

Kackley Springs Project



North Gem Envirothon team

Thank you for those who helped and sponsored us

As North Gem's envirothon team, we were able to recruit help from the North Gem High School students. Thank you to all the agencies that helped including BLM, Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Caribou Soil Conservation District (Sponsored lunch and Hot Chocolate), Pacificorp Energy, Trout Unlimited

Aquatics

By repairing the riparian zone, we added shade over the water. This cools down the overall temperature of the water allowing more oxygen into the water. With more oxygen the water, Kackley Springs becomes a better fish habitat. The trees limit the sediment that flows into the spring because of the trees roots holding the bank together.

Soils

When we were planting the dogwoods and cottonwoods we had to position them at an appropriate length to receive enough water from the soil but avoid future soil erosion. We planted the bigger stalks closer to the water, about a foot away, to keep it from getting wider and shallower. We wanted to allow the creek to get deeper for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout.

Forestry

For this project, we used two different type of water dependent shrubs, red osier dogwoods and cottonwoods. We wanted to integrate the native flora that was already in the area. We harvested the starter branches at 24 mile and the Bank's ranch within the same valley. When we replanted them, we wanted to get them as far in the ground as possible so they would sprout enough roots to pull from the water under the surface, as well as provide enough support as the shrubs get larger. They can be anywhere from 3 to 18 feet tall

Wildlife

This project is very beneficial to wildlife because we were able to provide shade which will keep the water cooler which puts more oxygen into the water. The Bonneville Cutthroat Trout are close to being to being threatened which would cause any land that touches the water not useable for farm use.

Current issue

This year's current issue is Water resource management: local issues, local control. We feel that our project was exemplary for this current issue. In our community we had a problem that needed to be resolved so we took it into our own hands and recruited students from the community to restore and help Kackley Springs. We found a solution to our own local problems.

Planning

For this project, we wanted to involve our whole school in this project. So we went to our superintendent and proposed our plan. Which was to gather all of the dormant trees the weekend before. And to take to whole school out to plant these trees along to springs bank to stabilize from eroding. One of our sponsors brought jet stinger to help dig the holes. This process took most of the day.

Summary

The project was successful in the end even though it was cold. The morning of the project we had to chip ice off of the trees because they froze during the night. When we got to Kackley springs it was still cold but as the day went on it got warmer. We planted a round five thousand trees that day.

