



COLORADO WATERSHED NETWORK

research ♦ education ♦ conservation

December 30, 2008

Ms. Veva Deheza
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning
Grant Coordinator
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Deheza,

Please consider the Colorado Watershed Network's progress report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year Project WET grant, prepared in accordance with the Water Efficiency Grant program requirements. This progress report discussed the successes and challenges encountered during the grant term.

Project Tasks Completed

Task I. Volunteer Management:

Support for existing facilitators has been ongoing throughout the six months of the grant term. A total of 70 facilitators participated in annual Facilitator Leadership Conferences held in September 2008 in Gunnison. These facilitators received 16 hours of advanced leadership training at the annual conference and had a chance to learn new facilitation techniques from the State Coordinators and other experienced facilitators. Many facilitators participated in a professional development track focusing on watershed health issues specific to the Colorado and Rio Grande watersheds as part of their conference experience. Several volunteer facilitators received recognition and awards for outstanding volunteer service to Project WET.

Recruitment and training of educators in the *Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide* has been ongoing throughout the grant term. A total of 288 teachers from around the state have been trained by certified Project WET volunteer facilitators through a total of 14 workshops and training events during the six months of the grant term. Evaluation of the program has been ongoing throughout the grant term. All Project WET workshop participants are required to complete a comprehensive two page evaluation of their training experience and the Project WET materials which has been revised to ensure accuracy of the evaluation process. Over 70% of Project WET workshop participants indicate that they intend to use the lessons on a monthly basis and 95% rated their workshop experience as "excellent".

The Project WET coordinator has also worked to reduce barriers to teachers implementing Project WET in the classroom. The surveys, workshops, facilitator trainings, and conferences have all focused on identifying and reducing barriers by providing strategies to make Project WET activities locally relevant, connecting teachers with local experts and field trip opportunities, and offering educators hands-on demonstration practice of activities during trainings. Project WET is also excited to be working with Aurora Public Schools and the Durango 9-R school district to directly incorporate Project WET into their science curriculum, as is described in more detail below. These actions will remove a large number of barriers to Project WET being used in this, and potentially other, school districts.

Task II. Partnership Projects: The Colorado Project WET Coordinator has maintained and

strengthened relations with the Project WET International Foundation through regular communication. Collaboration with the key partners, Colorado Project WILD and Project Learning Tree, has been ongoing throughout the grant term. Intensive dialogue between the three statewide environmental education programs has taken place to outline the new partnership potential and redefine joint teacher training endeavors.

The Project WET coordinator has also provided support and participated as a leader in water education and conservation education efforts statewide and served as a representative of Colorado at the national level. Statewide leadership has included working with Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, being a representative on the Colorado Water Education Task Force, presenting to stormwater and water conservation communities, and working with water providers across the Front Range. Project WET has participated in several local, regional and statewide conferences in the six months of the grant period; including the Sustaining Colorado's Watershed's conference, the Colorado Science Educators Network, the Colorado Science Convention, STEMpalooza and the Museum of Nature and Science's Teacher Night, reaching several thousand individuals in the water and education communities throughout Colorado.

Task III. Provide Materials and Resources: Project WET curriculum guides have been distributed, through workshops and other venues, to 288 educators throughout Colorado. A total of 70 volunteer facilitators received advanced training in strategies to localize Project WET lessons and activities which will better provide teachers with regionally relevant lesson plans and support state standards and school district learning objectives.

Project WET July- December 2008 Workshops, Trainings and Events

Date	Location	Participant	Workshop Title	Region	Workshop Type
12/05/2008	La Mar	8	Basic Project WET	Arkansas	Basic Project WET
11/15/2008	CSU	23	Basic Project WET/Project WILD	South Platte Front Range	Basic Project WET
11/6&12/2008	UNC	23	Project WET for Pre-Service Teachers	South Platte Front Range	Pre-service/ Sponsored
11/5&12/2008	UNC	15	Project WET for Pre-Service Teachers	South Platte Front Range	Pre-service/ Sponsored
11/8/2008	Butterfly Pavilion	23	Project WET for Pre-Service Teachers	South Platte Front Range	Pre-service Teacher
10/10/2008	Durango Nature Studies	20	Basic Project WET	Western Slope	School District In-Service
9/20/2008	Ft. Collins Discover Center	3	Basic Project WET	South Platte Front Range	Basic Project WET
9/19-21/2008	Gunnison	70	Annual Facilitator Leadership Conference	Western Slope	Facilitator Conference
8/2&9/2008	Aurora	12	Environmental Education for Early Childhood	South Platte Front Range	Basic Project WET
7/29&30/2008	Boulder	28	Get to Know Your H2O	South Platte	Specialized/

