

52 students, and 15 parent volunteers were directly involved throughout the project. In addition, approximately 150 family and community members visited the students' presentation of their learning, which took the form of a mock nature visitor center.

How did this project meet the requirements of the grant terms?

The project addressed the goals of the grant in two primary ways. First, through hands-on, field-based education, education was enhanced for young people in our community. Through learning first-hand about the native wildlife that inhabit our forests and wetlands, they grappled with some of the challenges these animals face, such as increasing human development, climate change and habitat destruction. They wrote detailed reports describing how these animals survive, and made a video offering possible actions we can take to help them. They gained an awareness and appreciation for what makes Oregon's ecosystems special.

Secondly, students concluded their learning by hosting an educational event for families to share their knowledge. They created a quest to teach about 12 of the animals they researched, and to encourage other members of the community to explore. Overall, these activities provided students a memorable hands-on experience with taking action to address sustainability challenges we face.

Erin Morgan

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