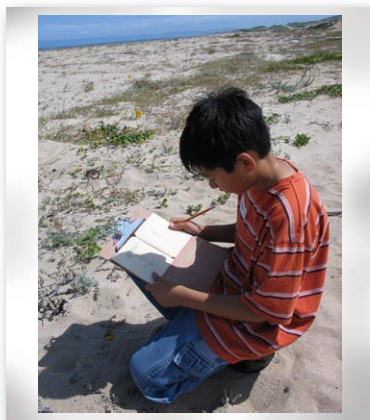


BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING

2 0 0 7 A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S



Hands-on restoration activities provide students a sense of environmental stewardship. Photo: Seaberry Nachbar



Students learn about rocky intertidal marine life. Photo: Seaberry Nachbar



B-WET gives students firsthand watershed science experience. Photo: Claire Fackler

Underserved Communities Targeted for Outdoor Experiences

More than 8,760 students and 399 teachers have been educated about marine sanctuaries, the marine and coastal environment, and watersheds through targeted, hands-on activities that take students and teachers out into the environment. In 2007 the California B-WET Program offered 25 small grants totaling approximately \$1,100,000 to community partners and underserved schools to promote environmentally informed citizens and education partnerships.

Capacity Building for Education Evaluation

California B-WET has taken a strategic path to measure its impact on youth and teachers. The foundation of B-WET, the “meaningful watershed experience,” has been proven by independent evaluators to be effective at cultivating the stewardship ethic of young people. Additionally, research concluded that associated training is successful at increasing teachers’ use of experiential learning to teach about the watershed in their classroom. Because B-WET is only as strong as the projects it supports, the program has also piloted an evaluation system in California that is based on a capacity building effort, providing grant recipients with training and an extensive Web site that focuses on the tools, technology and resources needed to evaluate environmental education projects.

Students Learn About Science, Community, Maritime Heritage

The California B-WET Program, NOAA Fisheries and the Preserve America Initiative are working together to educate young students about fishing, fisheries and fishing communities in a project entitled “Voices of the Bay: A Voyage of Science, Community and Heritage through Local Fisheries Knowledge.” The goal of Voices of the Bay is to develop place-based curriculum, lesson plans and activities that use local fisheries as the context for learning about the marine environment, the ecological and human dimensions of marine resource use, and marine management. This curriculum will be used in conjunction with field trips to a working harbor of fishing boats, processing plants and fish markets and in-class presentations with members of the fishing community.

Fishermen Share Their Knowledge with Students

In Monterey Bay, the Fisherman in the Classroom Program gives students a hands-on learning experience that provides them a “day in the life” glimpse into who a fisherman is and what exactly they do. The program reaches many students that do not have an opportunity to experience the marine environment firsthand, and it gives them a better understanding of an integral part of the fishing history in Monterey Bay. More than 15 visits by fishermen have taken place at local area schools, with another 20 planned for the current school year.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/BWET>



Grant Recipients Experience the Sanctuary Firsthand

More than 50 grant recipients and partners were provided with the opportunity to cruise Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, where they were able to experience the sights and sounds of the sanctuary firsthand. California B-WET Program and Monterey Bay sanctuary staff conducted two-day trips out on the water to help sanctuary constituents understand issues surrounding the sanctuary.

B-WET Success Stories

Monterey Dunes Natural History Association — \$29,800 grant

Students and teachers receive dune restoration skills such as seedling propagation, collection, out planting, and monitoring at Monterey county parks. These restoration activities provide a sense of environmental stewardship and ownership in restoring and preserving their community parks.



*Inner-city students monitor stormwater runoff in their neighborhoods.
Photo: Seaberry Nachbar*

San Francisco State University — \$52,962 grant

Project Watershed will bring together underserved students to design, conduct, and disseminate a one-year water quality study in their own neighborhoods. This study will investigate the connection between contaminants, environmental justice, and regional ecology through a scientific perspective.

Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute — \$44,445 grant

Through community service learning projects such as beach cleanups, habitat restoration projects and sand crab and water quality monitoring, teachers will help underrepresented, multicultural students build a sense of environmental stewardship and community pride.

*To learn more about these and other accomplishments,
visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov*

