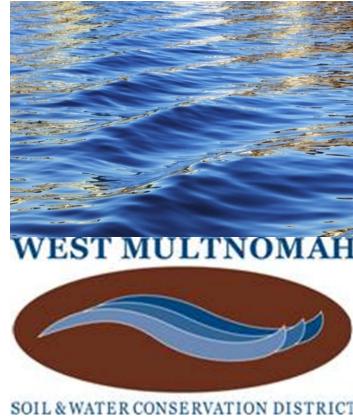


Urban Watershed Mentors

Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District





Why Urban Watershed Mentors?

- A growing group of volunteers, landowners and students were asking for opportunities to learn about conservation and help out on projects
- District staff and its partners were meeting capacity issues within conservation programs





Program Overview

• Mentees work in teams with an experienced professional and/or "graduated mentor" to create a priority conservation plan.

















Program Logistics

- Three months of training include field and classroom components.
- "Homework" is reviewed as a group.





Implementation after "graduation"!



Mentor Commitment

- Pay \$35 or scholarship
- Three months of training for a total of 21 hours
- An additional 15 hours developing the plan
- After "graduating" from training assist with implementation and encouraged to help mentor a new team (4+ hours)





Training Details

- Plan Topics Covered:
 - Native Plant Restoration
 - Invasive Species Management
 - Stormwater Management
 - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Additionally Covered:
 - Conservation Plan Basics
 - Watershed & Stream Process
 - Site Assessment & Monitoring
 - Volunteer Management
 - Grant Writing
- All materials and full agenda:



http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/What-We-Do/Urban-Programs#Mentors

In the field experience & group work







Keeping the network growing & engaged

- Email List
- Progress Reports
- Job List
- Website Posts
- Facebook & Twitter
- Events: Mentor Summit



Lessons Learned

- Clear expectations for landowners, mentors & mentees
- Pair experienced with unexperienced
- Avoid acronyms and define technical language



More Lessons Learned...

- Length & time of training crucial
- Make ample time for check-ins & discussion
- Make more time for field & exercises (videos)
- Transitioning to a mentor is difficult for most
- Long term engagement challenges





Thank you!

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