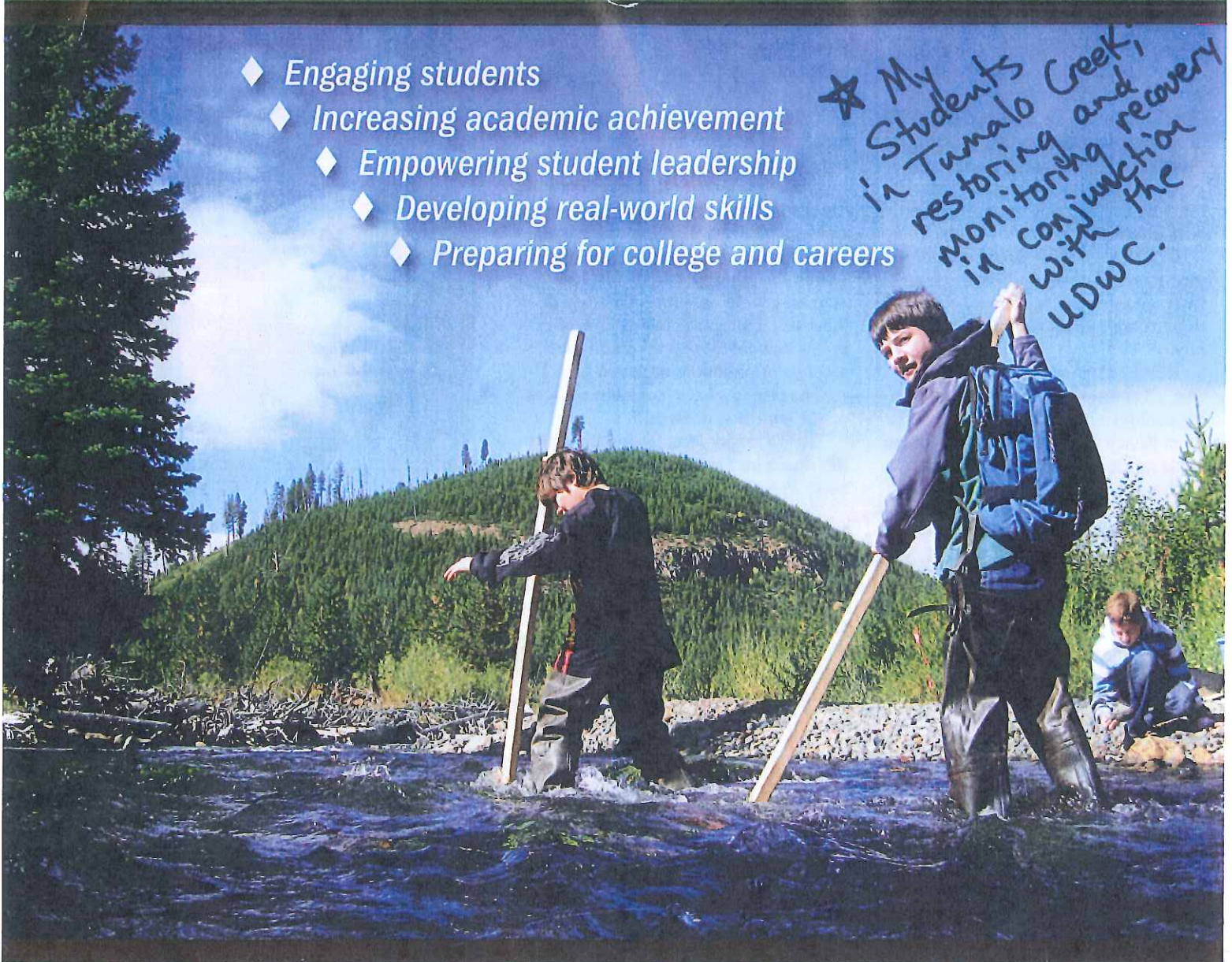


# Oregon K-12 Service-Learning 2010-2011

- ◆ Engaging students
- ◆ Increasing academic achievement
- ◆ Empowering student leadership
- ◆ Developing real-world skills
- ◆ Preparing for college and careers

★ My Students in Tumalo Creek, restoring and monitoring in conjunction with the UDW.C.



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# REALMS:

## A Learning Experience

Another project done by my students...

Working with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council & USFS

Service-Learning is a way of life at Rimrock Expeditionary Alternative Learning Middle School (REALMS) in Bend.

Officials at the school say they aim to “instill in students a drive to be active citizens with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for their local community” by identifying and addressing authentic community needs.

Service-Learning projects for the school’s 135 students range from efforts to improve environmental quality at two locations in the Upper Deschutes Watershed to exercising animals at a Humane Society of Central Oregon facility and taking part in an art project with disabled citizens.

In 2010, the school received a three-year \$30,000 Learn and Serve grant from the Oregon Department of Education to continue its work in the community.

REALMS Director Roger White said seventh graders have been collecting ecological baseline data around Ryan Ranch Meadow, a 70-acre former cattle ranch along the Deschutes River, as part of an effort to turn it back into its original wetland state.

“We thought it would be a great project for the seventh graders,” White said. “They’re gathering data about ground cover and soils as well as live and down trees, particularly in the area where it transitions from meadow to forest. They bring that data back to their classes, analyze it and organize it into various tables and graphs. They present the results of their work once a year at a Watershed Summit in Bend.”

As the watershed council reintroduces water into the area, the students can watch and measure the transition, he added.

