

# IMPACT



Washington County Extension, 485 East Third, Weiser, Idaho 83572; Phone: 208-414-0415, Fax: 208-414-0469

## Natural Resource Awareness for Youth

### *The Situation*

Youth in Washington County had little access to instruction in natural resource issues, particularly wildlife management. As natural resource issues become more complicated and interrelated, solutions will require greater understanding and knowledge. Wildlife management awareness for youth could produce a long-term interest in these issues.

### *Our Response*

The Washington County Extension Office has been teaching wildlife management and habitat principles locally and statewide through a variety of projects and programs.

The Extension Office has formed youth teams interested in participating in the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program. This is a program that encourages study and competition in state and national wildlife habitat contests. The Extension Office has enlisted the collaboration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for presentations and field trips.

The Extension Office also teaches wildlife management principles at the Annual Weiser River Soil Conservation Field Day. All sixth grade youth in Washington County attend this one-day event featuring natural resource topics.

Wildlife management principles and practices are also demonstrated at the weeklong Natural Resource Workshop in Ketchum, Idaho. Instructors at this

camp introduce natural resource issues to Idaho youth.

The Extension Office also provides Washington County teachers and 4-H leaders with Natural Heritage Project kits. These kits contain wildlife samples and materials for classroom activities.

### *Program Outcomes*

Three Washington County youth teams competed and scored well at the Annual Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contests in Pocatello.

Over 160 youth participated in the Natural Resources Workshop that included wildlife habitat lab and field exercises. Over 300 youth participated in the Weiser River Soil Conservation Field Day that included wildlife management demonstrations.



*Youth discuss value of dead standing trees for wildlife*

### ***The Future***

The Washington County Extension Office will continue to promote participation in natural resources events for youth and teachers. Expanded collaborations with state and federal agencies will be pursued.

### ***Cooperators***

Washington County  
Washington County NRCD  
Idaho Fish & Game  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### ***For More Information***

Steven J. Reddy, Extension Educator  
University of Idaho  
Washington County Extension  
485 East Third  
Weiser, Idaho 83572  
Phone: 208-414-0415  
Fax: 208-414-0469  
E-mail: [sreddy@uidaho.edu](mailto:sreddy@uidaho.edu)