



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District

57600 McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413
Tel (541) 822-3381
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File Code: 2600 Wildlife

Date: October 21, 2008

Re: Natural Resource Education Presentations and Field Trips

To: Pre-school, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Science, Spanish, and Geography Classrooms; Other Community Organizations

Dear Teachers, Instructors and Coordinators:

Again this year the Willamette National Forest will be offering natural resource education talks and field trips conducted in English, Spanish, or both. Programs are available for pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle and high school and may be of particular interest to science, Spanish, and geography classes. Our 2008 visiting wildlife biologist, Juan-Carlos Valarezo is from Ecuador. Juan-Carlos has experience working in rural communities conducting educational programs for youth and adults. He also worked two years on Ecuador's Galapagos Islands conducting a scientific project with the Galapagos Petrel, and other endangered seabirds. Before coming to Oregon, Juan-Carlos coordinated a project in the Important Bird Area (IBA) known as the Mindo-Nambillo Protected Forest. He has been in Oregon since April and spent the summer bird banding and mist netting on the Willamette National Forest. Juan-Carlos is currently preparing natural resource education programs, some of which may be conducted with other wildlife biologists. During the past four years that we have been offering these education programs to the community, many schools and organizations have taken advantage of them, including the McKenzie schools, Edison Elementary, River Road, Jefferson Camp Creek and Oakhill Schools, as well as Lane Community College, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University.

For the 2008 programs we will again be offering the famous Sally/Sammy the Snag puppet show which proves to be a great hit for pre-school and early elementary students. We also have a human sized woodpecker costume for an interview with "Juan the Woodpecker." For older students, there are programs about the Galapagos Islands and Tropical Forests among others. See the attached program flyer for more information about these programs, and feel free to contact us if you require more details. Please, if you have any specific requests do not hesitate to contact us to see what we can do to accommodate your lesson plans and discussion topics.

This program is funded by a Forest Service Regional Challenge Cost Share grant. Currently we can not cover the costs of any field trip to the Willamette National Forest, however, we are hoping to receive limited additional funding for this purpose. We would be happy to meet your school class or group for a field trip on the Willamette National Forest if you can provide your own transportation. If you are interested in a program at your school or your organization meeting place, please contact Juan-Carlos directly at 822-7269 email: jvalarezo@fs.fed.us or Ruby Seitz ruseitz@fs.fed.us

We are also looking to form a partnership with a High School club/group that would be interested in developing a natural resource themed puppet show. Contact Juan-Carlos to participate in this great opportunity.

/s/ *Mary Allison*

Mary Allison

District Ranger

Date

Enclosures: Education activities offered through December 2008. The program may be extended through the winter.

