

WOW! Teaching Students About Generosity

WRLT partnered with area schools and a local non-profit to teach Wood River Valley students about generosity. Twenty-five not-for-profit organizations submitted projects to Wow-Students.org for consideration. Each student in the Blaine County school system, approximately 4,000 kids, will receive \$25 from Wow-Students.org and classrooms are charged with selecting one of the non-profit projects.

We're pleased to announce that all three of our projects were selected for funding. Below are WRLT's three conservation-oriented projects and the classes that selected them.

THE LORAX PROJECT:

Our natural environment is a place of wonder, a place to explore and enjoy. Unfortunately the land cannot speak for its own protection, neither can wildlife nor trees. WRLT wants students to speak for the trees,

just like the Lorax did in the Dr. Seuss book of the same name. The Community School's kindergarten class chose to help WRLT and the trees, by making a video about why land protection is important for our health and the health of our natural resources. The students have asked an older grade class to help them make the video, in which they will speak for the trees. We will use this video in our marketing materials, our website and social media pages. Look for it this June.

PLANT A TREE AND WATCH IT GROW:

WRLT's ten-year restoration project of the Hailey Greenway, including Draper Wood River Preserve (Draper Preserve) and Lions Park, has made it more popular than ever. The next piece of this project is to re-forest the area near the Bow Bridge of the Big Wood River and the Croy Creek Wetlands Boardwalk. Helping us do this is the Pioneer Montessori's 3rd grade class—a total of 69 students. These adventurous students will each purchase a native tree or shrub with their Wow-Student.org money and plant it in Spring 2013. If they choose, the students may honor someone by their generous act. WRLT will send a note to the students' honorees, along with a photo of the student with their tree or shrub. It will be a great place for both the student and honoree to visit and watch their plants grow.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING:

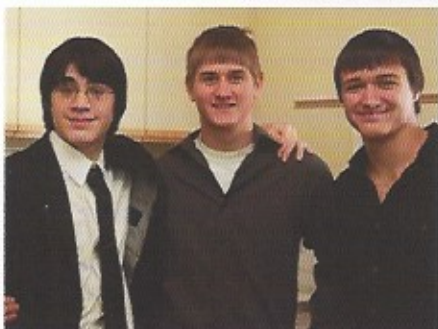
Wood River High School's biology class, taught by Larry Barnes, is monitoring water quality at the Hailey Greenway where the Croy Creek wetlands and Big Wood River intersect. This is also the current site of the City of Hailey's snow storage. WRLT is working with the city, encouraging them to move the snow due to possible contaminated run-off from melting street snow leaching into the wetlands and river. Funds from the high school biology class will purchase monitoring equipment, allowing the students to upload their data to a national water quality site.

By participating in these projects, we hope students forge a connection with the land, and understand the important role that clean water, healthy forests and community action plays in the safe-keeping of our ecosystem. We want this student-nature bond to carry into the future, growing the next champions of land conservation.



Community School kindergarten class learning about trees in the Hailey Greenway.

Heart rock tree at Draper Preserve.



Wood River High School students in Larry Barnes' biology class presenting initial results from water quality tests.