				Front Range	Sponsored
7/21&22/2008	Highlands Ranch	20	Water in the West: Douglas County's Water Resources	South Platte Front Range	Specialized/ Sponsored
7/22/2008	Aurora	8	Exploring the Cherry Creek Watershed	South Platte Front Range	Specialized/ Sponsored
7/19/2008	Littleton	17	Basic Project WET	South Platte Front Range	Pre-Service Teacher
7/14&15/2008	Loveland	18	Water in the West: Loveland's Water Resources	South Platte Front Range	Specialized/ Sponsored

Two issues of Colorado Connections, our quarterly newsletter, have been distributed to an audience of 20,000 educators around the state during the grant term. Colorado educators and Project WET workshop participants received additional content focused on Colorado's watershed and water supply in the June and November newsletters.

Project Successes

Project WET was able to meet and exceed all measurable goals established in the 2008-2009 Scope of Work. Hosting a total of four new sponsored Project WET workshops throughout the state, more than doubled our initial goal of hosting two such workshops and contributed additional support towards the cash match of the grant. Sponsored workshops were hosted by the City of Loveland, City of Greeley, Douglas County Water Resources Authority and Great Western Institute. A total of 13 Project WET workshops were offered throughout the state, far surpassing the estimated 6 workshops proposed in the Scope of Work and reaching 218 teachers with high quality water education materials and content.

In partnership with Projects WILD and Learning Tree, Project WET has been officially incorporated into the science curriculum for two school districts around the state including the Durango 9-R school district elementary science curriculum and the Aurora Public Schools K-12 science curriculum. *The Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide* and the *Discover A Watershed: The Missouri* have been formally approved and adopted by the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education. Durango 9-R hosted a full day in-service training for all 100 of their Kindergarten through 5th grade teachers focusing on the integration of Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree into their science curriculum.

The Project WET Advisory Committee has been reconvened and reenergized to support Colorado Project WET into the future. The committee members are representative of the geographic and topical diversity of water and education in Colorado. The advisory committee has assisted the Project WET Coordinator with revising short and long term goals for the program, developing new partnership strategies, and strategizing to ensuring the financial future for the program.

The Colorado Project WET Coordinator, in association with the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, has been instrumental in leading efforts to ensure that natural resource education is well defined in the Colorado Model Content Standards as the Colorado Department of Education will be revising the current standards over the next two years. Continued dialogue with the Colorado Department of Education will be ongoing throughout the Standards revision process, expected to end in December 2009. Several representatives from the Colorado Project

WET Advisory Committee and Project WET facilitators are participating on the Science and Social Studies Standards Revision Committees hosted by the Colorado Department of Education.

Project Obstacles

In late July of 2008 the Colorado Watershed Network (CWN) received notice that two of its major government contracts, including the contract to run River Watch and the Private Lands Wildlife Biologists program, were to be awarded to other organizations for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. As such, the CWN board of directors elected to close the organization. Working closely with the CWCB, CWN and the Project WET Coordinator have been looking for a new sponsoring agency to take on Project WET in Colorado. Despite the tenuous situation, Project WET continued to grow in Colorado and has seen a remarkable year, far surpassing any goals in its 13 year history in Colorado.

Due to scheduling conflicts and weather concerns associated with the timing of our annual Facilitator Leadership Conference, 70 Project WET facilitators attended the September conference in Gunnison. We anticipated a total of 90 conference attendees based on projections from past conferences.

Scope Changes

There are no anticipated changes to the revised six month scope of work for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration. The support and partnership from the Colorado Water Conservation Board is critical to the continued success of Project WET in Colorado. Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns regarding Project WET or scope of work.

Sincerely,

Jo Scarbeary

Colorado Project WET Coordinator
Colorado Watershed Network
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