



PANTHER CREEK TRIBUTARY STREAM PROTECTION PROJECT

Co-authored by Dean O'Reilly & Community Service Youth Group

Thanks to the assistance of the Yamhill County Juvenile Community Service work crew, Gib and Ruby Cowart completed an in-stream, erosion control treatment project on their property located west of Carlton. On two beautiful sunny days this spring, 15 teen boys and girls and their supervisors worked hard to repair a 300-foot section of a small tributary of Panther Creek. Small trees were cut on site to provide material for installation into the eroding stream channel. Logs, small enough for two teens to handle were cut and placed in the stream bed to form protective layers of woody material. The materials were placed by hand and arranged to slow soil erosion, trap sediments and support the base of the stream bank, while allowing the water to flow over and through the woody material. Fifty potted native shrubs, consisting of seven species, were planted on the stream bank slopes to protect the soil surface and to provide shade over the stream as well as wildlife habitat. The teens also repaired an eroded head-cut area at the junction of a side drainage. They installed a drop structure, consisting of a 35-foot long by 12-inch diameter culvert with an apron of woven fabric and woody material to help dissipate water energy and reduce soil erosion.

This community service project provided a great out-of-doors work experience for the teens and will help protect downstream water quality.

Teen crew members, Lee and Brandy, describe their observations and experience during the project:

"At community service, I experienced fun, team work and cooperation with other teens of Yamhill County. We dug a ditch today that was about 3 feet deep and 35 feet long. We split wood and carried logs from the trees that the staff fell. This was a somewhat challenging task and took a lot of motivation. I try, as a crew leader, to make sure the crew and I have the motivation we need and the positive attitude to get the job done. We start out with exercises in the morning for physical preparedness and mental awareness so we don't get hurt," Lee stated.

Brandy added, *"I got a great chance to try out some landscaping. I turned an ugly gully into a beautiful stream. There was tree falling and a ditch being dug. A ditch was made for a pipe to be placed inside, above a waterfall. Mostly, I carried logs from cut-down trees to the gully. There was a handy tool called a log carrier that helped us carry the logs. It had sharp claws that were connected to a wood handle that two people could pull together. It was a very useful tool for us. We had to carry a long pipe as a group and place it in the ditch. All of us were very careful as we lowered the pipe into the trench. Then, we covered the pipe with dirt that was like clay. It was a great experience. The owners were very nice people with the best hot chocolate ever made. I even learned about safety with tools."*



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