

ENVIRONMENTAL

news

Palouse - Clearwater Environmental Institute

the Backyard Harvest Grows (and Grows, and Grows)

By Amy Grey, Volunteer, BYH Project Coordinator

The premiere season of PCEI's newest project, the Backyard Harvest (BYH), is off to a busy start. The BYH is a collaboration between community member Amy Grey and PCEI AmeriCorps member Courtney Rush. Grey had an overabundance of lettuce that grew into the idea of sharing her backyard harvest with those in need; Rush wanted to contribute to the Backyard Harvest as her AmeriCorps Community Action Project. Currently, the BYH has transported over 1,800 lbs of donated produce to food banks and senior meal programs across the Palouse. Families visiting the Community Action Partnership, and the Moscow and Pullman Food Banks have snapped up spinach, lettuce, peas, potatoes and radishes - all collected from small gardens in Moscow, Pullman, Potlatch and Garfield. As John Merrick, the director of the Moscow Nazarene Food bank noted, "the produce was a hit. People took it all...and we are looking forward to more."

Beyond connecting the fruits and veggies of small gardens, The Backyard Harvest is also a bridge between professional growers, businesses and families in need. BYH now provides a weekly pickup of after-market produce at the Tuesday Growers Market and a daily collection of "day old" baked goods from the Moscow Food Co-op. These donations have allowed the seniors at the 1912 Center to enjoy a salad bar with lettuce grown at Affinity Farms and stuffing made with baguettes from the Co-op bakery. Several organizations have also donated seedlings to BYH's three anchor gardens. Fiddlers Ridge Nursery, the WSU Organic Farm, and the UI Soil Stewards gave squash, tomato, pepper and cabbage starts, just now starting to produce.

Last, but certainly not least, folks are giving not only produce but also their time. For example, Sally Perrine, who works at the Moscow Public Library, is transporting her neighbors' vegetables to Moscow in from Potlatch, forty Moscow Day School pre-schoolers helped to pick lettuce at BYH's 7th Street garden and volunteers picked over 60 lbs of cherries from trees on the Johnson family property.

As we head into September and the harvest of the summer crops, it is not inconceivable that The Backyard Harvest could collect and distribute well over two tons of produce when all is said and done. What is for certain now, is that the program is meeting a clear need - local gardeners and growers are eager to donate; families utilizing food banks are eager for fresh food - The Backyard Harvest is fulfilling that need.

To donate produce or volunteer, please contact Amy at 882.1155 or visit <www.backyardharvest.org>.



AmeriCorps members, Courtney Rush and Mike Filapowski prepare to deliver fresh produce to food banks.
Photo: Aly Bean



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A Heartfelt Thanks to PCEI's Dedicated Volunteers

By Aly Bean, Volunteer Coordinator

Some arrive at 6:00am and spend up to five hours providing the necessary watering for our Learning Nursery. Some put on gloves and fight with the bind weed that tangles our raspberries. Some show up every day and collect trash along Hogg Creek. Others spend up to ten hours a day working at a restoration site with our crew. We do not have much to offer our amazing volunteers, but a sincere heartfelt, "Thank You!"

In the year that I have had the opportunity to coordinate PCEI's volunteers, I have seen some faces only once, and others are so familiar they have become close friends. Everyone's work has been essential to our success at PCEI, and I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you know how appreciative we are for your time spent with us.

There are, however, those volunteers who deserve a special recognition and I am honored to share their names with you.

Thank you to the following exemplary volunteers who have helped PCEI have a very successful and productive spring and summer 2006:

Alan Brown	David Vollmer	Heidi Lelifeld	Kelly Riley	Lisa Chesebro	Mike Filipowski
Alane Blanchard	Diana Carson	Ivy Dickinson	Kristin Miller	Lisa Simpson	Sassia Ivey
Alyssia Herr	Emily Sly	Joe Raiden	Laura Girardeau	Louisa Lohrmann	Scott Cloud
Brendan Hammond	Erik Luvaas	Joey Lohrmann	Laurel Combs	Matt Carroll	Tami Moore
Brian Rich	Erin Morra	Jonathan Rush	Laurie Boldt	Melissa Lamb	Tessa Sheehan
Clinton Uberhoff	Gerry Galster	Katy Swoboda	Leslye Penticoff	Michael Czornak	Thomas Ray



Volunteers taking a lunch break after a long day of work! Photo: Aly Bean

Important Issues

By Aly Bean, Volunteer Coordinator

Couched as "property rights" initiatives, I-933 and Prop 2 are misleading; please educate yourself and others on these initiatives.

