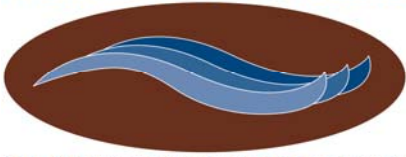


WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Begins Work on Historic Native American Indian Site

Over 30 volunteers joined West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) staff Sunday, May 31 for an invasive weed pull at Native American Rehabilitation Association Northwest (NARA NW) in NW Portland. As well as community members, residents from the facility joined in the effort to remove about 10,000 square feet, or 300 pounds of invasive plants from the land, owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

To kick off the event, WMSWCD Conservation Planner, Mary Logalbo, educated volunteers about the native plants the District aims to protect through its multi-year project at the site. Logalbo said many native plants there were used by past tribal members for food and medicine, as the site was historically used as an Indian trail and fishing ground. In addition, Logalbo said invasives such as English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry and Japanese Knotweed are forcing out native plants (and their ecological benefits) throughout the McCarthy Creek Watershed.

This volunteer event was the beginning of a multiyear partnership between NARA NW and WMSWCD which will eventually result in a full restoration of the NARA NW property along McCarthy Creek. The project will serve as a native plant restoration demonstration area for NARA NW residents and interested community members.

The NARA NW project is part of the District's larger watershed knotweed control program in its second year of implementation. It's partially funded through an Oregon Department of Agriculture Oregon State Weed Board grant.

To find out more please contact us 503-238-4775 or visit us on the web at www.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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