

# Defenders of Wildlife (West Coast Office)

## **Community Profile:**

**Population** 22,261

**Location** West Linn

## **Position Description:**

**Sponsor** Defenders of Wildlife (West Coast Office)

**Supervisor** Cheryl Hummon

## **Assignment**

As Conservation Programs Associate, the RARE participant will work to improve the effectiveness of conservation program delivery for agencies and for landowners and to improve the effectiveness of on-the-ground conservation efforts for species and habitats. Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation organizations have already developed reports about conservation incentives programs in all fifty states, but the information is out of date and the qualitative assessment has been weak. There has been no thorough compilation or analysis of states' programs to evaluate landowner incentives programs. The lack of this information and analysis is a limiting factor in Defenders' ability to propose and promote effective conservation programs in Oregon and other states. The RARE participant will identify different state programs and gather and compile information about the programs and their effectiveness by conducting interviews with people involved in the implementation and design, as well as with the program participants. The RARE participant will then assess the information qualitatively, develop recommendations, highlight ideal/model programs, and work with Defenders staff to post the results on the web and share them with project partners.

## **Required Skills**

The RARE participant should have some knowledge of forests, rural land uses, habitats, and native and invasive species. Strong research, writing, and organizational skills will be useful, along with the ability to track and evaluate details within a broader context.

## **RARE Member: *Katie Frerker - 2004-2005, Year 11 Participant***

Katie Frerker earned a B.S. in Urban and Community Forestry from the University of Minnesota. During her studies, she designed and conducted a two month field based research project studying the effects of reforestation efforts in Chiapas, Mexico. In Minnesota, she worked in a community cooperative, for the U of M Extension Services and for TRE Research Nursery. Katie volunteered in Costa Rica for the Volunteer Association of Protected Wilderness Areas in the small mountain community of Zapotal. She has also volunteered in Cuenca, Ecuador with the Center for Interamerican Studies.