I-933 (Washington) initiative led by the Washington Farm Bureau would require state and local governments either to compensate property owners when regulations lower property values or to waive those rules. (e.g. a junk yard goes up next to your property, but regulations on noise in that zone do not allow it, that owner can be compensated for "lost profit") Please visit <http://noon933.org/> for more information.

Proposition 2 (Idaho) is a citizen initiative on the ballot; many signers interpreting it as a restriction on government's "eminent domain" rights as much of the law addresses this issue, however, the remaining part of the initiative restricts the right of communities to zone and rezone property. Just as in Washington, if there were a re-zone, taxpayers would be asked to pay owners for any alleged economic "losses." Please take the time to learn more about Prop. 2 by visiting <http://www.idahocities.org/>.

Naylor Farms has applied for a conditional use permit (CUP) for their open-pit clay mine. In 2005, the Idaho Department of Water Resources denied this request, considering the proposal to pump and use 2.4 billion gallons of water annually. At the minimum, they will have a 40-acre operation. The County Commissioners are holding a public hearing on September 25th at 6:30 pm at the Moscow High School Auditorium. Please make the time to attend this very important meeting and share your thoughts. Info: <http://www.protectourpalouse.com/>.

Please be sure to take the time to vote on Tuesday Nov. 7th.

PCEI Q & A

By Cece Connors, Office Manager

PCEI gets a lot of interesting phone calls. We think the questions people ask are good ones, and that the answers may benefit others who ponder similar ideas, but haven't called us just yet. Here are a couple of good questions asked recently.

Q: Where can I take my kids to find frogs?

A: Phillips Farm, located north of Moscow, has plenty of frogs and other slippery, crawling friends. Latah County Parks and Recreation Department runs the farm. Call them at 208-883-5709 for more information about visiting the farm and how to get there. To learn more about Palouse amphibians, visit our website at <http://www.pcei.org/education/map.htm>.

Q: Where can I purchase solar energy panels for my home?

A: If you live on the Palouse, you can purchase solar panels from The Natural Abode in Moscow. They sell other alternative energy items, and energy efficient/eco-friendly building products, as well. David and Nancy Wilder own this wonderful local business. The phone number is 208-883-1040.

On our website we have many answers to these and other questions you may have. Go to <http://www.pcei.org/faq.htm>. Send questions to info@pcei.org.

Gone Wild

By Brett Haverstick,
MEEC AmeriCorps Member 05-06

One morning, I found myself listening to gurgling soft whispers of a river. I lay in bed, soaking it in; birds merrily chirping in chorus with the rushing spring waters. Sun poured in my window. Mountains filled my landscape as I peeked outside. Thousand foot evergreen slopes forced me to arch my neck back. Hundreds of years of secrets and silent celebrations all around. Oh, what these mountains would say to me if they had voices!

And that my friends, is what waking up on the Wild and Scenic Selway River is like. A hundred possibilities. Scores of migrating birds and ducks, flocks of wild turkey, herds of whitetail deer gracing your vision. An occasional moose with young roaming across the lawn. Vibrant wildflowers and lush green grasses growing in wild abundance. Baby blue skies stretching across the top of an endless V shaped valley.

If I could spend all my days here I would. How did I get so lucky? Believe it or not, through AmeriCorps. Yep, that's right. I'm an AmeriCorps member working at the Nez Perce National Forest. I don't know what I did to deserve this, but boy has it had an impact on my life! May 1, 2006 was the day I reported to Fenn Ranger Station. After five months of field teaching with the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), I was offered a summer position with the Forest Service.

There are four Wilderness areas in the Nez Perce National Forest: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Gospel-Hump Wilderness, Hells Canyon Wilderness, and the Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness. All are within driving distance of your home.

