

Emergence.

2014 Annual Report

GRAY
FAMILY
FOUNDATION





Butterflies on wildflowers beside Desolation Creek
at the North Fork of the John Day Watershed.

Photo by Howard Bales.

2014 was noteworthy for the Foundation's emergence: beyond philanthropy to true engagement.

Gray Family Foundation granted nearly \$1.5 million to 123 nonprofits across the state. 18,000+ kids explored and adored our natural world thanks to our grantees, partners, programs, and volunteers.

The Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan transitioned to a full-fledged Program of Oregon State University's Extension Services. Together, twenty partners are connecting more than 600,000 students and teachers to our natural and built environments.

The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition formed to advocate for equitable access of outdoor school for everyone. Across the state, people came together and shared their stories on the importance of connecting kids to nature.

We look forward to building on this work, creating new connections, and as always providing access to our natural and built environments – for all Oregonians.



Nancy Bales
Executive Director

Last year was a challenging year of transition.

We enthusiastically welcomed Nancy Bales as our new Executive Director in August. We made our first Camp Maintenance and Geography Fund grants. And, we took on a major public will building campaign in partnership with the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition.

Holding our center throughout the year were:

- our experienced staff, Lara Christensen and Rana DeBey,
- our board and volunteers,
- And our solid Outdoor School, Professional Development and Field Trip grant programs.

We're all looking forward to focusing our energies on these programs in 2015!



Joan Gray
Board Chair

Mission

Engage the people of Oregon to become active stewards of their natural and built communities.

Vision

We seek an Oregon:

- Where people work together to actively shape communities that are robust, resilient, and sustainable.
- That is inclusive, equitable, and diverse.
- Where multi-disciplinary knowledge informs decisions and enables people to think through solutions to complex problems.
- That is known for the wealth of its communities and natural areas.

2014 Highlights

Emerging Alliances

The Gray Family Foundation seeks to encourage and support the residents of Oregon in fostering a strong local land ethic, sustainable communities, and thoughtful stewardship of the natural environment.

The Gray Family Foundation is based on the values, beliefs, and lifework of John and Betty Gray, whose philanthropy and contributions helped make Oregon the exceptional place it is today.

We are committed to the long-term success of these efforts. For example, when every Oregon student has access to high quality outdoor education programming, our work will be done.

In 2014, we increased our giving by almost 50 percent, for a total of \$1,480,406 in funding to 123 non-profits, schools, and government agencies in Oregon.

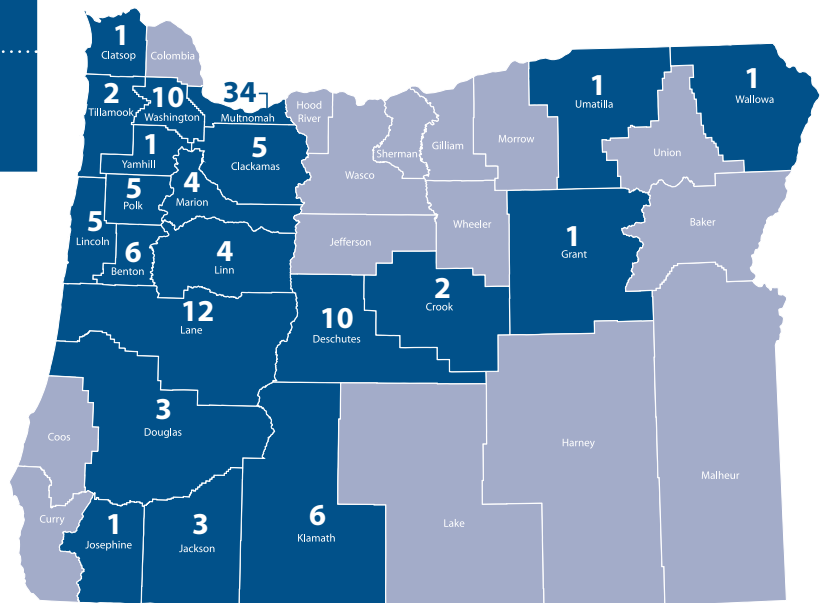
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FUNDS DISTRIBUTED SINCE	FOUNDATION FOUNDED
2006	2012
STAFF MEMBERS	BOARD MEMBERS
3	5
2014 GRANT APPLICATIONS	2014 APPLICATIONS FUNDED
135	123
2014 FUNDS DISTRIBUTED	
\$1,480,406	

