

Nehalem Watershed Council receives one of 15 national grants

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council has received a Watershed Assistance Grant from River Network, a national organization supporting the protection and restoration of rivers and their watersheds. River Network administers the Watershed Assistance Grant program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Through an extremely competitive process, River Network and a committee of national advisors recently selected UNWC as one of only 15 applicants to receive a Watershed Assis-

tance Grant (WAG) in 2002. These grants will enable organizations to build local watershed partnerships and advance local watershed restoration efforts. Specifically, the UNWC will use the grant to cover the filing fees and technical support costs involved in establishing the watershed council as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization. This will enable the UNWC to receive foundation support for watershed improvement and salmon recovery projects in the future.

"Nationally, there is very little money available to fund the

work necessary to build strong watershed protection organizations. But, we know that community-based watershed organizations are essential for watershed problems to be identified, prioritized and solved as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. EPA should be praised for its commitment to support the development of locally-initiated watershed partnerships," said Don Elder, River Network's Vice President of Program Development.

"This year's Watershed Assistance Grant awardees, including the Upper Nehalem

Watershed Council, represent some of the very best and most promising groups of their kind in the United States. We are proud to support them through this program," Elder concluded.

In 2003, 15 partnerships from across the country will receive funding through WAG; since the program's inception in 1999, River Network has funded 79 projects, totaling over \$1.2 million. River Network is a national, non-profit river conservation organization based in Portland. Founded in 1988, the organization is dedicated to helping people understand,

protect and restore rivers and their watersheds.

For more information, call Maggie Peyton, UNWC Coordinator at 503-429-2401 or Katherine Luscher at River Network, 503-241-3506 x 16, or visit www.rivernetwork.org

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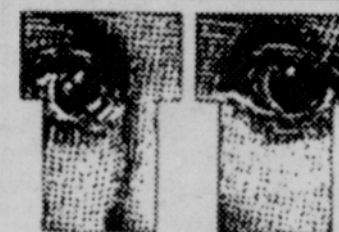
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