In 1964, the United States Congress passed the Wilderness Act. With that came the birth of the Wilderness Preservation System and 9.1 millions acres of designated Wilderness. The forefathers of the Act had a vision of preserving the land for future generations and allowing natural ecosystem processes to take place unhindered.

For those of you interested in learning more about Wilderness and the Wilderness Preservation System log onto <www.wilderness.net>. Last but not least, keep your eyes and ears peeled open for the latest Wilderness proposal here in Idaho. Recently, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill that would designate over 300,000 acres for Wilderness in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains.

Wilderness is a part of our American heritage. Please take some time out of your busy lives and connect with nature. Take your loved ones up into the mountains and fall asleep under the stars. Find yourself waking to the rushing sounds of a crystal rivers and joyful birds. There is so much out there. Do yourself a favor and just go wild!



Smokey the Bear (Brett Haverstick) goin' wild! Photo: Provided by Brett Haverstick

This newsletter (ISSN# 1087-9374) is published quarterly by the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI). 3rd Class postage paid in Moscow, ID. The Mission of PCEI is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our regional environment. Through community organizing and education, we strive to enable members of our community to find effective and sustainable solutions to local and regional environmental problems. PCEI is a non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Articles for publication and letters to the editor are welcome and must include the name and address of the author. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of PCEI.

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People interested in being on our mailing list should join PCEI (see page 7).

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with 30% post-consumer content.



PCEI AmeriCorps member, Randy Stevens. Photo: PCEI

Ruby Goes Biodiesel!

By Tracy Brown, Watershed Program Director

Have you noticed our big, bright red Watersheds truck around town? If you haven't seen it, you most certainly have heard it! Diesel engines are loud. When we originally purchased Ruby over a year ago, our goal was to be running on biodiesel by the end of 2006. We've added a tank to the back, we fill up in Lewiston, and are able to store enough biodiesel to get us back and forth to our restoration projects. This is just the first step. Our next goal is to be able to store fuel onsite. We have a plan, but are looking for funding sources to help with the needed supplies. *For more information on biodiesel, visit our website <www.pcei.org/water/biodiesel.htm>.*



2006 PCEI restoration project on the South Fork Clearwater River. Photo: PCEI

Thanks To You, We Are So Much Better!

By Tracy Brown, Watershed Program Director

Say THANKS and farewell to Randy Stevens! After a two-year stint as a PCEI AmeriCorps member, Randy is off to graduate school. Lucky for us, he is not going far! This August he started his preliminary coursework in Regional Planning at Washington State University.

Randy started with PCEI as the Community Outreach Specialist, just months before we packed our office and moved out to Rodeo. During his first year, he split his time between restoration and community garden projects. Once we moved to Rodeo, he almost single handedly installed our GeoWeb driveway. Randy's dedication to PCEI and the environment has been impressive. For his first year Community Action Project (CAP), he implemented the 1st Annual Pullman Stream Clean up. This won him and PCEI the Mayor's Award for Cougar Pride Days. He continued the effort again this year expanding and solidifying the Pullman Stream Cleanup as an annual PCEI event. During his second year of service, he became the crew leader for the Watersheds "Stream Team". He has been a huge asset to PCEI and the Watersheds Program. His hard work, positive attitude, and dedication have not gone unnoticed. We will all miss him! Cheers to you, Randy!