In another area, for the past six years eighth graders have been collecting

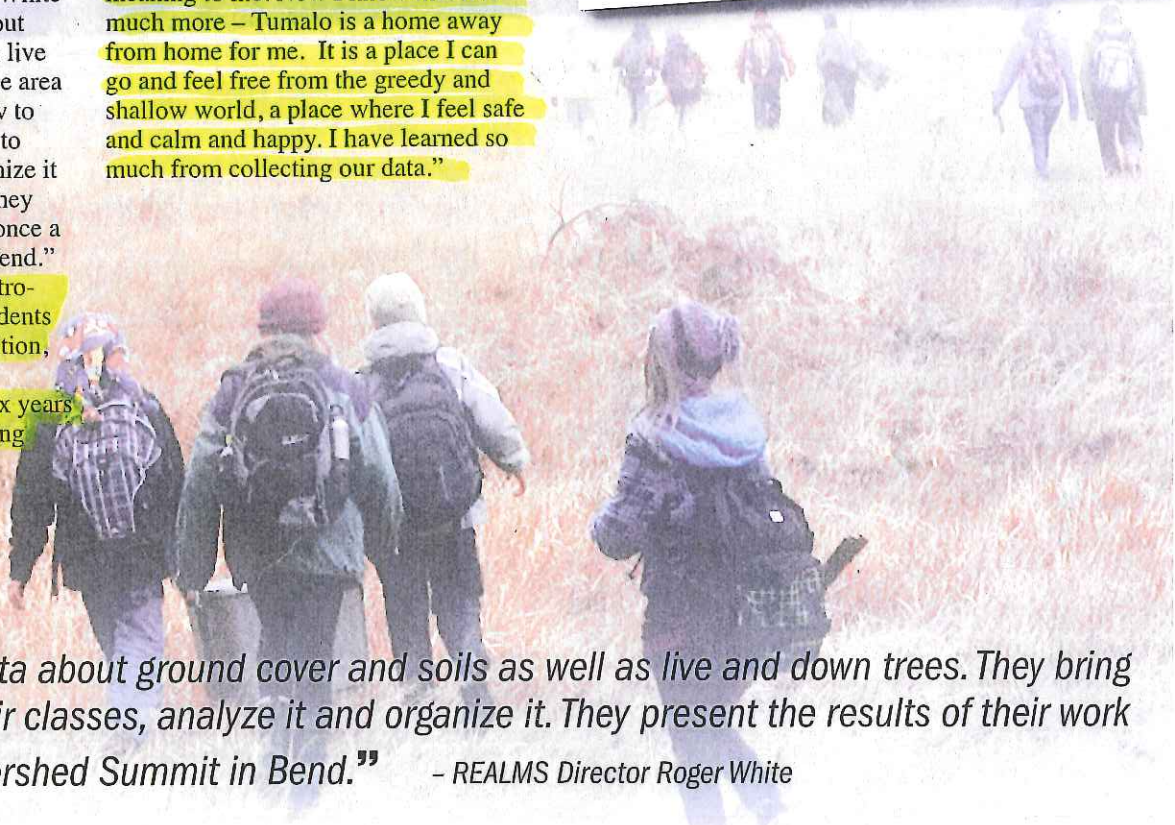
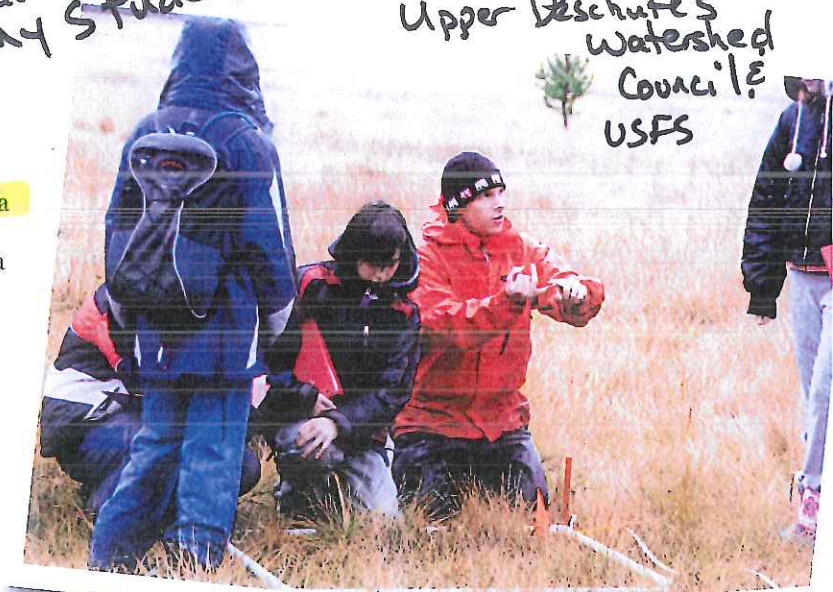
water quality data for a restoration project along Tumalo Creek, a tributary of the Deschutes River suffering from after-effects of a 1979 fire.

“They began collecting data on vegetation along the creek, tagging plants and noting things such as height and where they were growing,” science teacher Eric Beck said. “In the third year, they were using electronic devices with probes to measure water quality – temperature, pH, oxygen content, turbidity and conductivity. And they were monitoring the health of the creek, collecting macro-invertebrates that are intolerant to pollution and lots of pollution intolerant bugs.”

The projects have had a huge effect on the students, Beck said.

Eighth grader Max Groshong wrote this about his Service-Learning experience:

“When I first came to Tumalo Creek I just saw it as a cold river that had no meaning to me. Now I know that it is much more – Tumalo is a home away from home for me. It is a place I can go and feel free from the greedy and shallow world, a place where I feel safe and calm and happy. I have learned so much from collecting our data.”



“They’re gathering data about ground cover and soils as well as live and down trees. They bring that data back to their classes, analyze it and organize it. They present the results of their work once a year at a Watershed Summit in Bend.” – REALMS Director Roger White