



Walama

Restoration Project

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Issue #15

Fall 2012

Sub-Alpine Meadow Reconstruction on the Cascade Crest

By : Yotokko Kilpatrick

During the late summer and early autumn 2012, in the shadow of the Hoodoo Ski Area, WRP began the second of a multi-year restoration project to restore sub-alpine meadow habitat.

Funding from the Mazamas Foundation and the Willamette National Forest helped to facilitate meadow rehabilitation efforts adjacent to Hoodoo as well as in the Big Lake area. Prior to route designation for All Terrain Vehicles in October 2008, meadow habitats around Santiam Pass were subject to the impacts associated from off-road enthusiasts. The soils in the area are comprised of volcanic sand and pumice and contain little organic matter. The end results are often bleak, moon-like landscapes that rejuvenate very slowly without intervention.

Monitoring of restoration plantings in 2011 were conducted during September 2012. Test plots were established in 2011 to evaluate direct sowing of native seed vs. the planting of native plugs. Direct sown plots, while more cost-effective, lacked sufficient plant cover and were deemed inferior to plots planted with established plugs. In the bleakest of moonscapes slated for restoration, it was concluded through monitoring, that organic matter in the form of coarse woody debris may need to be incorporated to provide ample microclimates for the establishment of plants.

WRP crews visited the area numerous times during the latter half of summer 2012 to collect native grass and wildflower seed. Propagation efforts have already commenced to establish plugs for on-site planting in Fall of 2013. WRP has begun discussions with the biology teacher from McKenzie High School and plans to incorporate students in the rehabilitation of sub-alpine meadow communities at Santiam Pass.

WRP Crew re-vegetating area impacted from ATV use at Santiam Pass.



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Sweet Life

**The Many Volunteers who
came out this past winter to
restore our Local Open
Spaces!**

Hello from New WRP Board Member, Alanya Linde!

I have chemistry degree from Pacific Lutheran University where I also minored in women's and gender studies and environmental studies. After graduating in 2010, I worked for one year as the Outreach and Education Coordinator at Citizens for a Healthy Bay in Tacoma, Washington, an environmental nonprofit focused on cleaning, restoring, and protecting Commencement Bay and the Puget Sound. I am currently pursuing my master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Oregon where my concentrations are sustainable development and affecting social change. I am joining the board of Walama



Restoration Project through a course in board governance, but I am mostly excited to be able to spend my second year in Eugene getting involved in meaningful local environmental action and meeting more people making things happen in our community. A Minnesotan by birth, I enjoy jumping in cold bodies of water and playing Ultimate Frisbee. You may run

into me around town on my bike wearing a bright reflective vest.

Plant Profile: *Delphinium menziesii*

Native west of the Cascades from British Columbia to California, *Delphinium menziesii* is a perennial wildflower that grows from coastal bluffs and prairies to moist meadows and forest openings at moderate elevations. It has tuberous, clustered roots and usually grows to less than 50cm high. The stem is slender and single with very fine hairs. Blooming from May on the coast, to June and July in higher meadows, *Delphinium menziesii* flowers are violet with the uppermost of the five petals pronounced into a hollow spur. The upper two petals are most often white. The flowers occur in 3-20 open, loose simple to branched terminal clusters. There are records of Native peoples who made a poultice of the stalk and applied it to sores. The leaves are also a parasite inhibitor. The flowers can



be extruded to obtain blue dye. All parts of the plant are highly toxic and should only be used externally. *Delphinium menziesii* is very attractant and is pollinated by hummingbirds, butterflies, and bumblebees, and other native bees, making it a wonderful addition to native gardens and habitat.

From Seed to Habitat Education Update - Fall 2012

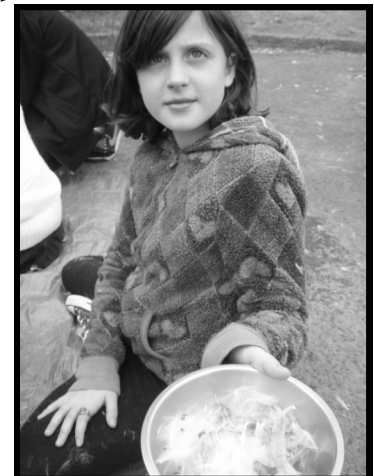
By: Nicole Smedegaard

This fall, the WRP education program is kicking off the 2012-2013 school year with a new addition to the From Seed to Habitat Program (FSH), The Village School! We would like to welcome Matthew Bigonjiari's fifth grade class to FSH. Mr. Bigonjiari helped co-found The Village School, a holistic charter school located on 28th and Lincoln St in Eugene. He leads an artistic and earthy classroom full of excited students who just love to learn about the natural world around them. In October, the fifth grade class participated in fall introduction activities with Walama including a botany lesson and seed cleaning. Mr. Bigonjiari's classroom cleaned Milkweed, genus *Asclepias*, the host plant of the Monarch Butterfly. They learned that the Monarch larva has adapted to feed on the plant despite its chemical defenses. Fifth graders are very astute Lepidopterists!