FUNDED GRANTEEES LOCATED IN

21 of 36 counties in Oregon

2014 GRANTS BY COUNTY



STATEWIDE **3**

PROGRAM AREAS

Camp Maintenance

Environmental and Sustainability Focused Professional Development for Teachers and Volunteer Mentors

Field Trips and Community Exploration for 5th-8th Grades

Geography Education

Outdoor School

TOTAL GRANTS BY YEAR

2012

\$985,000

2013

\$788,000

2014

\$1,480,406



The Gray Family Foundation supports efforts to allow every Oregon child to attend Outdoor School by the completion of sixth grade.

Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition Emerges

Having educated, enriched and inspired several generations of Oregon's students, today's Outdoor School is still based on the founders' original idea – that outdoor learning is an invaluable and irreplaceable experience for our students. To date, more than 250,000 students have attended one of Oregon's Outdoor School programs, some of the best in the country.

In 2014, we engaged the Metropolitan Group to coordinate, leverage resources, and develop a long-term strategy to gain a stable funding source to make Outdoor School accessible for all of Oregon's students.

Together with community activists and practitioners, we formed the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition (www.oregonoutdoored.org), a diverse statewide group of educators, businesspersons, and tribal and community leaders collaborating to secure funding for outdoor school for all Oregon students. We also talked to people across the state about outdoor education in their region. Read more about the 2014-15 Outdoor Education Gatherings findings on our website (<http://grayff.org/outdoor-school-for-everyone/>).

And, for those schools looking to launch a program, a free, downloadable 80-page booklet is available from the Gray Family Foundation in partnership with The Oregon Community Foundation, which provides excellent information on creating and sustaining strong outdoor school programs.

Rooting students' hearts in nature at an early age is the surest way to preserve their future.

Visit www.outdoorschoolforall.org to learn more and get the latest news.

Oregon Environmental Literacy Program

Last summer, Oregon's comprehensive Environmental Literacy Plan went through its own metamorphosis and became the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program (OELP). The plan engages kids and teachers from Kindergarten through graduation in quality age-appropriate outdoor education programs.

OELP leads the state's expert educators and program providers in their efforts to coordinate across complex partnerships including Oregon's STEM hubs, regional collaboratives and the school system as a whole.

This team has worked tirelessly over the last seven years to bring No Oregon Child Left Inside efforts into a permanent and supported home.

In 2014, OELP moved from a project within the Gray Family Foundation to a full-fledged program of Oregon State University (OSU) Extension, which is also the targeted home for legislative funding for outdoor schools statewide. OSU Extension has championed the importance of OELP to student engagement and achievement and to individual and community health. Congratulations OELP!



OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Gladstone Outdoor School

Clackamas County

Each spring about 120 Gladstone sixth graders experience five transformational days on the Oregon Coast at Twin Rocks Friends Camp.

A 2014 grant from the Gray Family Foundation helped offset the \$200 family contribution, ensuring every student could attend Outdoor School and keeping the 41-year tradition alive—a cornerstone of the district's award-winning sustainability programs.

"I'm proud to be in a district where this is something that every child gets," says Leslie Robinette, communications coordinator and grant writer.

In addition to science curriculum, an art teacher leads students drawing massive hieroglyphics on the sandy beach and a history teacher tells stories of Oregon's past around the campfire.



CAMP MAINTENANCE

Camp Kiwanilong

Clatsop County

Located southwest of Astoria, the 270-acre Camp Kiwanilong has hosted generations of Oregonians since the 1930s. Some groups, such as OMSI, have been bringing 7- to 14-year-old kids to the camp for nearly 40 years.

