



N o r t h F o r k J o h n D a y W a t e r s h e d C o u n c i l
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Final Report

Award #2018-SG – 29

Project: Match the Hatch

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC) collaborated with three schools to implement the Match the Hatch program: Dayville, Long Creek, and Ukiah. Each school completed the five steps of the program from the Save the Salmonid presentation to presenting on what they learned during the program. Overall, 68 students from grade levels four to twelve participated throughout the school year. The program took place in a variety of locations around each school and their geographical area. Some of the key rivers and water systems the students visited include Desolation Creek, a tributary of the North Fork John Day, and the South Fork of the John Day. Of all of the NFJDWC educational offerings, the Match the Hatch program proved to be the most popular due to the hands-on nature and varying elements of the program.

During these presentations and field trips, students learned about the different native fish that inhabit the John Day Basin, including: chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout; coupled with the resource issues that currently threaten all fish populations in the John Day Basin. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists were a key part of the program, providing their expertise throughout the program and accentuating the hands-on aspect of the field trips. They also learned about the cultural and economic importance of these native species and how ingrained into local as well as historical culture salmon and trout are. One of the main takeaways from the program was the ability to take widely available materials and mimic the food of the subject native fish species. This was extremely effective in teaching the life cycle of different native invertebrates and the role they play in native fish species' life cycle, as well as how these aquatic bugs can inform us of the health of our river systems.

At the end of the school year, the students from each school gave presentations on their experience in the program, and tied the different components of the Match the Hatch program, including their personally crafted flies, together to profile their favorite WNTI target species. This program has become so well received that each school requested this program to continue for the 2019-2020 school year. The Match the Hatch program would have been impossible to implement without support from Western Native Trout Initiative, and the staff here at NFJDWC are deeply grateful for the ability to provide these critical programs to local schools.