

Yamhill River Basin Watershed Council

Community Profile:

Population 80,200

Location Yamhill Basin (Yamhill & Polk Counties)

Position Description:

Sponsor Yamhill River Basin Watershed Council, *McMinnville, OR*

Supervisor Melissa Leoni

Assignment

The RARE participant will coordinate the watershed assessment process for select watersheds in the Yamhill River Basin. The assessment process identifies natural and human altered processes and features that affect water quality and fish and wildlife habitats, and evaluates how well a watershed is functioning. The assessment projects will follow the Oregon Watershed Assessment of Aquatic Resources Manual which uses stream geomorphology as the basis for evaluating land use practices and natural or human altered process that affect the basin's ability to produce clean water and support fish populations. The RARE participant will work with a local Technical Advisory Committee made up of state and federal natural resource agency representatives, council members, volunteers and interns, and interested members of the public to assess conditions in the watersheds.

Required Skills

Advanced written and oral communication, computer proficiency (GIS helpful), experience or education in watershed issues, and the ability to work with diverse groups of people.

RARE Member: *Denise Hoffert-Hay - 1999-2000, Year 6 Participant*

Denise Hoffert-Hay graduated with a B.S. degree in Natural Resources/Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota. Denise served as an intern with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District in Maplewood, Minnesota, where she worked with local schools and community groups to facilitate prairie and wetland restoration projects in local neighborhoods. She has also coordinated a project to remove non-native vegetation on public lands, and managed a plant community assessment project for a county park which resulted in Geographic Information System maps and land management recommendations. Denise has also worked as an Interpretive Naturalist for the Tamarack Nature Center, as a science and math teaching assistant for a high school, and as an Environmental Education Intern with the USDA Forest Service. She has been accepted to Oregon State University's Bioresource Engineering graduate program and will begin her studies upon completion of the RARE placement.