

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at Oregon State University, FY 2008

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds help Oregon forest owners, farmers, and ranchers manage their lands in a productive and environmentally sound manner, while ensuring economic sustainability. RREA programs also assist in funding the Oregon Natural Resources Educational Program for teachers and school children across the state. RREA funds are leveraged with funds from Oregon Cooperative Extension (OES), other state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. OES staff also partner regularly with experts from other agencies and organizations to deliver timely, credible, and practical educational programs. In public educational programs conducted by Oregon State University, each RREA dollar is typically leveraged with about \$6.50 from external sources, such as the USDA Forest Service, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. In FY 2008, RREA funds have been used:

- To conduct 60 educational programs for forest owners and managers, leading to the adoption of new and improved management practices by 210 landowners affecting more than 20,000 acres of private forestland in the state.
- To conduct 23 educational programs for ranchers and rangeland managers in the Pacific Northwest, leading to improvements, such as riparian restoration, exotic species control, and enhanced animal management on public and private rangelands in the Pacific Northwest.
- To develop a watershed restoration project prioritization system based on ecological and socio-economic factors. The system has been adopted by Watershed Councils throughout the state, enabling them to better focus their time and funding on the highest impact projects.
- To deliver 54 educational workshops to more than 1000 teachers and informal educators throughout the state, including such award-winning programs as *Project Learning Tree* and *Project Wild*. This represents a potential impact on nearly 40,000 school children each year in Oregon.

Quote: *“It’s a great feeling when we have a field tour and get people from urban areas to see salmon spawning in a stream, or the care we take to ensure sustainability within our working forests.” Gary Springer – Master Woodland Manager*



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