

ODFW promotes fishing and boating education grants

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Angler and Aquatic Education Program is encouraging Oregon schools to apply to the Future Fisherman Foundation for Physical Education Grants for the 2007/2008 school year. The deadline is March 2, 2007.

These grants provide opportunities for schools to create or enhance a fishing and/or boating program within their physical education programs. Students not only develop skills but also develop a better awareness and concern for the resource.

Schools interested in applying for a grant should refer to the Future Fisherman Foundation's website (futurefisherman.org) or contact Chris Willard, Angler and Aquatic Education Coordinator with ODFW at 503-947-6017 or chris.a.willard@state.or.us.

“These grants present an excellent opportunity to introduce students to the outdoors through fishing and boating activities,” said Chris Willard. “I hope physical education educators will call so I can help them with the grant application process.” The Aquatic and Angler Education Program introduces aquatic ecology and sport angling to the public. Emphasis is placed on youth-oriented programs. Awareness and understanding of aquatic systems and the relationship these systems have to sport angling is provided. The Aquatic and Angler Education Program is delivered statewide through certified volunteer instructors. Instructors are required to complete a 6 - 8 hour training program in addition to a "team teaching" session prior to certification and program delivery. The program emphasizes four major areas of instruction which include; Basic Fishing Skills, Aquatic Conservation and Stewardship, Ethical Conduct and Responsibilities and Water Safety. The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The agency consists of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, a commission-appointed director and a statewide staff of approximately 950 permanent employees. Headquartered in Salem, ODFW has regional offices in Clackamas, Roseburg, Bend, and La Grande with ten district offices located throughout the state. For additional information, please visit www.dfw.state.or.us.

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