

Benton/East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District

Community Profile:

Population 76,000

Location Benton County

Position Description:

Sponsor Benton/East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District

Supervisor Cindy MacArthur, Benton County Coordinator; Rosemarie Smith, East Lane County Coordinator

Assignment

The RARE participant is responsible for educating landowners about local resource issues and management practices. This is accomplished through direct visits and group outreach activities. The RARE participant tracks contracts, coordinates and directs educational activities (tours, demos, and workshops) and produces educational materials. This requires building trust while acting as a resource and referral person, knowing the issues and opportunities and being able to identify problems and potential projects during site visits.

Required Skills

Ability to communicate both orally and in writing, experience working with watershed health and/or soil problems, and working knowledge of basic computer software programs for creating brochures and letters, etc.

RARE Member: *Robin Straughan - 1998-1999, Year 5 Participant*

Robin graduated with a BS in Geological Sciences from University of Notre Dame in 1997. After graduation, she worked in the Umatilla National Forest as a hydrologic aid. She assisted in field surveys to gather hydrologic and sediment data, analyzed and prepared data for publication and created the Umatilla National Forest service website. Robin has since served as a social ministry assistant for the Catholic Community Services of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, Inc. Her responsibilities focused on social policy, including parish social concerns and legislative advocacy. She worked as a caseworker for clients seeking information and social service referrals. Robin also created an office recycling/environmental awareness program.