

Two Native Gardens with Pollinator Signs on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests

2009 Accomplishments

This project prepared and planted >40 species of plants native to North Idaho, Montana and eastern Washington in gardens at two offices of the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. One is home to plants which grow best in full sun; the other garden has partial shade. More than a dozen boy scouts prepared the garden plots by removing old junipers planted several years ago to border the district's public parking lot. Now those spaces are full of native plants. Seedlings of native species were purchased from four native nurseries. Several species were grown from seed by volunteers including a master gardener. Some plants were transplanted from the national forest to the gardens.

Over 200 volunteer hours were contributed to this project, most by youth ages 14-17. Two scouts made and installed custom plant identification signs from native materials. One will finish constructing the sign frames and install both 30" x 36" pollinator signs this fall at district offices in Coeur d'Alene and Smeltonville. Gerry Queener donated 9 original pollinator photos, all taken in northern Idaho, to illustrate the signs. Graphic artist Grady Myers designed original artwork for the "pollinators" titles on the signs. The WREN Foundation wrote a grant proposal to Red Willow Research (Twin Falls, ID.), which contributed an additional \$1,000 grant that funded one of our pollinator signs and one for a popular BLM trail through a mature ponderosa pine forest east of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The WREN Foundation is drafting some brochures on pollinators and native plants that will be available at both district offices next spring.



Figure 2. Matt Scheunemann made signs identifying about 20 native species, and is building frames for the two pollinator signs to earn his Eagle Scout.



Figure 1. Pollinator sign at Fernan Ranger Station

Year Awarded: initial award in 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 10/2009):

FY09 funding \$3,500, expended \$3,5000, \$0 remaining

■ **Total FS funding \$3,500, total expended \$3,500;**

■ **\$0 total remaining**

Partners: James Rees & Matt Scheunemann (for their Eagle Scout projects); photographer & Palouse Prairie Foundation board member Gerry Queener; WREN Foundation president Jenny Taylor and 14-year-old volunteer Angel Gonzales; a master gardener; Clearwater RC&D educator Trish Heekin; Gonzaga botany instructor Sherry Wood. Seeds were purchased from Seeds Trust (Cornville, AZ), and plants from: Windflower Farms (West Glacier, MT.), Desert Jewels Nursery & Rimrock Nursery (Spokane, WA) and Plants of the Wild (Tekoa, WA). Graphic design by Grady Myers.

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Idaho Panhandle National Forests
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