



OREGON STEWARDSHIP

4015 S. Stage Rd. Medford, OR 97501

541-770-2703

os2703@charter.net

www.oregonstewardship.org

Jim Hutchins, Program Manager

Board of Directors: Eric Dittmer, Lynne Dittmer, Bruce Eliason, Carla Hutchins, Nicolaj Imhof, Charles Lane, Misty Munoz, Rikki Pritzlaff, Loren Wittenberg

January 17th, 2014

Mark McCollister
Habitat Restoration Director
The Freshwater Trust
65 SW Yamhill St.
Suite 200
Portland, OR. 97204

Dear Mark:

Oregon Stewardship strongly supports Rogue Valley Council of Government's request for funding for the restoration of the downtown Medford portion of Bear Creek. RVCOG has done an incredible job of working with landowners throughout that corridor to gain permission and validation for this project. We have worked successfully with RVCOG over the past several years.

Oregon Stewardship is a nonprofit that works with high school and college students throughout Southwest Oregon on riparian, estuary, and wetland habitat restoration. Projects created by students and Oregon Stewardship are maintained on an ongoing basis. This is the fourth year of an ongoing project restoring and planting 2,700 feet of stream bank in the downtown Medford area. Besides the removal of blackberries and planting of native species, we maintain the plants either with irrigation or hand watering and weeding. We estimate that we have over a 90% survival rate in most of our restoration projects including Bear Creek. Without the maintenance, this would not be possible.

Along with blackberry removal and replanting, we have created 12 bio swales to filter parking lot, highway and storm drain runoff. They consist of boulders, drain rock, spirea, willows, reeds, and sedge. Some of the drain outlets, up to 36 inches in diameter, had been buried under blackberries for many years and thus, unnoticed. As students and community members work on this they can clearly see the benefits to what they are doing.

Bear Creek is becoming an asset to downtown Medford. This last October, students were able to observe spawning Chinook salmon as they worked on blackberry removal. In late December, we observed a steelhead while placing woody debris in the creek. We are very excited and optimistic about the interest in restoring Bear Creek and are looking forward to working with Rogue Valley Council of Governments on this project. We are contributing 300 hours of in kind support towards the restoration effort.

Sincerely,
Jim Hutchins
Program Manager