

Murphy Lake Ranger Station's Native Plant Pollinator Garden Kootenai National Forest

2008 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in June of 2008 when we were awarded \$3000 to start a native plant pollinator garden at Murphy Lake Ranger Station on the Kootenai National Forest. The original garden had a few existing native shrubs however no new planting had occurred due to lack of funds (see Figure 1). The garden is intended to function as an interpretive site that will identify the native plants and the potential pollinators of those plants. The audience will include the visiting public as well as local residents including the three local area school districts (Trego, Fortine and Eureka).

We partnered with the Trego School and the Fortine Summer Recreation program as well as the Sartori Greenhouse for this project. The Trego 5th – 8th grade classes at Trego and the Sartori Greenhouse will be involved this spring in growing plants from seed as well as collecting and planting more native plants in the garden. They will also research native plants and their pollinators as a school project.

This year we purchased and planted a portion of the native shrubs, trees, and forbs intended for the garden. Landscaping materials and interpretive signs were also purchased. A new bed was created adjacent to the entrance of the building (see Figure 2).



Figure 1. Picture of pollinator garden site prior to removal of non-native shrubs.



Figure 2. View of pollinator garden from Ranger Station entrance. A new bed was created in foreground and partially planted; non-native shrubs were removed in background while native shrubs were retained.

Year awarded: Initial award in 2008

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures (through 9/2008):

FY08 funding \$3,000, expend. \$3,000, \$0 remaining

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Trego School
5th-8th grade students, Fortine Summer
Recreation Students, Sartori Greenhouse

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