



BLM News Release

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Alder Creek Children's Forest Wins Collaboration Award

Roseburg, OR – Alder Creek Children's Forest recently won the Collaboration Award of the Hands on the Land Network. Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management, the non-profit organization is being recognized for its years of collaborative efforts. Presentation of the award will take place on-site at the Forest at 10 A.M. on Friday, October 13. The ceremony will be in conjunction with a teachers' in-service training day there.

The Children's Forest is being recognized for its collaborative endeavors with training and educational programs that enhance ecosystems and cooperative relationships among partners. Cooperative relationships are being forged among watershed landholders, nearby communities, and school districts. Regular outdoor fairs are held on-site with learning stations that provide interaction between instructors and students. Art, photography and poster contests display entries in the local community of Canyonville. Winning entries have been shared on the Hands on the Land website. Summer teachers' institutes are building a network of school personnel trained in forest management and ecology.

According to Jay Carlson, District Manager of BLMs Roseburg District, the Alder Creek Children's Forest uses collaboration with several groups to achieve several important goals related to youth and natural resources. First, the site provides natural resource education and employable skills to students. Secondly, students conduct inventory to provide baseline data for watershed monitoring and restoration.

Their collaboration has resulted in a strong and successful partnership with Federal and State agencies, the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians, private and industrial land owners, and school districts. "By offering educational programs linking forests, watersheds, and communities, they are cultivating a knowledgeable and committed young citizenry," says Carlson.

"Successful collaboration depends on support from private, non-profit, and government entities," offers Carlson. "Each brings benefits to the table. Private landowners make decisions for lands under their jurisdiction. Non-profits provide coordination, project management, and diverse representation. Government provides funding, regulation, staff expertise and management direction."

"Alder Creek Children's Forest provides a model to young citizens of the benefits of working together," notes Jim Proctor, Board President of ACCF and professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. "Each party in a collaborative effort has something important to contribute. Once we all agree that both people

and natural resources matter, opportunities unfold to cooperatively build healthy forests, watersheds, and communities. This is what we all want for future generations in Douglas County. ACCF is proud to play a small part in making that future a reality.”

Hands on the Land is a nationwide network of field classrooms designed to enhance kindergarten through high school student learning. HOL is sponsored by Partners in Resource Education, a collaboration of five federal agencies (including Bureau of Land Management) and a nonprofit educational foundation. Established in 1999, “Hands on the Land” has sometimes been called “America’s largest classroom.” Currently, nearly 60 federal agency sites are participating nationwide. Education specialists at these sites work closely with local educators to develop programs that meet state education standards. In the process, school subjects are brought to life as students and teachers engage in hands-on activities in natural and cultural settings. Through the HOL website (www.handsontheland.org), students can learn about other sites and participate in environmental monitoring and other interactive projects.

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