

McLean Foundation

Organization: Friends of the Van Duzen River (FOVDR)

Brief Description of Organization: FOVDR is a community based environmental organization dedicated to restoring the ecological balance of the Van Duzen Watershed and preserving the salmon cycle for future generations. Over the past 20 years, we have engaged the community in public discussions regarding water quality and best forestry practices. From 2006-2009, FOVDR conducted a water quality monitoring study at 10 sites for the Water Quality Control Board taking over 1500 samples. In July of 2013, Friends of the Van Duzen River (FOVDR) received the prestigious More Kids in the Woods (MKITW) education grant through the U.S. Forest Service. Our staff taught watershed science and stream ecology curricula to over 500 students at seven schools in the Van Duzen and Eel River Watersheds. Through grants with Save the Redwoods and the California Fish and Wildlife Commission, FOVDR purchased salmon tanks for Cuddeback school, assisted in the Salmon in the Schools Project, and developed the Young Scientist Program, and intensive watershed study for selected students who displayed scientific curiosity. FOVDR continues to be very active in the community and just published a book of students' poetry and stories, "Van Duzen Voice."

Title/Brief Explanation of Request/Project:

We are currently seeking additional funding for personnel, transportation, and to continue our efforts to educate students on critical topics such as water quality, fish and wildlife conservation, and salmon migration,. The project, "Our Healthy Streams: Studies in the Van Duzen and Eel River Watersheds" will involve five elementary schools within our local region. Using the new equipment funded through the CA Water Quality Control Board, students will learn how to monitor water quality in their local streams. Five study sites will be selected to observe, measure, and collect samples for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, ph, and temperature. Data will be collected and quantified. Students will sample for macro invertebrates, which are good indicators of stream health. Data from these experiments will be shared within each school as well as contributing to a comparative study for the Van Duzen/Eel River Watersheds. Information will be placed on each school's web site and at www.fovdr.org. Data collected will be entered into the World Monitoring database and be shared with the world.

"Healthy Streams" will continue to focus on the salmon life cycle and encourage respect for nature with local students. Sites will be selected based on past salmon migration and salmon spawning grounds will be our priority. Students will visit salmon spawning grounds and make video recordings of the salmon life cycle using iPads. Salmon migration will also be observed and recorded with 3 Go Pro Cameras attached to

underwater rocks. These cameras provide state-of-the-art recordings of salmon behavior while these fish are in their native streams. Our intent is to merge the salmon cycle with the school cycle.

During the 2014-2015 school year, designated schools will provide transportation to the water quality monitoring sites for older students, and bring all students to witness the salmon spawning if conditions allow. In addition, schools will be encouraged to take field trips to the Sequoia Zoo where a unique opportunity awaits to observe and engage with the new Watershed Heroes Exhibit featuring eagles, otters, and salmon. This exhibit will be a gem for the community.

Amount Requested : \$5000

Actual Projected Budget : \$20,000

List current funding sources for this project

More Kids in the Woods : funded for 49,900 by the federal government in partnership with Six Rivers Forest, Impacts 511 students in the Van Duzen/Eel River Watersheds from Fortuna High School to Southern Trinity School District.

Water Quality Control Board : funded 12,200 in supplies for 2014-2015