

# Polk Soil & Water Conservation District

## **Community Profile:**

**Population** 11,000+

**Location** Polk County

## **Position Description:**

**Sponsor** Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, *Dallas, OR*

**Supervisor** Jane Keppinger, District Coordinator

## **Assignment**

The RARE participant will work with the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District to coordinate a natural resource conservation education program for private landowners in the Yamhill River Basin. The participant will create and implement an education and outreach program to inform private landowners about conservation practices, and available state and federal cost share programs. Through the activities associated with the implementation of the education and outreach program, Polk SWCD staff will gain a better understanding of the issues and concerns that private landowners may have, and identify groups in the area that have not traditionally participated in conservation programs.

## **Required Skills**

Event planning, coordination and organizational, written and verbal communication, natural resource management.

## **RARE Member: *Chandra Vostral - 1999-2000, Year 6 Participant***

A native of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in botany from the University Of Michigan, Chandra Vostral recognizes her parents' backgrounds in farming as a major influence. In school, her research focused on mushrooms, woody debris in forests, plant physiology, and winter plant ecology. The desire to bring together the public, science, and policies led her to obtain a Master's degree in biology at the University of Denver. Chandra hopes to facilitate communication and move forward on environmental issues. Following her education, she has participated in environmental and science education programs for children and adults. She has also traveled extensively in the United States, Central America, Europe and the Soviet Union, observing how communities approach environmental issues and promote teamwork between public and private sectors.