WATERS

Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship
WATERS focuses on direct involvement of students in hands-on, inquiry- and field-based projects centered in environmental education.

- **Primary goals:**
  - Increase collaboration among environmental educators, public agencies, and non-profits
  - Develop field-based watershed research and stewardship teams (H.S & M.S.)
  - Identify and complete restoration or monitoring projects for each team
  - Promote understanding of scientific methods and protocols, critical thinking and problem solving
  - Promote student collaboration, leadership and peer-to-peer learning
  - Prepare students for work in environmental fields
  - Increase diversity amongst student participants
THE TEAMS

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

- Aquatic habitat survey
  - Thurston H.S.
  - Springfield H.S.
- Water quality testing
  - Thurston H.S.
  - Springfield H.S.
  - McKenzie H.S.
  - Mohawk H.S.
Mohawk River Basin
2017 Water Quality Monitoring Sites
McKenzie High School
2017 Water Quality Monitoring Sites
Millrace WQ Testing Locations 2016-17
AQUATIC HABITAT SURVEY SITES

Strube Ponds

Gate Creek
WATERS CONFERENCE

- Capstone event for high school team members
- Conference planning under way
- Will take place in May
- Students present reports or posters on data analyzed this year
- Expert panel composed of project partners will engage with presenters
- Middle school students may participate in a juried art contest
PARTNERSHIP

- Real world projects benefit both students and partners
- Monitoring data used for in-stream projects (USFS, BLM)
- Water quality data shared with EWEB
- Native plantings and maintenance at active restoration sites (MRT, landowners)
- Regional approach
CFWWC

- Programmatic start in Fall 2016
  - Lincoln Middle School
- Five schools involved now
  - All middle schools in the Coast Fork watershed.
- Eventual expansion in to area high schools
THE TEAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL RESTORATION TEAMS

• McKenzie M.S.
• Coburg Community Charter School
• Agnes Stewart M.S. (two teams)
• Briggs M.S.
• Hamlin M.S.
• Thurston M.S.
• Lincoln Middle School
• Dorena School
• Child’s Way Charter School
• London School
• Creswell M.S.
RESTORATION TEAM LOCATIONS (MWC)

- Finn Rock Reach
  - McKenzie M.S.
- Green Island
  - Coburg Community Charter School
- Berggren Watershed Conservation Area & Dehne Property
  - Agnes Stewart M.S. (two teams)
  - Briggs M.S.
  - Hamlin M.S.
  - Thurston M.S.
RESTORATION TEAM LOCATIONS (CFWWC)

- Rujada Campground
  - Child’s Way Charter School
  - Dorena School
- London School grounds (Coast Fork Willamette River)
  - London School
- Row River Nature Park
  - Lincoln Middle School
- Creswell Oaks
  - Creswell Middle School
FIELD STUDY LESSONS

- Watershed basics
- Riparian ecology / soil science introduction
- Twig ID
- Water quality
- Benthic macro-invertebrates ID
- Leaf ID
- Fish ID
RESTORATION OLYMPICS

- Annual capstone event held in June
- Middle school students from region (200 approx.)
- Events include:
  1. Post-assessment test
  2. Mulching
  3. Plant ID
  4. Macro-invertebrate ID
  5. Fish ID
- Prizes for top three teams & pizza for all
STUDENT TAKE AWAY

- Meets Next Generation Science Standards
- Awareness of local ecology
- Introduction to scientific methods
- Career development and potentials
- Outdoor experience
- Builds teamwork ethic and longterm relationships
- Multiple years of participation foster sense of ownership
- Reinforces importance of collaboration and partnerships
- Empowers students and their ability to make an impact at any age
# PROGRAM COSTS

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### WATERS FUNDING (2018)

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FUNDING CHALLENGES

- OWEB funding changes (no programmatic funding after 2018-19)
- EWEB Source Water Protection Program limitations (local match)
- Uncertainty in federal funding (EPA, NFWF)
- Private foundations:
  - Limited funding availability
  - Increased competition
  - Funder fatigue
FUNDING STRATEGIES

- Integrate education funding line items into OWEB Restoration requests
  - Riparian restoration team time at active sites
  - Aquatic habitat survey pre and post assessments
  - Water quality data collection
- Leverage local partners to expand existing support
  - Financial
  - In-kind
- Identify and maximize private foundation funding opportunities
  - Increase private donations
- Increase private donations
THANK YOU!

Questions, comments or feedback?