

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

Goal / Vision

1. Increase participation, understanding, & stewardship of coastal natural & cultural resources.
2. Use YHONA's resources to help community education agencies & organizations meet their education related program goals & objectives.
3. Expand & develop a nationally recognized education program.
4. Develop coordinated, complimentary curriculum between key partners that meets the needs of Lincoln County teachers and is aligned with state benchmarks.
5. Promote a positive image of the BLM in the local communities.

Network Objectives

1. Develop a minimum of 3 partnerships with local community education agencies & organizations.
2. Increase the number of Lincoln County school students who participate in YHONA's on-site education programs by 100% over 2008 levels by end of fiscal year 2009.
3. Transition from providing schools with "end-of-year recreational visits to the tide pools" to providing groups with educational experiences by increasing % of school groups participating in on-site ranger-led programs.
4. Develop a minimum of 2 off-site programs in local schools to better prepare visiting students and teachers & to reach students unable to reach YHONA.
5. Evaluate, modify, and augment existing "teacher-led programs" to insure that visits are meaningful to students, have minimal impact on the resource, and require minimal yet reasonable supervision
6. Create & maintain a teacher advisory committee representing local schools to help evaluate existing programs, define and create appropriate curriculum, and to serve as long term liaisons between YHONA & local schools.

Name – Joe L. Ashor

Title - Manager

A Network Initiative

Site – Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

National Landscape Conservation System

Bureau of Land Management

November 1, 2008

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

Network Partners

➤ **Partners with Volunteer Agreements**

- Local docents & volunteer hosts

➤ **Partners With Assistance Agreements**

- Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses

➤ **Partners / Vendors**

- Liz Madison Consulting

➤ **Potential Partners**

- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Oregon State University – Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Lincoln County School District
- Coastal America (Coastal Environment Learning Center)

➤ **Intra/Inter Agency Partners**

- Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard

➤ **Informal Partnerships**

- Chamber of Commerce (Newport & Lincoln City)
- South Slough National Marine Estuary (Coos Bay)

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

When – Stage of Network Development

November 1, 2008: Implementation and Planning stage

- Initiated contacts and discussions with education coordinators of our potential new partners, i.e. (Aquarium, Science Center)
- Developed network initiative action plan
- Moving to active stage- networking with Lincoln County schools

July 1, 2009: Active stage

- Host a teacher meeting at Yaquina Head
- Have planned and given a few off site programs
- Actively engaging our new partners in achieving our mutual goals and objectives
- Attend teacher advisory committee meeting on a regular basis

Where – Network Geography

- **Our network will operate both on-site and off-site**

On-site: In the tidepools, in the lighthouse, throughout the park

Off-site: In the classroom and at other education sites in Lincoln County

- **Our network will support, engage, and reach....**

1. Teachers and students in Lincoln County
2. Other educators and education program coordinators (Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center)
3. Volunteers
4. Greater community
5. Children

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

Bottom Line: Benefits of the Network

Present

- Development of new relationships with fellow educators and school districts
- Increase in the number of Lincoln County schools involved in YHONA's school group program
- Improved community relations – positive image of the BLM in the local community

Future

- Improved ability to meet our interpretation and environmental education staffing needs
- Better protection of the resource, i.e. (tidepools)
- Dynamic community/school relationship
- Increased opportunities for receiving grant funding to support our environmental education program

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities	NLCS Strategic Plan: Communities & Partnership Goal - Increasing partnership capacity and develop new partnerships in the NLCS
2	Leverage BLM funding	Increase chances for outside assistance to aid in meeting our K-12 environmental education goals and objectives. Potential for new sources of funds through grants with our new partners.
3	Demonstrate big-picture thinking	Potential connection with Coastal America and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center - regional connection with South Slough National Marine Estuary
4	Demonstrate entrepreneurship	Creative use of a variety of avenues to achieve goals and objectives. Time devoted up front that will pay off in the long run.
5	Management of volunteer and assistant agreements and contracts	Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses Assistance Agreement – support of interns that are involved as educators in spring school group program. Volunteers – Involved in resource education
6	Demonstrate effective external and internal communication	Networking with other educators and education program coordinators (external) and sharing model for success with other NLCS units (internal).
7	Actions promoting sustainability of the network	Long term involvement in teachers advisory committee and YHONA teacher network
8	Potential as a network model	Commitment to develop a nationally significant environmental education program that could be used as a model at other similar NLCS units.

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Education Outreach Initiative

Lessons Learned in Network Management

- Network management does not fit nicely into an already busy work schedule.
- Network management works only when the benefits accrue to both the NLCS unit and the outside partner.
- Network management is worth the time invested in terms of improved community relations, (positive image of BLM in the local community). We are indeed an important part of the social, historical, and economic fabric of the community and Lincoln County.

Challenges to Network Management

- Changing our mind set from “we can do it all” to “our partners can help do a lot of the work”.
- Determining what our new roles are. Shifting gears into these new roles, i.e. – nurturing relationships with new partners, high quality training of our partners and our own staff etc..