



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: WSU Foundation - Beach Watchers

ADDRESS: 600 128th St. SE., Everett WA 98208

CONTACT: (425) 357-6020; <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish/>

GENERAL GOALS: To coordinate and sustain Beach Watchers educational outreach programs for over 10,000 children and adults in Snohomish County..

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

To support programs for education and conservation of coastal waterways.

For more information, please see the attached report from WSU Foundation - Beach Watchers.

WSU Foundation / WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund 2015 Work Completed

Request and Achievement Overview

In early 2015, the Tulalip Charitable Fund awarded the Foundation / Beach Watchers a [REDACTED] award to submit educational programming in Snohomish County that related to Puget Sound conservation and youth and adult education. This award was provided based on a \$10,000 request. With those funds, WSU Extension Beach Watchers and staff were able to hone their educational project plan and have face to face conversations with at least 2,171 county residents and visitors about Puget Sound, its marine life and ways we can conserve it for future generations.

Project Specific Achievements

Educational Program and Evaluation Planning: WSU Extension Beach Watcher volunteers were involved in deciding how to apply the [REDACTED] award to a large number of existing educational projects in need of funds. It was agreed that the funds would be used to support a recreational crabber education program, pre-kindergarten – 5th grade field trips to Kayak Point County Park and in class activities, as well as 10 summer naturalist days at that park, and story time for preschoolers in local libraries. They



WSU Beach Watchers Carol Forsberg (left) and Diane Paterson (right) teaching pre-school children at a library.



Children at a touch tank station during a summer naturalist day.

also agreed to put two projects into inactive status (the art contest and 'Our Puget Sound, In Depth' evening lecture series) and find alternative funding for the remaining two education projects (Sound Living – A One Day University and Puget Sound Starts Here awareness efforts at local festivals). To scale the proposed evaluation to the size of the award, staff focused on tracking number of contacts, volunteers involved and venues during all of the outreach activities.

Recreational Crabber Education: 10 Beach Watchers contacted over 600 recreational crabbers during opening days of the Recreational Crabbing Season at the Everett and Kayak Point County Park Boat Launches. They shared information with crabbers on how to properly equip their pots to reduce 'ghost fishing' from lost pots, comply with conservation related rules such as sex and size regulations and answered any questions that arose. Funding from the Tulalip Charitable Fund paid for a training for new and returning volunteers on how best to convey these messages with the greatest behavior change impact, with Don Velasquez (WDFW) offering information on crab biology, harvest rules and gear use.

Bring the Classroom to the Beach and the Beach to the Classroom: This project figuratively and literally connected 10 school groups (706 students, teachers and chaperones)

to Puget Sound – all about tides, marine life strategies / adaptation for survival and visitor etiquette guidelines. Several of these schools were from the Tulalip Reservation or Marysville School District.

After completing a participatory classroom lecture with a trained Beach Watcher Classroom Educator, all the students were able to travel to Kayak Point County Park for guided low-tide field trips. All students were rotated through four age-appropriate stations that were led by one or two volunteers who focused on one topic - beach rocks and geology, crabs, seaweeds and anemones or art activities. Tulalip Charitable Funds were used to fund coordination with teachers and volunteers, limited staff field trip leadership and classroom presentations, needed materials and subsequent review and assessment of field trip station activities to better align with learning standards and topics.

Kayak Point Summer Naturalist Days: Naturalist Days are those in which trained volunteers walk the shoreline during low tide and educate and inspire visitors on the creatures on the beach and how to visit gently. They are, generally, ambassadors of Puget Sound and its wildlife, acting as eyes and ears of the beach and offering free education that is intended to be both inspiring and educational. A group of 15 Beach Watchers, including one volunteer team leader and a core team of 5 volunteers, expanded summer naturalist days at Kayak Point County Park to include 4 additional 'off season' naturalist days, providing yearlong stewardship of this park. At least 725 beach visitors received information about Puget Sound conservation at this park. Tulalip Charitable Funds were used to secure use of the building on the pier as well as assure they had the people and materials they needed to effectively engage these visitors.

Preschool Library Story Time: A small group of Beach Watchers went to four local libraries in Spring 2015 (Sultan, Lake Stevens, Monroe and Mountlake Terrace) and shared information with 140 preschoolers and their families on three very basic messages: the animals and fish that live in Puget Sound are very interesting and fragile, that all water flows downhill to the Sound and that fish really like clean water. These three messages were delivered using a series of short picture books and interactive activities, plus art time. Pre-schoolers are at a critical point in their life when they are building their relationships to the world around them, so awakening them to the fragility and beauty of the life in the Sound is very important. Tulalip Charitable Funds were used to hone these messages for preschoolers and purchase story time books that had been provided previously by volunteers.