

## Grantee Self-Evaluation & Closing Agreement

### 1. What do you feel were the lasting benefits of the project?

Friends of the Van Duzen River is dedicated to training young scientists and to preserving the salmon run. Working in the classroom and in the field, Team Van Duzen was able to make a significant contribution to the environmental education at Hydesville Elementary School in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Using our community team, students studied salmon, the salmon cycle, insects, and macroinvertebrates.

To help maintain the salmon run, FOVDR is very active in water monitoring in the Van Duzen Watershed. In all three classes at Hydesville we introduced water monitoring equipment and then compared samples from various days on the Van Duzen. This helps students gain an appreciation for their own environment. Additionally we worked with the Hydesville Parent Group to purchase insect slides for microscopes and water monitoring supplies for future years.

We also had an impact at Scotia School working with our team to take a 6<sup>th</sup> grade group to study the Eel River and to collect and analyze data. Data Report is enclosed.

Team Van Duzen was also able to work with several Fortuna and Carlotta free school students from Coastal Grove and Alder Grove Charter Schools along with a student from Cuddeback Elementary School. This was a wonderful experience along the Van Duzen River by my house on Riverside Road. With our team, students were able to study the river, observe tadpoles and frogs, and to draw iris plants. We combined ecology and the arts and these students had a wonderful experience that they will always remember. Training young scientists is an essential part of the work of Friends of the Van Duzen River.

A report on this project is enclosed and some digital pictures will be sent.

Learning about our watersheds is an especially important aspect to growing up in Humboldt County. Near my house in Carlotta is a trail to the river and a 2<sup>nd</sup> growth forest maintained by Humboldt Redwood Company. Here there is a Watershed Protection Zone safely securing the future of the trees in the area near the river. This year, I was asked to participate in a county wide Creek Days Zoom Event for over a hundred classes. Using funds from the McLean grant, I was able to produce a 19-minute film that was shown as the 1<sup>st</sup> event of the Creek Days to many students. It is imperative that students learn to protect their environment for themselves and for future generations.

A copy of the movie will be sent by email.

2. What challenges did you encounter during the course of the project?

Due to the pandemic, 2020-2021 was the most difficult year in education for teachers, students, and parents. During this time, I was unable to work with students in classrooms.

Special thanks to the McLean Foundation for extending the grant cycle and allowing Friends of the Van Duzen to continue Team Van Duzen through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

3. What are your specific plans, if applicable, for continuing the work started by this project?

Friends of the Van Duzen has been working with local schools for the past decade teaching environmental education in the classroom and in the field. We would very much like to continue to do so and are in the process of seeking new grant opportunities.

We would like to be able to reapply for a \$2500 grant with McLean for the 2021-2022 school year.



Friends of the Van Duzen River

**Art by Sharon Greene**