



PRESS RELEASE
May 21, 2008

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The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Gives More Than 100 Grant Awards in Less Than Five Years

13 New Grant Awards Announced Today to Innovative Outdoor Programs for Underserved Youth

SAN MATEO, CA – A program that empowers youth in the juvenile justice system by providing mentors and environmental education and a camp that engages tribal youth with the traditions and their elders were just two out of a diverse group of grantees announced today by The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, a collaborative land conservation and youth investment foundation. The grants were awarded to organizations that offer creative and culturally relevant approaches to making the outdoors more accessible to underserved youth. Other grants award smaller neighborhood and community groups that know how to make the outdoors more accessible to youth in their communities.

"Our goal is to help connect young Californians to the outdoors," says Jayne Battey, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council. "Each community has its particular priorities, challenges, and culture. These programs range in how they bring nature to kids – but they are all leaders in innovation and give kids the opportunity to experience and appreciate California's great outdoors."

This year, the Stewardship Council has allocated \$2.5 million in grants for both programming and infrastructure to organizations that provide kids with exposure to nature and the natural environment. The Stewardship Council has granted \$4.6 million since its inception in 2005 and intends to grant more than \$20 million over the next 7 years.

"It is critical, now more than ever, to support programs that help get kids outside" says Steve Hagler, Director of Youth Investment for the Stewardship Council. "With a shrinking state budget and the pervasiveness of technology in kids' lives, we see more and more barriers to getting rural and urban youth outside. We hope to reverse this trend by funding innovative and valuable youth outdoor programs that can change young people lives positively by bringing them closer to nature and the outdoors."

A Public Policy Institute of California March study found that fewer than half of parents are very satisfied with their children's outdoors opportunities even though most parents consider participation in outdoor activities very important. A similar survey conducted by the PPIC last summer found that more than half (53%) of California teenagers participated in outdoor activities only once or not at all during the summer.

"Connecting youth to the outdoors is an important and integral part of everything we do at the Stewardship Council" says Luis Arteaga, Vice President and Chair of the Youth Investment

Committee for the Stewardship Council. “The youth investment program will help ensure that we have a future generation of stewards for California’s lands.”

The following is a list of Catalyst and Impact Fund awards announced today:

Catalyst Fund Grant Awards

- Alemany Farm in **San Francisco** received \$10,000 towards growing healthy food to help sow the seeds of social justice through outdoor experiences and green job training for low-income youth.
- Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance in **Chico** received \$10,000 towards linking existing watershed monitoring and restoration efforts with the educational needs of at-risk youth by forming school-based “Youth Stream Teams.”
- Project Great Outdoors in **Sacramento** received \$10,000 towards offering expertly guided and facilitated white-water rafting and challenge-ropes-course trips for underserved youth.
- Wildplaces in **Springville** received \$10,000 towards guided tours of the Sequoias where youth will learn watershed and nature awareness, habitat restoration and documentary film-making.

Impact Fund Grant Awards

- The Karuk Tribe in **Happy Camp** received \$18,000 to engage tribal youth in a series of comprehensive seasonal camps that bring elders and youth together to transfer eco-cultural knowledge and land management practices to the next generation.
- The EarthTeam in **Berkeley** received \$18,000 towards a community-based, environmental restoration program integrated with a student-created multi-media program.
- Real Options for City Kids in **San Francisco** received \$20,000 towards the ROCK program, which aims to break the circle of poverty and violence in Visitacion Valley through a combination of outdoor adventures, community service and leadership training.
- Fresh Lifelines for Youth in **San Jose** received \$20,000 towards empowering youth in the juvenile justice system to become socially responsible citizens who are stewards of their environment.
- Project Avary in **San Rafael** received \$22,000 towards the Outdoor Leaders Project, which builds confidence and competency for the outdoors among teens facing high risks of incarceration.
- The Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park in **Oakland** received \$26,000 towards the Breaking Ground program, which engages over 100 diverse youth in outdoor activities and mentorship with Laotian Mien elders.
- The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust in **Fresno** received \$26,000 towards providing outdoor experiences for youth along the San Joaquin River.
- The East Bay Asian Youth Center in **Oakland** received \$25,000 towards an outdoor leadership education program for underserved middle school and high school girls to learn how to plan and lead backpacking trips.
- The UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station in **Berkeley** received \$25,000 towards building capacity in the UC Merced and Wawona Field Station to help connect students to their local environment and outdoor spaces.

ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council is a collaborative land conservation and youth investment foundation. Its mandate includes evaluating and providing recommendations for the conservation of over 140,000 acres of watershed lands (currently owned by PG&E) spread across 22 counties, as well as developing and implementing community-based park and environmental education opportunities for underserved youth. For more

information on the Stewardship Council, please visit: www.stewardshipcouncil.org. For more information about the grantees and programs, please see grant summaries below.

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