loading, habitat degradation and sedimentation, require immediate action.

Funding from the FISH grant, leveraging an in-kind match of \$5,600, will be used for the installation of a Heavy Use Area, which will provide a well-drained & stable overwintering area for the McMahan's horses. This Heavy Use Area will allow for the site's pasture land to recover as well as provide a confined area where proper manure management can be implemented over the rainy seasons. The District may showcase this project to other horse owners on Sauvie Island, and throughout the District, to demonstrate how Heavy Use Areas should be utilized as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a horse owner.

Project Name: Vermont Creek Restoration-Martin Property	Amount Awarded: \$500.00
Project Number: 11-08-3	Grant Award Date: 11/20/08

Vermont Creek Restoration-Martin Property (Project Summary):

A private landowner, Robert Martin, has noticed the continued encroachment of invasive species and the declining health of his 50 foot section of riparian corridor along the urban waterway, Vermont Creek. Mr. Martin contacted the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) Watershed Resource Coordinator, Jen Seamens Blatner for advice on what to do with his property's degrading streambanks. This SWNI representative advised that Mr. Martin contact his local "friends of group" as well as contact a professional to get an idea of what a restoration project might entail and cost. Native Canopy Landscape and Design, LLC, provided a site visit and bid for the restoration project which involves invasive plant removal (English Holly, English Ivy, European Hawthorn and Himalayan Blackberry), erosion control measures and native riparian plantings.

With a FISH grant, leveraging an in-kind match of \$1500, the invasive species will be removed and erosion control features will be installed. The FISH Committee has partially funded this project noting that Mr. Martin may look to other funding sources available within the City and Metro to help him fund the native plants for the final step in this restoration project. The FISH Grant Coordinator, Mary Logalbo, as well as the SWNI Watershed Resource Coordinator, Jen Seamens Blatner, will provide further guidance to this landowner to assist him with finding the financial incentives available through City and Metro for native plants. This landowner has agreed to showcase his project to neighbors as well as present to his neighborhood association about his experiences with conducting his own stream-side restoration project.