

Portola Students Help Restore Red Clover Creek

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"Students As Stewards" is a growing watershed education and restoration program targeting 7th through 12th grade teachers and students. Building off of their sixth grade "Plumas to the Pacific" watershed experience, the program's main objective is to help teachers and students integrate restoration activities with core classroom curriculum and instruction. This integration will help pilot a new effort for the Plumas Unified School District known as Service Learning. The basis of Service Learning is to integrate community values and objectives with educational values and objectives. The values and objectives focused upon here being watershed restoration and stewardship.



Students As Stewards does not simply have students do project work, but provides them with appropriate training of skills, resources and tools. While students will participate in some large scale restoration efforts in the watershed, the majority of their time will be spent on planning and implementing

projects adjacent to their school site, within their community and closer to their daily lives. These sites have been identified as part of the Learning Landscapes program coordinated by the Feather River Land Trust to foster conservation education opportunities for local schools.

The Students As Stewards Program kicked off this summer with a three-day teacher workshop coordinated in partnership with the Feather River Land Trust and held at the Heart K Ranch in Genesee Valley. Nine middle and high school instructors from Westwood, Chester, Greenville, Quincy, and Portola were taught how to plan, implement, and monitor student stewardship projects focused on restoring their local watershed. The Feather River

Extra Item for Review

Coordinated Resource Management staff demonstrated monitoring and restoration techniques and led a tour of projects above Antelope Lake in the Last Chance Creek watershed.

This fall instructors brought their students out to see firsthand restoration projects planned and/or completed in the upper watershed. Joe Guzzi, Portola Middle School instructor brought approximately 50 students up to Red Clover Valley, where they helped seed and plant willows on the Red Clover Poco Restoration Project. The Red Clover Poco project was constructed in 2010 in partnership with the Plumas National Forest. After the heavy spring runoff in 2011 the project experienced some damage, requiring repair work this fall. The students assisted in the re-vegetation efforts, and will hopefully be able to re-visit the site this coming spring to see the results of their efforts.



The Students As Stewards program is funded by 2008-2011 Secure Rural Schools Public Law 106-393, federal monies that are awarded through the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee and administered by the U.S. Forest Service.