

**Oregon Trout, *Salmon Watch Volunteer Resource Packet: Ninth Edition*. Oregon Trout Inc. Portland, OR. 2004.** (Reviewed by Charles Bosse)

This packet consists of material designed to help volunteers from diverse backgrounds help teach any of several subjects to middle school and high school age children. It is divided into five sections, one on the role of volunteers in teaching, and the rest on specific subject areas: nature awareness, water quality, macro-invertebrates and riparian ecosystems.

Each section is then organized to give a moderate overview of each topic and provide the volunteers with as many easy to use resources as possible in about ten pages. The focus on these sections is generally an ecological one, with a focus on teaching about the life and ecosystem surrounding a stream, and in the stream, and learning how to take good data and have a good understanding about a streams health and ability to support various populations of life, from simple health of fish to life in the riparian zone that supports and is supported by the ecology of the water.

## **Critique**

This is one of the better resources I have seen in terms of presenting a large amount of useful and informative material in a small amount of space. The packet is well illustrated, with graphics, pictures and drawings adding to the readability and providing useful information. The end of each section lists additional resources for information on that topic, and all tables and charts are cited to make it easy to find their origins. Most importantly, this packet is well organized. It bullets important points, breaks things into sections, and provides easy to find information about the full range of topics they want the volunteers and teachers to be able to readily access and reference.

The type of information included in this guide is comprehensive without repeating a lot of generally known information, and the strategy of the guide is based on making the programs easy to teach without being dull to either the volunteers or to the student they are interacting with. The intent is to have people learn to decide for themselves what is important in rivers and what they can do to enjoy and protect nature without destroying part of it in the process.

The packet, however, is not a scientific document. It does not represent leading edge research and is not a good source for any significant amount of data on the effects of human changes on stream and wetland habitat. In addition, though the packet contains good information about the area around a stream or river and how this ecology is important to the stream or river, the focus is on river type habitat, and not on wetland, pond or lake habitat.

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