Explore the River

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

he Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have undertaken a large-scale watershed restoration project in an effort to benefit bull trout in the Jocko River drainage. One important component of this comprehensive project is education and outreach, the centerpiece of which is a multimedia information and education package that describes the ecology and importance of bull trout and the relationship between bull trout and the Salish and Pend d'Oreille people. The package is composed of an integrated set of educational materials that include an interactive DVD entitled "Explore The River: Bull Trout, Tribal People and the Jocko River", a storybook Bull Trout's Gift, a field journal, and a curricularge number of websites of relevance to the project. We structured the Explore The River DVD so it can reach children at multiple grade levels. We believe that an education program such as this is most effective when it exposes children to the material at the primary grade levels, then re-exposes them at the middle and high school levels, and then again as adults. In this way the mes-

sage is more likely to be remembered and become part of each individual's worldview.

This multifaceted, multi-age approach will help ensure long-term support for the Tribes' restoration program.

Accompanying the DVD is a storybook that targets K-8 students. The story, Bull Trout's Gift, teaches that bull trout need cold, clean, complex, and connected habitats. Through a traditional story it shows the importance of taking care of our streams and the fish and other creatures

they support. Reciprocity—giving something back in exchange for all the gifts that streams have given us is the theme

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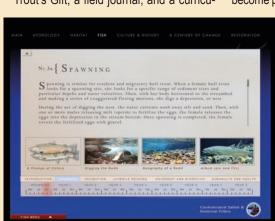
of the story. The book is also part of the DVD, but the book itself provides teachers and students with a more traditional, hands-on way of approaching the topic of stream restoration.

To encourage students and their teachers to take what they have learned from the DVD out of the classroom and into the field, we developed an attractive field journal. The curriculum (currently under development) will include a number of lessons that require students to make entries into their field journals.

The DVD, storybook, and field journal will be supported by a comprehensive set of lesson plans. The lesson plans will provide teachers, who have a limited amount of time, with a well-designed, organized, and thoughtful way to approach and use the

> materials, which otherwise might seem daunting. (The DVD alone is estimated to contain over 60 hours of materials.)





lum. The book will be published by the University of Nebraska Press, which will also distribute the DVD and journal.

Importantly, the project has been developed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. It integrates scientific information about bull trout and state-of-the-art restoration strategies and techniques with information from Tribal elders about the Tribes' long-term relationship with the species.

The interactive DVD combines extensive text, video, multi-layered maps showing change over time, interviews, animations, audio, and access to a