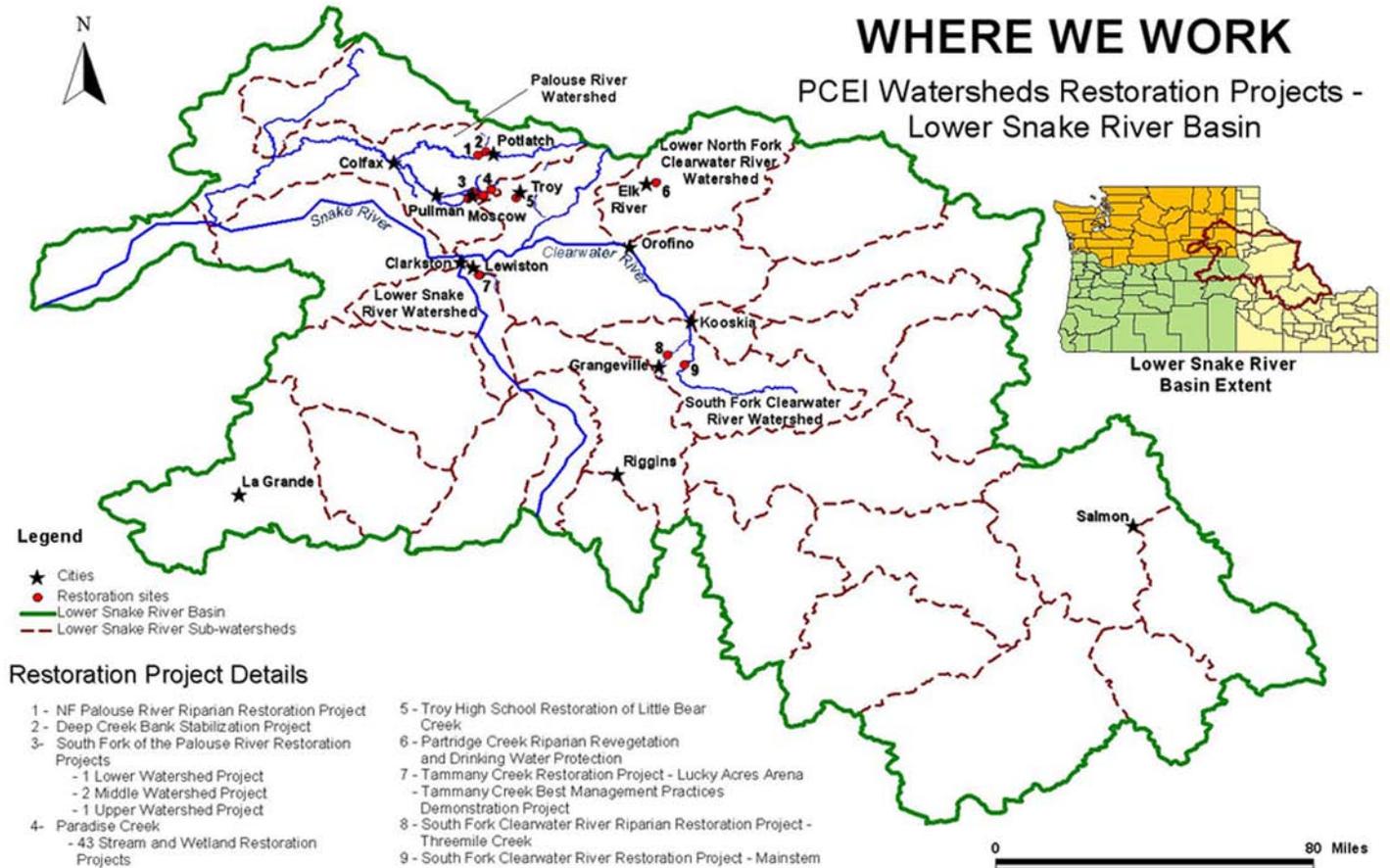


PCEI AmeriCorps member, Emily Wolf taking a ride in the new biodiesel fueled engine! Photo: PCEI

Sunny Days of Summer on the South Fork Clearwater River

By Tracy Brown, Watershed Program Director

This summer PCEI teamed up with the U.S. Forest Service, Framing Our Communities, and the Nez Perce tribe to monitor annual sediment loads and substrate conditions in the South Fork Clearwater River. The project is funded by the RAC (Resource Advisory Committee). Since the completion of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the South Fork Clearwater River and the development of the subsequent Implementation Plan, monitoring associated with improvement projects is required. If all goes well, we hope to continue monitoring for a minimum of five years. Long-term monitoring will help determine sediment targets set under the TMDL, it will also address cumulative effects requirements under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and biological opinion requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). PCEI started restoration work in the South Fork Clearwater River watershed this summer.



Watersheds Hits the Road!

