



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing, and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii & the Pacific Islands

Plumas National Forest - Mt. Hough RD

Plumas Unified School District/Plumas National Forest Storrie & Moonlight Fire Restoration Agreement: *Inspiring stewardship through collaboration, education, and restoration*

Leave it to Beaver

Leave it to American beaver to inspire Greenville & Quincy Junior High School students to offer helping hands to restore meadows and stream conditions in the Moonlight Fire Restoration Area. Students assisted Plumas NF hydrologists and wildlife biologists in a recent beaver dam analogue (BDA) project. Specialists hope that by mimicking beaver dams, they can reconnect floodplains, increase water storage, restore meadows, and provide habitat for threatened species. The BDAs, made of vertical wooden posts are pounded into the streambed across a channel with willow branches woven between posts. Soil and other organic materials are then packed in on the upstream end to make the structure less porous and to pond more water. The analogues just might prove to be an effective tool for stream restoration.

Projects are carefully planned for ecological/fire restoration, age- and grade-appropriateness, and tie to the CA State Curriculum and Content, Common Core, & Next Generation Science Standards. Collaboration provides the opportunity for the Plumas National Forest to restore the area and for PUSD to educate students with a hands-on, place-based approach to learning.

Objectives:

- Provide students with marketable natural resource skills.
- Student participation in design of recreation features and products.
- Provide opportunities for integration of curriculum.
- Teacher learning about natural resource topics.
- Build new relationships and enhance partnerships already in place.



North American beaver *Castor canadensis*



Students gather willow for the beaver dam analogue

Connection to Moonlight Settlement:

Students help restore natural and recreation resources and landscape

Funding: \$2.5 million for multi-year partnership agreement (all projects)

Next Steps:

- Expand opportunities to additional classes
- Continue curriculum development
- Website development
- Community partnerships
- Additional student employment



Students set a post for analogue dam



Students add cut willow for the dam structure



Student, teacher, and specialist set posts for analogue



Students pose after a good day's work

For more information on the Moonlight Fire Restoration Projects, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/plumas, then scroll to "Spotlights," and "Moonlight Fire Restoration Project." For more information on this project, contact: **Kelby Gardiner (530) 283-7686, kgardiner@fs.fed.us; Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7643, mjimenezholtz@fs.fed.us; or Rob Wade (530) 283-6500 x5257 or rwade@pcoe.k12.ca.us**

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