

# Project SUSTAIN

## Project SUSTAIN in Action!

By Kat Hall - Conservation Programs Director

This fall, The Lands Council team saw the much-anticipated kick-off of Project SUSTAIN, TLC's effort to get students outside and engaging in hands-on, science-based learning activities and community service projects. This being the pilot year of SUSTAIN, we spent adequate time meeting with individual teachers at the nine schools we are working within this year, laying out timelines and plans for each classroom.



A group of 85 Central Valley High School students pose for a photo after completing a morning of tree planting and water quality testing along Hangman Creek.

As anticipated, each classroom is unique in their preferred subject matter, structure and commitment abilities, so making time to strategize with each teacher is crucial to the success of this program. While some teachers preferred to focus strictly on field activities, other teachers required a combination of in-classroom activities with close-proximity field trips.

One thing was unanimous however, and that was the excitement all the teachers had for the unique opportunity Project SUSTAIN presents. Kicking off our field trips this fall, was a morning of tree-planting and water-quality testing along Hangman Creek with a group of 85 Central Valley High School students. The students had a wonderful time outdoors, asked great questions, and ultimately planted 165 trees!

Shortly after, we spent a rather chilly morning with 15 North Central High School students at the Price and Wall Regional Stormwater Facility. Working through frozen ground, we successfully planted 135 trees, sharing important information about native tree species.

This fall, we've also had the pleasure of spending a day touring Upriver Dam and learning about beaver ecology and restoration at Liberty Lake County Park with 45 Ferris High School students. This field trip offered



Amanda Parrish shares information with a group of Ferris HS students about beaver ecology as well as the benefits of relocating nuisance beaver.

a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand the difference and similarities between a man-made dam and a natural,



Ferris HS students smile as they explore the environmental impact of a beaver dam at Liberty Lake County Park this November.

beaver-made dam and presented great discussion with the group of bright Ferris students!

As we finish up this year, we have plans to spend a day enjoying an eagle watch cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene with roughly 100 Lewis & Clark High School students. We'll also take a geology field trip to Deep Creek Canyon at Riverside State Park with West Valley City School students this winter before heading into the new year - full of additional classroom and field activities! We are so proud and encouraged by what Project SUSTAIN has been able to accomplish this fall, and look forward to the rest of the school year with our nine subject schools!

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO MAKE PROJECT SUSTAIN POSSIBLE!

**Teck**



**stcu**