Camp Kiwanilong's volunteer board leveraged the Gray Family Foundation's matching funds to nearly double the gift—raising about \$60,000 in all to complete much needed repairs at the camp by fall 2014.

The camp's central gathering place, Boyington Lodge, had a major facelift: two new double doors, a wooden insert in the brick fireplace circa 1936, plus new windows and screens.

The camp also repaired a compromised building used for food storage, refurbished three cabin foundations, and bought new bunk beds.



COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS

Douglas County Museum Foundation

Douglas County

“The Douglas County Museum is all about inspiring our community to see the big picture, and to feel like they’re connected to each other and to the environment,” said Kelly Hibbert, museum education coordinator.

With a grant from the Gray Family Foundation, the museum offered the Umpqua Explorers program for free, enabling groups of 13- to 17-year-olds to become museum leaders, teachers, and outdoor enthusiasts.

The eclectic mix of teens, including hunters, computer geeks and youth from the local homeless shelter, found unity on several outings.

In July 2014, a four-day road trip took 15 teens to Crater Lake, the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, and the Warm Springs Museum.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Straub Environmental Center

Marion County

For more than a decade, the Straub Environmental Center (SEC) has been a leader in environmental education in the Mid-Willamette Valley, providing teachers with resources for environmental literacy, amongst other programs.

“Our hope is that our education programs teach and motivate people to become active stewards in their environment,” said Michelle Cordova, executive director.

Cordova used a Gray Family Foundation grant to train 20 Salem-area elementary and middle school teachers over the summer to lead “Introduction to Nature Writing Workshops” within and outside their classrooms.

As a result, dozens of public school students had work published in *Honoring Our Rivers*, a student anthology of river-related poetry, art, and nature writing.



Grant Programs & Recipients

Environmental and Sustainability Focused Professional Development for Teachers and Volunteer Mentors

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 per year were awarded for one year to non-profits, schools, and government agencies that provided professional development for K-12 teachers and volunteer mentors.

Bicycle Transportation Alliance
Center for Diversity & the Environment
Center for Earth Leadership
Deschutes Children's Forest
Ecology In Classrooms and Outdoors
Environmental Education Association of Oregon
Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center
Growing Gardens
Institute of Permaculture Education for Children (formerly Mother Earth School)
Klamath Watershed Partnership
Oregon 4-H Foundation
Oregon Coast Aquarium
Oregon Natural Resources Education Program
Oregon Zoo
OSU Foundation
Portland Metro STEM Partnership
Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leaders (through EEAO)
The Environmental Center

Field Trips and Community Exploration for 5th through 8th Graders

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 per year were awarded for one year to non-profits, schools, and government agencies that provided field trips and community experiences promoting environmental literacy for students in fifth through eighth grades.

Adventures Without Limits
Bienestar
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development

Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Discover Your Forest
Douglas County Museum Foundation
Educational Recreational Adventures
Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center
High Desert Museum
Institute for Applied Ecology
Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
McKenzie Watershed Alliance
Mount Pisgah Arboretum
Nature Awareness and Wilderness Sports Programs (Coyote Trails School of Nature)
North Fork John Day Watershed Council
Northwest Academy
Northwest Youth Corps
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Powell Butte Community Charter School
REALMS Charter School
Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council
Sauvie Island Center
School Garden Project of Lane County
Siuslaw School District 97-J
Trout Unlimited -- Upper Deschutes Program
Tryon Life Community Farm
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Wallowa Resources
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition
Willamette Resources & Educational Network
Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.
World Salmon Council, Inc.

Outdoor School

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 per year were awarded for one year to non-profits, schools, and government agencies that provided fifth and/or sixth grade students in Oregon with an outdoor-oriented educational, residential, experiential, interdisciplinary experience that engages the senses and employs recognized best practices.

