

CA B-WET FY15: Monterey Bay Watershed

GRANT RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDED AMOUNT
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (Student)	<p>“LiMPETS” – Inspire environmental awareness, develop investigative skills and create an ocean literate public thorough hands-on scientific monitoring of rocky intertidal and sandy beach habitats. Provide professional development for teachers with single and multi-day workshops to help implement LiMPETS with students. Update LiMPETS Rocky Intertidal and Sandy Beach curricula to align with new Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards while strengthening the Science Communication units.</p>	\$59,320
University Corporation at Monterey Bay Camp SEA Lab (Student)	<p>“Building a Bridge: Connecting underserved youth to the Monterey Bay sanctuary through hands-on education” – Serving 85 5th grade students from Title 1 elementary schools in the Pajaro Valley (Watsonville) and Alisal Union (Salinas) School Districts, the students will better understand water connections with a watershed simulation, shaping of land and point v non-point source pollution, study current trends including causes and effects of currents; salinity and temperature highlighting ocean gyres and the great garbage patch marine debris issue; fieldwork investigating type and frequency of marine debris found on the beach with use of proper field equipment such as quadrats; perform observational work of birds and marine mammals through kayak and wetland explorations; participate in a role-playing, simulated townhall discussing potential solutions to the problems of marine debris; engage in LiMPETS sand crab monitoring examining the natural history of sand crabs and performing research; students will wrap their 3 day experience with a beach hike, scavenger hunt, clean-up and journaling their experience. Students will graph collected data and make presentations to teachers and school administrators.</p>	\$30,000
Elkhorn Slough Foundation (Student and PD)	<p>“Celebrating Our Slough - Connecting Neighbors to the Elkhorn Slough” - This year long project is designed to connect with students & family members living near the Elkhorn Slough watershed and offer two activities Estuary Explorers club and Get to Know Your Slough with hands-on, outdoor activities. Estuary Explorers will perform field study and data for natural resource priorities including water quality and invasive species as well as marine and coastal habitat protection. Students will gain skills in working with tools like Secchi disk and pH strips as they examine the water around them just like a real NOAA scientist. Estuary Explorers will record their field experiences in field journals and will incorporate such materials and instruments through illustration, story-telling, data collection, and leaf imprints. On Elkhorn Slough National Estuaries Day in September the Explorers will act as Ambassadors to provide an educational experience for families.</p>	\$52,760
One Cool Earth (OCE) (Student and PD)	<p>“Paso Robles Watershed Project”- This school term program provides a three-part watershed education program targeting at-risk youth, including those in the San Luis County Probation gang prevention program and two schools from within the Paso Robles Unified School District. Students from Flamson will be recruited as mentors for students at Georgia Brown Elementary, the GBES students are not included as part of the total number of students in the program. Teachers will receive training to enable leading MWEEs in outdoor labs. Teachers and students come from different schools, the schools teachers come from have new outdoor learning labs which will be christened with this project. Classwork and field work will focus on watershed issues of urban and agricultural water use & runoff, non-point source pollution and climate change. NOAA MERITO curricula will be used to offer culturally and linguistically appropriate activities related to watershed education. Classroom activities include hatching and raising steelhead trout, use of a groundwater model, watershed model and native plants and understanding household water use. The middle school will largely focus on plastics and marine debris with a tie to the schools recycling and composting program.</p>	\$50,000

<p>UCCR/Web Of Life Field (WOLF) School (Student and PD)</p>	<p>“Redwood Trees to Coastal Seas”- The Web of Life Field (WOLF) School will implement a new program that teaches students about the interconnectivity of the ocean and redwood forests through hands-on watershed education.</p>	<p>\$33,257</p>
<p>Watsonville Wetlands Watch (Student)</p>	<p>“Wetlands Stewards”- The Wetlands Stewards afterschool program develops young leaders and learners in watershed ecology as a strategy toward restoring and keeping the wetlands clean, healthy, and productive. The overall work is aligned with the NOAA Educational Plan. Includes use of an interactive watershed model and "Wetland in a Box" for use with inquiry based activities, and NOAA's Where Rivers Meet the Sea to discover what an estuary is and beneficial impacts. Students will visit West Struve Slough with a goal of becoming comfortable in nature, begin birding with an expert from the Santa Cruz Bird Club, a wetland scavenger hunt documenting discoveries and a visit from the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council for cultural stories, song and dance and learn about medicinal and cultural uses of wetland plants. Elementary students will compare water quality data collected from West Struve and graph to look for changes in estuarine waters. They will also use an interactive game to role-play parts of the food web as producer, consumer, decomposer. Students will become Bug Spy's to learn more about aquatic invertebrates and their roles in the food web and as indicators of water quality.</p>	<p>\$52,044</p>