



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Over \$16,000 Awarded in Grants by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

A total of \$16,320 has just been awarded to three projects in SW Portland by the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD). The grants are part of the Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats (FISH) program, which are dedicated to improving watershed health and native wildlife habitat throughout the District.

Vermont Creek Restoration: Awarded \$1648.00

This is an on the ground restoration project to improve watershed health and wildlife habitat along Vermont Creek. It involves removing invasive plant species such as blackberry and holly, placing fabric/netting to prevent erosion along the streambanks and planting native species. WMSWCD's grants furthers an on-going Vermont Tributary restoration project up-stream. The site will be maintained by ongoing removal of any new invasives and replace native plants if needed.

Tryon Creek Watershed/Rapid Response Invasive Weed Program: \$9992.00

In the Tryon Creek Watershed invasive plant species, garlic mustard and knotweed, pose a threat to the ecological health of large tracts of protected natural area. Invasive plants lie hidden on hundreds of small private sites scattered throughout the watershed. WMSWCD's grant will not only help eradicate invasives where found but also re-vegetate the sites, thereby reducing the rate of re-emergence. This award will also fund two years of ongoing education and outreach work carried out by the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.

SW Watersheds Outreach & Toolbox Project: \$4680.00

This education and outreach project is designed to build an awareness of watershed ecology and stewardship in SW Portland, and can be used beyond the target area. The video toolbox project and education programs target adults and youth who are aware of natural resource issues, but lack the specific knowledge and skills to move into taking action. These programs are expected to enhance understanding of watershed ecology, as well as increase knowledge of specific actions and skills homeowners can employ to help improve watershed health.

This project has two components, a video toolbox project and education programs. The grant will also fund an AmeriCorps LINKS intern position supporting education and outreach at the Watershed

Resource Center and work with the WRC Coordinator to develop a community-based social marketing outreach program.

The next deadline for FISH grants is August 17, 2009. For more information about the FISH program or to inquire about the application process, contact WMSWCD Conservation Planner/Technician, Mary Logalbo, 503/238-4775, ext. 103, mary@wmswcd.org.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's mission is "to conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment."

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