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**NOAA B-WET program awards \$439,579 to Washington and Oregon organizations for environmental education**

NOAA's Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program announced \$439,579 in awards to Washington and Oregon organizations to assist with community-based environmental education programs.

The grants support standards-based, hands-on education activities that promote greater understanding about watersheds, the ocean and protected areas such as national marine sanctuaries.

Funding was awarded to academic, tribal and nonprofit groups serving under-represented students and communities. Programs will provide Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for students, related professional development for teachers, and help to support regional education and environmental priorities in the Pacific Northwest, including ocean acidification. The recipients are:

**Washington**

- Feiro Marine Life Center and Dungeness River Audubon Center (\$46,298) to improve understanding of the North Olympic Watershed through experiential learning targeting fourth and fifth grade students in four school districts on the North Olympic Peninsula
- Lummi Indian Business Council (\$59,698) to engage Lummi Nation students in grades one – 12 in active stewardship of the environment, focusing on the impacts of poor water quality and development in the watershed on the health of salmon and shellfish
- Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (\$58,562) for watershed education for fourth-eighth grade students in eight school districts in eastern Washington
- Nisqually River Foundation (\$59,493) to provide the necessary support, training, resources, and incentives to engage students in locally relevant, experiential learning
- Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (\$59,283) for a hands-on watershed education program serving fourth-grade students and teachers in all seven Whatcom County school districts
- Port Townsend School District #50 (\$47,296) to design and deliver professional development to cohort teachers and meaningful watershed educational experiences for students, with an emphasis on ocean acidification
- RE Sources for Sustainable Communities (\$48,949) to engage rural Whatcom County high school students in investigations of how human land-use practices impact the health of their local watershed through in-class lessons, water quality testing and field visits

**Oregon:**



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- Oregon State University/Oregon Sea Grant (\$60,000) to leverage existing NOAA funded programs and resources, partner expertise, and regional connections to support educators in the creation and implementation of MWEEs tied to watershed-focused project based learning.

The NOAA [B-WET Program](#) was established in 2002 to improve the understanding of environmental stewardship of students, teachers and communities across the United States through education. The Pacific Northwest B-WET regional program is managed by NOAA's Office of Education and NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

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