

Hornaday Award Project Summary

Project Category: Soil and Water Conservation

Wetland Reclamation on the Sheep Draw Trail

Plan: To restore plant life to the banks of the Sheep Draw in west Greeley, CO. I gathered and transplanted local wetland plants to the unstable banks of the stream. I gathered two types of willows and many types of wetland grasses from a nearby bog. Then I replanted them in one of the many sites where construction removed the plants. This area was extremely prone to erosion, as it was an area where the stream was redirected, moving it to an area that does not have a stable soil base.

Leadership: I recruited and led a team of 14 Scouts and other people to transplant willow and grasses to several sites of erosion along the stream. We went further down the stream to collect willow stems from a thriving plant. And we collected grasses from a bog nearby. Then we planted all of the plants in crucial areas, the grass in large fielded areas. And the willow stems we put around the bends in the stream, to help develop a stable root system and keep the stream where it is supposed to be.

Result: after a month had passed, the plant had started to retake the barren banks. A little less than half of the willows started to leaf, which is good, considering that we planted twice as much as we needed. We planted just in time, because there was evidence of erosion starting already, but the new plants were helping to stop that process. The area where we planted is a 100 year flood area, and if that area was to be overtaken it would affect the entire north side of Greeley. So the importance of keeping that stream stable is incomprehensible.

Date Completed: 3-24-2007

Number of People involved: 14