

HORNADAY AWARD PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Category: Soil and Water Conservation

Poudre Learning Center Reclamation Project

Plan: The Poudre Learning Center, along the Cache La Poudre River, has a wetland that had an established unwanted trail. They also have a hill that was overgrown with noxious weeds, but with many bare spots making it prone to erosion. The plan was to arrange for the wetland area to be reestablished with plant life, and the hill area to be reestablished with many of the surrounding native grasses. For this project I will need to recruit volunteers to help weed the hill and plant grasses and trees in the wetland. I will need to consult with several experts to find which grasses need to be planted. After that I will need to find a seed company that has the seeds that are required on the hill. I will then need an agricultural company with a seed drill to place seed on the hill.

The project will prevent unwanted traffic through the wetland and restore a wetland to its natural state. The hill will have native grasses planted and unwanted weeds removed. The grasses will help keep the soil together stopping possible erosion on the hill.

Leadership: I talked to several experts to find out what grasses would be appropriate for the situation. I consulted a seed company who agreed to donate a mixture of seeds that had all the required types of grasses. I recruited many of my troop members to help with my project. They did this by weeding the hill in preparation to seed it; but also planted grasses and trees in the wetland. I contacted an agricultural company who provided a seed drill to be used to plant the seed on the hill.

Result: The result of my project was the beginnings of a reestablished wetland. Many of the grasses and trees were planted in the wetland have begun to establish themselves, and soon the wetland will be returning it to its natural state. It should reestablish over several years and show no signs of unwanted traffic. Many of the seeds that were planted on the hill have already begun growing. Once established in a few years, it will help prevent erosion by holding the soil together. The Poudre Learning Center was very happy with the project. In the long run it will help with many aspects of the Poudre Learning Center as they attempt to improve their area.

Number of People Involved: 17

Total Volunteer Hours: 71

