

# 4-H Eco-Stewardship Impact Report 2018-2019



The 4-H Eco-Stewardship program uses experiential education projects to engage students in Chelan and Douglas Counties in natural resource education and recreational experiences with an aim to build awareness of environmental stewardship, healthy living, and lifelong recreational habits.



*WestSide High School students working to improve trail drainage at Jacobsen Preserve, Wenatchee, WA.*

## After School Programs

4-H Facilitators delivered 4-H Challenge Curriculum in a year-long program at Wenatchee School District's Pioneer and Orchard Middle Schools. 168 youth participated in 38 different two-hour workshops and field trips. Activities included portable ropes course, snow science field trips, 4-H Challenge Ropes Course, and learning about healthy life choices.

## SkillSource Service Learning

In partnership with SkillSource, Chelan/Douglas County Extension coordinated three 100-hour work sessions for participants developing work-based skill. Three different groups comprised of 22 young adults experienced project-based learning, consisting of overnight wilderness service projects, 4-H Challenge Ropes Course, and collaboration with local natural resource entities.

## High School Eco-Stewardship

The core program partnered with two local alternative high schools serving 30 youth. Students at each school participated in 29 events for a total of 192 hours of programming. Curriculum included content in snow data collection, salmon dissection, service projects, and watershed health and ecology.



Middle School students learning about snow pack and snow crystal structure at Squilchuk State Park, Wenatchee, WA.

## By the Numbers:

**144** Program events **759** total youth participants

**623** Program contact hours

**115** High school students **91** outside activity days

**480** Middle school students **38** workshops

**164** Community participants **15** events

# Featured Program: High School Eco-Stewardship

WestSide and Discovery High Schools participated in an alternative approach to learning science. Using place-based education that uses the classroom created by the lands and waters around us, rather than a conventional textbook, students were able to experience science in a meaningful, hands-on way, with increased student buy-in. The Eco-Stewardship Program implemented experiential science curriculum through field data collection and research, in addition to exposing students to new career fields with future job possibilities for them through our program partners.

## Based on self-reported evaluation data, after participating in our program:

**93%** of High School students learned how to communicate the results of an experiment to others

**94%** of all Chelan-Douglas County 4-H participants are more willing to work hard on something difficult

**87%** of all Chelan-Douglas County 4-H participants think more about how their choices affect others,

**an increase of 15% from pre-program evaluation data**

## Reaching the Community

Eco-Stewardship connects youth with nature and communities through experiential activities and involvement in service based projects. Our partners are Washington State Recreation Conservation Office, 4-H Positive Youth Development, Cascade and Wenatchee School Districts, SkillSource, Northwest Avalanche Center, Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Cascadia Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife, Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, and the U.S. Forest Service.



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