

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project

Community Profile:

Population 14,000 (Union County); 7,000 (Wallowa County)

Location Union County & Wallowa County

Position Description:

Sponsor Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project

Supervisor Jeff Oveson

Assignment

The RARE participant serves as the coordinator for two diverse projects: a watershed assessment of the Willow Creek watershed and coordinating in Union County with the Union Soil & Water Conservation District and a workforce assessment pertaining to the ecosystem workforce in the Grande Ronde basin. The workforce assessment project will be coordinated with local economic development agencies, the United States Forest Service, Wallowa Resources, Ecosystem Workforce Program, and others. The watershed assessment will be a straightforward assessment following basic guidelines as described in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board assessment manual and will consist of compiling available data, and generating new data where needed. The workforce assessment will involve using proven methods of assessment as provided by others already involved here in the basin and developing a new assessment strategy that suits the needs of ecosystem related agencies. This assessment is meant to provide the groundwork for GRMWP's involvement in economic development. Both assessments will require development of a working relationship with a variety of agencies and individuals, as well as coordination of and/or participation in public meetings.

Required Skills

Natural resource background, basic understanding of regional and local watershed issues, good oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work well with people of diverse backgrounds.

RARE Member: *Michelle Johnson - 2000-2001, Year 7 Participant*

Michelle graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida with a B.S. in Biology. Since then, she has worked in the fields of wildlife biology, agriculture, and environmental policy, interning for National Audubon's Wildlife Refuge Campaign and working as a field assistant on various wildlife research projects. Michelle also worked as an Agroforestry/ Soil Conservation Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador and Bolivia from 1998 to 2000.