By Tracy Brown, Watershed Program Director

As we finish maintenance needs on our 2005 restoration projects, we are gearing up to begin excavation on our new projects. This year we will be working in three new watersheds: Deep Creek, the South Fork Clearwater River and Threemile Creek. All of these projects will take place on private land and have been funded through the U.S. EPA 319 Nonpoint Source grant and administered by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. All three projects will focus on reducing target pollutants requiring stream bank resloping, stabilization, and installation of native grass, trees and shrubs.

For project details visit our website at <www.pcei.org/water>.



2006 restoration sites at Threemile Creek, outside of Grangeville, Idaho. Photos: PCEI

Reflections of Camp Four Echoes

By Stefani Balison, 2nd year PCC AmeriCorps member

Recently transitioning from spring time clean up, weekend camp activities, and quiet growth of new life, Camp Four Echoes now rings with children's laughter and feels the pitter patter of little feet through its forest during this summer season. Very little is accomplished out here without help. I, as an AmeriCorps member, have been able to be one of the many helpers planting 1600 ponderosa pine seedlings, raising a new log entrance to give the camp strength and character, building a new challenge course, rebuilding a twenty-foot section of dock, enhancing wildlife habitat by putting up four wood duck nest boxes, and keeping up with all the basic maintenance projects at camp.

I spent a lot of time organizing and supervising Green It and Clean It, a volunteer collaboration effort between the St. Joe Ranger District and Girl Scout troops to keep the camp looking beautiful and green. The Scouts planted 150 trees and learned about forestry in the process. They raked pine needles and picked up sticks and thinned out trees as they were taught about fire ecology and fire prevention efforts. It was a day of hard work, learning, and fun in the midst of April rain.

Summer resident camp finds me maintaining the camp facilities and leading educational nature hikes with campers. The campers, ages 7-17, meet trees, discover wildlife, inspect insects, listen to birds, touch fungus, smell flowers, and imagine what it is like to be a deer, an ant, or a fish. I, in turn, am refreshed by how others see the natural world around them, by how they describe bark on a ponderosa pine, why they think a tree trunk grows all bent in an "S" shape, and by the yummy smell of a syringa flower.

Camp Four Echoes rewards those who work here by allowing new discoveries in nature (flying squirrels, the call of the wood duck, etc.); new friendships to form; and by providing a peaceful, fresh atmosphere in which to relax and recreate.



AmeriCorps member, Stefani Balison, helping the crew build a sign at Camp Four Echoes. Photo: PCEI

PCEI Wish List

Do you have a diesel pick-up truck you love and don't want to part with? Do you have a vehicle that gets great gas mileage and you're really happy about? Well, these are two of the items PCEI would love for you to donate to us!

- Safe, reliable car
- Sturdy, reliable diesel truck
- Tractor with quality implements
- Trailer, flatbed or enclosed

If you have working vehicles that are in a safe and reliable condition, please consider donating them to a good cause! Maybe you have too many vehicles, and it's time to get rid of your best one. We travel all around Idaho and Washington placing AmeriCorps members, completing stream restoration projects, and delivering high quality education programs. We need vehicles of that same quality to help us do that job.

If you think you can help, please call us at 208-882-1444 or email us at <info@pcei.org>. For more items, or to see an updated list visit <www.pcei.org.wishlist.htm>.

PCEI Living Roof Workshop

American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour
Saturday October 7th, 2006, 8am-2pm

Are you yearning to learn about "greening" your roof? Would you like to better regulate the temperature of your house without paying for air conditioning? Are you interested in reducing the stormwater runoff from your roof? Wouldn't you like to reduce pollutants and CO₂ in the atmosphere? Consider attending the PCEI Green Roof Workshop! The cost is only \$55, and you will learn the importance, benefits, the structural components, and planting design and choices of greenroofing. You will also get the hands on experience of planting a Green Roof at the PCEI Rodeo campus. Please contact Courtney Rush <makeitgrow@pcei.org>.

Kirsten and Denim, We'll Miss You!

