

Annual Progress Report Form - Oil Spill Recovery Institute

Today's date: March 2, 2004

Name of awardee/grantee: Katie Olson, Education Coordinator
Prince William Sound Science Center

OSRI Contract Number: 03-10-06

Project title: Science of the Sound: "From the Forest to the Sea"

Dates this progress report covers: June 2003-August 2003

PART I - Progress Report on Activities

Science of the Sound: Report for June 2003-August 2003

"From the Forest to the Sea" environmental science summer camp

Overview

"From the Forest to the Sea" Summer Camp had a successful 2003 season, with 63 youth between the ages of 7-14 attending a total of 6 sessions. They were able to sea kayak, canoe, hike, explore, and meet a variety of "real-life" scientists that study the ecosystems of the Copper River Delta and the Prince William Sound. Improvements were made regarding the organization of camp administration materials, including the development of a staff manual and administration manual. Important steps were also taken towards establishing a permanent camp site at 25 mile on the Copper River Delta.

During the summer of 2003, two "mini-camps" were held, attracting eighteen local youth aged 7-9 for an overnight experience on the delta. There were three six day/five night sessions for youth aged 10-12, 11-13, and 12-14 and one four day/three night program for the youth aged 9-11 years old. These camps attracted a total of 45 campers from Cordova, throughout Alaska, and even as far as Texas.

Objectives

A. Develop Camp Manual

The newly completed staff manual allows camp staff to become familiar with the camp program and aids staff members from both the United States Forest Service and the Prince William Sound Science Center to start the summer on the same page, working towards a common mission. The manual includes history of the partnering organizations, information on how the camp is run, sample session schedules, rules of camp, safety procedures, and individual staff development materials (including hints for teaching outdoors, ways to motivate students, and how to be an effective facilitator for teambuilding activities).

A camp administration binder was also created, and includes examples of camper forms, safety and bear policies and procedures, inventories of all supplies, and information on where to advertise the programs. This binder helps the camp director

keep track of year-round responsibilities and will allow for a smooth transition of administrative personnel to occur in the future.

B. Establish a permanent site on the delta for camp and other educational activities

Steps were also taken to establish the new camp site as a permanent recreation site on the Copper River Delta. Gravel was distributed around the clearing to enable camp buildings to stand on level ground. Site equipment was also purchased, including a cast-iron fire ring, bear proof trash containers, and a bear proof storage container. It is hoped that other educational and recreational programs will utilize camp facilities out on the Delta if a permanent site is established.

C. Increase camp enrollment by 30% by August 2003

Camp enrollment dropped from 2002 to 2003. In 2002, seven sessions were held that attracted 66 participants, while in 2003, six programs were held that attracted 63 participants.

Roadblocks

Two new programs that were advertised to take place during the 2003 camp were cancelled, making us unable to meet objective C. A weekend was established for an overnight family camp program, but because the date coincided with Forest Service Trails Day the program was subsequently cancelled. Due to the lack of available weekend dates throughout the rest of the summer, the program was unable to be rescheduled. Because enough interest couldn't be garnered by teens, the high school backpacking program was cancelled. In the future we will try alternate programs to attract youth aged 15-18 and the families of Cordova.

Accomplishments

The highlights of "From the Forest to the Sea" are the youth from all over the state and even from the lower 48 that enthusiastically participate in the programs. The first full-length camp session was attended by 12 youth, only one of them living locally in Cordova. Seven campers were sponsored by the Northwest Arctic Borough, four of them from Buckland and three of them from Kotzebue.

End of session reviews from parents and camper evaluations were extremely positive and helped excite the summer staff about the up and coming 2004 season. One parent commented, "We really appreciate this program. It should be a model for many others like it. Our daughter wants to go again next year."

Part II - Annual Financial Statement

Year-to-date Balance:

Budget Category	Budget Expenses	Remaining
Direct Costs		
Personnel	\$8,248	\$0.0
Travel	\$0.0	\$0.0
Contractual	\$0.0	\$0.0
Commodities	\$424	\$0.0
Equipment	\$0.0	\$0.0
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$8,672	
Indirect	\$2,328	
Project Total	\$11,000	\$0.0