Before threshing the Milkweed, where one separates the seed from the rest of the material, or chaff, the kids learned about seed dispersal. They identified wind, water, in animals, and on animals as four different ways that seeds can disseminate. They guessed which adaptations might help seed transportation, and then were able to experience in person just how efficiently Milkweed seeds fly when still attached to the pappus, or fluffy fine hairs, that parachute the seeds in the wind. After separating the seeds using screens, bowls, and little deft fingers, the kids found time to frolic about the courtyard in the escaped chaff, which blew around them in snow-like flurries. Thank you Matthew Bigonjiari's class for cleaning an entire bag full of seeds! Walama also owes a big thank you to The Village School for generously including us in the annual fund raising Walk-A-Thon event this year, where they raised upwards of ten thousand dollars, some of which will be donated to WRP and other local non-profit organizations.

In addition to The Village School, Walama is working with Agnes Stuart Middle School in Springfield for the third year. This fall, Carrie Patterson's class cleaned Showy Tarweed, *Madia elegans*, a species traditionally used as food by Native Americans. They came away with quite the sticky fingers, as the name Tarweed suggests! Over at Territorial Elementary, where the From Seed to Habitat Program is also in its third year, Laura Wharton's fifth grade class had a blast getting to take advantage of the unusually temperate fall weather this year by participating in hands-on activities outside. Territorial's rural location meant that the kids got a chance to venture to the edge of the forest to choose a plant to study for their botany lesson. Those who chose the Douglas Fir had trouble identifying the height of their plant with the rulers they brought out for that purpose.

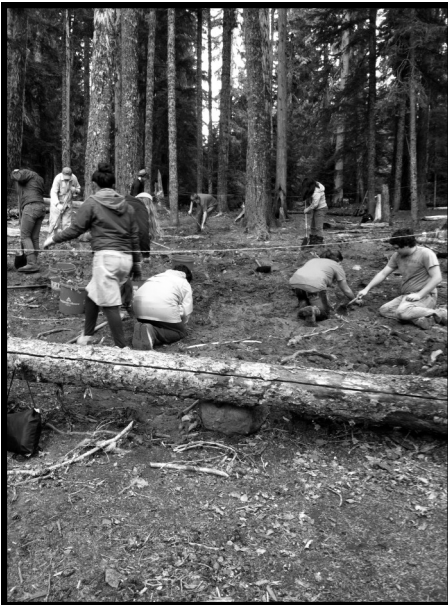
Over at the Butterfly Meadow in the Whilamut Natural Area, Network Charter School and Looking Glass Center Point School students have worked hard all through the fall to prepare the site for planting. Looking Glass Center Point School has been participating in the program for four years, while Network Charter School has participated for eight years! The first order of operations was to identify and then eradicate any Queen Anne's Lace, an invasive that can sometimes be misidentified as native Yarrow or Poison Hemlock. The young adults participating in invasive removal found that the umbels of Queen Anne's Lace often hold little living surprises, and that the seeds are very well adapted to transport on animals (or humans). Although it was a messy business, the sense of accomplishment was great once the invasive was thoroughly uprooted. After invasive removal, shade fabric was peeled back to reveal this year's planting area at the Butterfly Meadow, where some of the FSH schools will be traveling in November for their fall field trips. FSH students look forward to getting their hands dirty as well as restoring native Upland Prairie habitat during November plantings this year.



Habitat Reclamation at Marion Lake in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness

By: Yotokko Kilpatrick

In 2012, WRP entered the second of a multiple year project at Marion Lake in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Support from the National Forest Foundation and the local community helped to facilitate these efforts. Additional support from the Detroit Ranger District helped to expand restoration activities in 2012. Prior to Wilderness designation in 1968, human installed infrastructure adjacent to the lake has left a lasting impact,



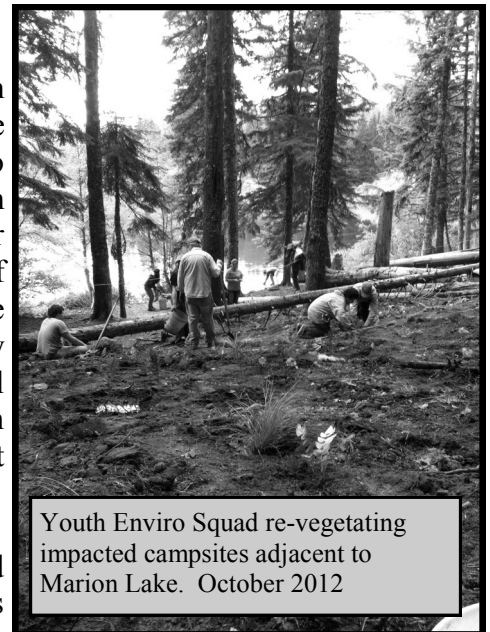
both on the landscape and, unfortunately, in the minds of many who visit this beautiful site. This is too often reflected in the way visitors use or misuse this portion of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Integrating youth in habitat reclamation efforts at the site is perhaps the first step in the adjustment of the public's mindset regarding the area.