By Greg Fizzell, Environmental Education Program Director

The Environmental Education program would like to wish a fond farewell to Kirsten Hawley and Denim Jochimsen. They have spent the last year serving their country and community as devoted AmeriCorps members. While doing so, they taught fun, interactive, and standards-based environmental education content to over 3,000 K-12 students in the Palouse-Clearwater region. In addition, Denim wrote a comprehensive strategic plan for PCEI's future nature center to be located at our 7.6-acre campus on Rodeo Drive. Kirsten is making us all proud as a new 5th grade teacher at Lena Whitmore Elementary in Moscow. She is now among several former PCEI and (McCall Outdoor Science School) MOSS AmeriCorps members who have moved on to become classroom teachers. Kirsten and Denim, from all of us at PCEI, the sincerest thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Your skills, talents, and humor will be greatly missed.

Embedded with Northwest Youth Corps

By Erin Rishling, Community Outreach Program Coordinator

Annually, PCEI's Community Outreach Program (COP) places 20 AmeriCorps members with Northwest Youth Corps' Leadership Development Program (LDP). LDP teams consist of young adults who want to educate and work with youth on field projects related to conservation, restoration, and outdoor recreation.

Northwest Youth Corps' (NYC) projects are designed to help youth develop skills necessary to be successful in life. AmeriCorps members learn from NYC staff to mentor youth through hard work. Each member serves 900 hours in 14 weeks, often comprised of 12 hr. days in wilderness areas and national forests, living and working outside. This year I spent a week in the field with one team. Here is my story.

June 26, 2006

I left Moscow at 4:30 am with hot coffee and NPR, sprinting away in PCEI's mini-van, "Van Gogh", headed for Stanley, ID, and the magnificent Sawtooth National Forest.

I parked in the hiker's parking lot, about 1/4 mile from the Redfish Lodge. Luckily, I had the option to catch a boat ride offered by the Lodge's marina to the LDP's site. When I arrived the crew was preparing dinner. I was introduced to NYC rituals of dish washing in a "bump line," journaling in the Lewis & Clark book, educational hour "SEED" and "big fun". Quietly, I was pulled aside by Josh, the team leader. He wanted me to pretend I had been hit in the head with a Pulaski, so the team could practice their Wilderness First Aid skills. With a red marker, Josh drew gushing blood down my face and we arranged the scene. This was my first evening in camp; I was in bed by 8:30pm.

The crew's two primary projects- building a staircase from the dock to the campground and a bridge over a stream that flowed into Redfish Lake- were close to camp. We woke at 4:30am and by 5:30am were standing in our "safety circle", stretching and discussing concerns for the day. You show up with your hardhat and gloves on. Ready. Don't be late; you'll have to do push-ups.

The daily routine is straightforward, 5:30-8:30am, work, 15 minute break. Cookies or GORP. Water. 8:45-11:30, work. 30 minute lunch. Peanut butter or tuna sandwiches. Cookies, and GORP. 12-3pm, work. Break. Chores, dinner, SEED, bed. The NYC field day revolves around teamwork. It is rigorous, physically taxing, emotionally draining and oddly satisfying. I lugged more bags of dirt and sand over the course of my three days in the field than I will ever lug again. I dug holes and trenches, nailed endlessly, measured, mixed cement, leveled and loved it.

On my last full day in the field, Aaron and Brian were leaders for the day, in preparation for being leaders of their own crew in the coming



NYC crew during safety circle. Photo: Northwest Youth Corps

weeks. I woke up that morning to their song entitled "Crazy Surprise Day." "What day is it? Why it's crazy surprise day...!" With a breakfast of hot chocolate, eggs and grapefruit. Their "big fun" activity involved making and racing tiny paper airplanes. Kind of silly day, right? Perhaps, but it was special. It was a thoughtful, fun, fresh and motivating perspective. It still makes me smile to think of Crazy Surprise Day. It was a success: leaders rose to the challenge, setting a great and unique example.

Small things matter in the woods and in life. I only stayed with LDP3 crew for a couple of days, but I learned a lot from them. Karla. Amy. Maggie. Joe. Emily. Brittany. Brian. Aaron. Anne. For those couple of days, they graciously welcomed me into their lives. We busted it. Thanks, LDP 3! For not being able to shower for a week at a time, for not being able to call your mom when you need to talk, for encountering mosquitoes the size of my head, for making a difference in our natural areas, and for having a positive impact on our youth! You, your passion and dedication are truly amazing!

