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NOAA B-WET program awards \$450,000 to Washington and Oregon organizations for environmental education

NOAA's Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program announced \$450,238 in awards to Washington and Oregon organizations to assist with community-based environmental education programs.

The grants support standards-based, hands-on education activities that promote greater understanding about watersheds, the ocean and protected areas like NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Funding was awarded to academic, tribal and nonprofit groups serving under-represented students and communities. Programs will focus on three areas: meaningful watershed educational experiences for students; professional development for educators related to meaningful watershed educational experiences for students; and ocean acidification education.

The recipients are:

Washington:

- The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (\$30,000) for a hands-on watershed education program serving elementary school students and teachers in all seven Whatcom County school districts.
- Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (\$58,795) for watershed education in eight school districts in eastern Washington.
- Seattle Aquarium (\$30,000) to support Puget Sound citizen science program for underserved high school students and teachers.
- Port Townsend Marine Science Center (\$38,342) field project for Jefferson County high school students to study ocean acidification.
- Pacific Education Institute (\$60,000) to improve teacher understanding and skills in field science and engineering practices through a leadership workshop, collaborative group coaching, webinars and a summer institute for teachers and administrators.
- Feiro Marine Life Center (\$54,375) to improve understanding of the North Olympic Watershed through experiential learning targeting elementary and middle school students in four school districts on the North Olympic Peninsula.
- Suquamish Tribe, Port Madison Reservation (\$58,726), for a cultural and natural history exchange program that brings together high school students from different regions in the Pacific Rim to share common ideas, values, and traditional ways of knowing.

Oregon:

- Oregon Department of State Lands (\$60,000) to support coastal education partnerships and professional development workshops. Project will focus on the Oregon Coast, Portland metro area, Bend area, lower Willamette Valley and southern Oregon.
- Oregon State University (\$60,000) to support students, teachers and project partners with hands-on field and classroom trainings; access to field sampling equipment; curriculum materials and open-source, web-based tools for watershed data analysis.

The NOAA [B-WET Program](#) was established in 2002 to improve the understanding of environmental stewardship of students, teachers and communities across the United States through education. The Pacific Northwest B-WET regional program is managed by NOAA's Office of Education and NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

[Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary](#) is administered by NOAA and was designated in 1994 as the first national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Northwest. It encompasses about 3,189 square miles off the Washington coast, extending from Cape Flattery to the Copalis River. Significant natural and cultural resources include 29 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, large populations of nesting seabirds, shipwrecks, and some of the most spectacular wilderness coastline in the lower 48 states.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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