The 2012 growing season was the first of many restoration monitoring efforts at Marion Lake. At the onset of the growing season, things were looking great. Survival estimates were over seventy-five percent from the plantings in autumn 2011. Summer took its toll on this figure with end of the season survival rates dropping below forty percent. Periodic watering is currently planned for the 2013 growing season to increase survival rates for 2012 plantings.

WRP led the urban ecology class from the Network Charter School in late September on a backpacking trip to implement the project. The Youth

Enviro-Squad from Salem also joined WRP crews in October to further expand the project area. Participants assisted with the de-compaction of soils within the project area. Following soil de-compaction appropriate native flora was planted into the restoration site followed by a heavy watering of summer-parched soils. The area reclaimed through soil de-compaction and native planting tripled in size from 2012 restoration efforts and is on schedule for the five-year estimate for project completion.

For this year projects participants at Marion Lake, the adventure served as an introduction to backpacking. In addition to restoration protocols folks were introduced to "leave no trace" ethics for wilderness excursions, the lasting impacts of soil compaction, the ecology associated with mid-elevation lakes and the ethno-botanical uses of numerous common forest understory species in Oregon. WRP's goal for the site extends beyond the projects boundaries. The aim is to plant seeds not only in the ground, but also in the minds of these stewards of Oregon's future.



Youth Enviro Squad re-vegetating impacted campsites adjacent to Marion Lake. October 2012

Our Mission:

Walama Restoration Project is a Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship & Biological Diversity through Education & Habitat Restoration.

Restoration Update - Fall 2012

By: Yotokko Kilpatrick

WRP crews spent the 2012-growing season controlling emerging populations of exotic plant species that threaten the integrity of local watersheds. Just east of Eugene/Springfield in the McKenzie watershed, WRP crews worked with the McKenzie Watershed Council to control the spread *Clematis vitalba*. Currently a major problem in the Portland metro area, *Clematis* possesses the capacity to spread into our local region severely undermining the quality of riparian habitats. Imagine another English Ivy in our region only worse.

A bit closer to home for many of us, in the Delta Ponds complex, WRP crews also worked to control the spread of *Ludwigia hexapetala*. An aggressive invader from South America, *Ludwigia* spreads vigorously with the potential to form floating mats throughout Delta Ponds. Even worse would be the spread of this prolific species into the waters of the Willamette.

Additional projects include the control of English Ivy and Armenian Blackberry in the concrete sections of the Amazon canal through its route in the central part of Eugene. These efforts will help reduce the spread of undesirable populations downstream. WRP also concluded a three-year project with the Mid-Fork Willamette Watershed Council to control False Brome populations around Dexter, Pleasant Hill and Winberry Creek.

WRP Crew re-vegetating Pine Point Campground adjacent to Timothy Lake.



Working with Portland General Electric, WRP crews planted over two thousand native trees and shrubs to help re-vegetate highly impacted areas adjacent to Timothy Lake in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Planting projects commenced in 2012 will begin a four year program to enhance numerous impacted areas adjacent to Timothy Lake.

Purchase NW Native Plant Greeting Cards to Support Walama Restoration Project!

Walama Restoration Project has designed a set of 5 native plant greeting cards that we are selling as a fundraiser for our organization. 100 percent of the proceeds goes directly towards the expansion of declining rare native plant species of the PNW and to environmental education programs in the Willamette Valley that serve economically disadvantaged youth in our community. If you would like to purchase a set of five beautiful cards, please cut and fill out this form and send a check for the number of sets you would like to purchase, and we will send you your sets in the mail! The cards are blank inside and have a description and history of the plant on the back.



Set of 5 Cards
\$10.00

QUANTITY:



5 Sets of 5 Cards
\$45.00

QUANTITY:

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Checks Payable to: Walama Restoration Project
PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440





Walama Restoration Project
PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440

Walama Restoration Project relies on community support to facilitate our education programs. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution or would like to volunteer with WRP, please fill out this form & send it to:

Walama Restoration Project
PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440

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☐ Limited Income \$15
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☐ Sustaining Member \$100
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****You can also donate on our website**

www.walamarestoration.org

☐ Yes! I am interested in volunteering!

My interests include _____

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