Become a Member of PCEI!

Yes I want to support the

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Environmental Institute**

Yes I want to renew my membership

Name _____
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Please contact me about volunteering
Please keep my membership anonymous
\$35 Basic Membership
\$75 Palouse Protector
\$150 Friends of the Palouse-Clearwater
\$15 Limited income/Student
Additional gift of \$ _____

Please direct my gift to the following program:

Environmental Education
Community Garden
Watersheds
VanPool/Transportation

Endowment gift of \$ _____
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please use it for _____

Mail to: PCEI POBox 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

Calendar of Events:

For more details and other calendar events please visit <www.pcei.org/calendar.htm>.

To join us for an event, contact Aly Bean at <aly@pcei.org>.

September and October, Tuesdays, 3pm-6pm. Learning Nursery Event at PCEI.

September 15, Friday: Watershed Festival! All day at Partridge Creek in Elk River. Come help PCEI restore a reach of Partridge Creek. Interested Volunteers and environmental educators should contact Colleen McColl at <colleen@pcei.org>.

September 16, Saturday: Our last Partridge Creek Work Day in Elk River, 10am-2pm

September 30, Saturday: Threemile Creek Event, near Grangeville, 10am-2pm

October 7, Saturday: Living Roof Workshop! 8am-2pm.

Contact: Courtney Rush <makeitgrow@pcei.org>

October 7, Saturday: Deep Creek Event, Potlatch, 10am-2pm

October 14, Saturday: Threemile Creek Event, near Grangeville, 10am-2pm

October 17, Tuesday: League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, MHS Aud., 6pm

October 21, Saturday: Deep Creek Event, Potlatch, 10am-2pm

October 23, Monday: Candidate Forum, 1912 Bldg., held by Moscow Civic Association

October 28, Saturday: Make a Difference Day! 10am-2pm, Deep Creek in Potlatch and Mill Road in Moscow. Come make a difference by planting trees!

November 4, Saturday: Deep Creek Event, Potlatch, 10am-2pm

November 7, Tuesday: Election Day, Latah County Fairgrounds, 8am-8pm

November 11, Saturday: Deep Creek Event, Potlatch, 10am-2pm

**Palouse-Clearwater
Environmental Institute**
PO Box 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

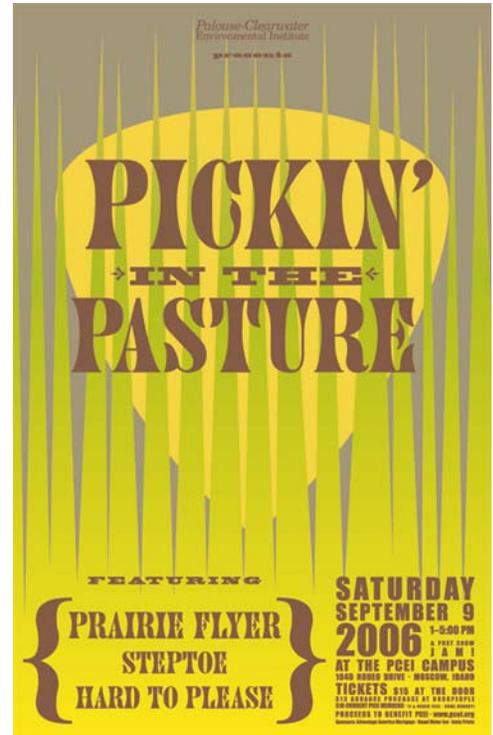
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PCEI is a member organization of:

- Washington State Combined Fund Drive
- Choices in Community Giving
- Washington Environmental Council
- United Vision for Idaho
- Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
- River Network
- Moscow Chamber of Commerce
- Pullman Chamber of Commerce

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PLEASE JOIN PCEI TODAY!

Summer / Fall 2006!!



The commemorative poster for our bluegrass event held in conjunction with our 2006 Annual Membership Meeting.

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