Adams Elementary School
Aloha Huber Park School
Amity Elementary School
Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School
Ashland Middle School
Butte Creek Elementary School
Calapooia Watershed Council
Canby School District
Coast Range Natural Resource Education Organization
Crook County Outdoor School
Edgewood Community Elementary School
Ferguson Elementary School
Gladstone Schools
Greater Albany Public School District
Gresham-Barlow School District
Henley Elementary School
Holy Cross Catholic School
Klamath Outdoor Science School
Meadow Park Middle School
Mountain View Middle School
Ninety-One School/Carus Elementary School
OMSI
On Belay Ty
Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center
Oregon City School District
Pacific Rain Forest Programs
Parkrose Middle School
Philomath Outdoor School
Polk County 4-H Extension

Grant Programs & Recipients, continued on following page

Grant Programs & Recipients, cont.

Portland Public Schools
Rainier School District
Reynolds School District
Robert Frost School
Santiam Canyon School District
Sauvie Island Academy
Self Enhancement, Inc.
Shasta Elementary School
South Lane School District

Geography Education

New in 2014, the Foundation's Geography Education program made a number of pilot grants and developed a program launching in 2015. Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$32,000 per year were awarded for one year to non-profits, schools, and government agencies that provided teaching of geography in K-12 schools throughout Oregon. A partial list of pilot grants is included here.

Alder Creek Community Forest
Center for Geography Education in Oregon

Mercy Corps Northwest
Springfield High School

Camp Maintenance

Also beginning in 2014, a grant program established by the Gray Family Foundation began annually investing \$455,000 directly into the improvement of existing facilities at Oregon's outdoor residential camps throughout the state.

Camp Arrah Wanna
Camp Howard
Camp Kiwanilong
Camp Magruder
Camp Namanu
Camp Suttle Lake
Camp Tadmor
Camp Tamarack
Camp Westwind
Deer Creek Center
Hancock Field Station
Jawbone Flats (Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center)

Sun Pass Camp (Klamath Outdoor Science School)

Other Grants

Additionally, we distributed \$124,000 to organizations that share in our commitment to support the residents of Oregon in fostering a strong local land ethic, sustainable communities and thoughtful stewardship of the natural environment.

Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors
Environmental Education Association of Oregon
Environmental Grantmakers Association
Friends of Tryon Creek State Park
Latino Partnership Project - (through The Oregon Community Foundation)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Sightline Institute
The Intertwine Alliance

Thank You, Volunteers

In 2014, 25+ volunteers assisted the Foundation in everything from serving as advisors on committees to reviewing grants. Their service is critical to our capacity to serve Oregon and fulfills one of our core missions as a foundation—*engagement.*

In Appreciation

Staff

Our staff spends as much time as possible outside—bike commuting, gardening, reading and simply being—with family and friends.



Nancy Bales

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since 2014

nbales@grayff.org

Nancy comes to the Gray Family Foundation after 13 years at Ecotrust where she served in the role of Vice President of Development. Contact Nancy about strategic partnerships, the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition or media inquiries.



Lara Christensen

PROGRAM OFFICER

Since 2007

lchristensen@grayff.org

Originally a donor relations officer for the Gray Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Lara built the statewide Environmental Education Program. Contact Lara about programs, initiatives, or policy.



Rana DeBey

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Since 2012

rdebey@grayff.org

Rana brought new life to the Gray Family Foundation in October 2014 with the birth of her son, Ivan. On a daily basis, she brings her mastery of volunteer and engagement management from previous work at Impact NW and Mercy Corps. Contact Rana about the Camp Maintenance Fund and other grantee questions.

Board of Directors

Board Chair: Joan Gray

Since 2011

Board Vice Chair: David Vernier

Since 2011

Board Treasurer and Secretary:

Nicholas Walrod

Since 2011

Maria Elena Campisteguy

Since 2013

Jay Bowerman

Since 2014

Special Thank You to Amy Morrison



Starting in Sept. 2013, Amy Morrison joined us weekly as our office volunteer assisting staff with data entry, grants management, research, and event planning. While Program Associate Rana DeBey was on family leave, Amy temporarily stepped into the role and kept the foundation running seamlessly. Thank you for your service, Amy. We wish you the best!

Questions?

Email a staff member or call any of us:
503-552-3500.



Gray Family Foundation
1221 SW Yamhill St., Ste. 100
Portland, OR 97205

www.grayff.org
www.facebook.com/grayff

