



BPA awards community education grants

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1996

PR 37 96

PORTLAND, Ore. - Four Portland-based organizations received \$27,260 in community education grants today from the Bonneville Power Administration.

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's Salmon Camp received \$9,760; the Public Power Council's Plant a Tree, Save a Fish program received \$7,500; the Oregon Collaboration for Energy, Education and the Environment (OCEEE) grant program received \$5,000; and Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch received \$5,000. Nine other grants were awarded throughout the Northwest as part of BPA's Community Education Program. The grants will support projects that teach environmental awareness and energy efficiency to elementary, middle and high school students.

"Northwest educators are seeing tighter budgets," said Joan McNamara, BPA's education coordinator. "Organizations like BPA should help find creative ways to supplement the shrinking education dollar. As an organization committed to supporting education in its service territory, BPA is proud to award these grants to these Portland-based organizations."

OMSI's award will underwrite one session of Salmon Camp, a unique camping program for American Indian middle school students from both reservation and urban schools. Led by a predominantly Indian staff, Salmon Campers follow the route of the salmon from the headwaters of the Warm Springs River to the Pacific Ocean during the six-day experience. In follow-up sessions during the school year, the campers and their families will participate in activities, such as science fairs, that enhance skills in science, math and technology. On weekends students also participate in habitat restoration projects on tribal lands, according to Dr. Jeffrey Gottfried, who directs Salmon Camp.

The Plant a Tree, Save a Fish grant will help high school students in the Columbia River watershed propagate cuttings from native trees in their school greenhouses, and then plant them along streams where salmon return to spawn.

"This program not only provides educational opportunities for young people; it also helps rehabilitate riparian habitat," said Mark Shaw, BPA's model watershed coordinator. "It is attractive because it is low-cost, low-tech, and community-based. BPA is pleased to be able to join with its public utility customers to sponsor this program."

OCEEE will use its award to give smaller grants to Oregon classrooms and community groups that encourage innovative energy and environmental education. BPA is one of six participating utilities and agencies in the program.

"Small grants can make a big difference in the classroom by engaging students in innovative approaches to understanding energy," explains Elly Adelman, BPA's representative to the OCEEE. "Joining with other Oregon utilities and state agencies, we are able to leverage our funding, thereby increasing the educational benefits. Schools throughout Oregon, with a special emphasis on rural areas, have been beneficiaries."

Salmon Watch will use its grant to help urban middle and high school students in Portland, Corvallis and Eugene learn about the plight of the wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest. This program combines classroom instruction, field trips to observe spawning salmon, and student community service projects, all supported by training for teachers and volunteers.

"We see this as a way to educate the future generations about this important Northwest resource so they can make responsible, informed decisions as tomorrow's leaders," said McNamara.

The other nine grant recipients are:

- Water Awareness Week 1997 sponsored by the Idaho Department of Water Resources
- The Montana Energy Calendar sponsored by the 1997 Montana Energy Education Council
- The Edison Project sponsored by Clallam County Washington Youth 2000
- Meet Mr. Electricity sponsored by the Columbia Valley Gardens Elementary School in Longview, Wash.
- Classroom Workshops sponsored by Snohomish County Washington Public Utility District #1
- Lake Roosevelt Water Festival sponsored by the Lake Roosevelt Water Festival Planning Committee in Colville, Wash.
- Energy, Environment and Community sponsored by the Energy Outreach Center in Olympia, Wash.
- The Richland Wash. Summer Science Camp sponsored by the Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology
- Salmon Education and Restoration sponsored by the Toppenish Washington School District #202.

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