

SPRING RIVERS FOUNDATION



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President's Message

Jeff Cook

As I write this message, our world is in the grips of a deadly pandemic that promises to get worse as the northern hemisphere heads into winter and the signs that our climate is changing more rapidly than experts had predicted are becoming clearer and clearer. The exacerbating effects of climate change helped drive record-setting wildfires throughout the west in 2020 and there has been a record 30 named Atlantic storms so far, with another couple weeks remaining in the storm season. With all this going on, it can be hard to feel positive, hopeful, or healthy. People are experiencing and coping with unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety, and these stresses are not limited only to adults; like Covid-19, virtually all age groups are susceptible.

Despite these challenging times, or maybe especially because of them, the natural world around us can provide some much-needed solace. We in the Intermountain Area have the good fortune to live where taking a break from our stressful human world, in a safe, socially distanced way is relatively easy. Through the spring, summer, and fall, Maria and I have indulged ourselves in bike rides and hikes along new routes as well as old familiar ones.

As the summer progressed, people fled urban areas to the outdoors in droves, resulting in record-setting visitor numbers at many local, state, and National parks. I'm happy to say that during our hikes, we witnessed the growing awareness of the importance of pandemic-safe practices by others we passed on the trail; practically everyone we passed during our hikes a couple of weekends ago had a mask ready to deploy as we neared and passed each other.

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President's Message Continued



JEFF AND MARIA EXPLORING LASSEN NATIONAL PARK

There are some silver linings to the chaotic events of 2020. The pandemic has shone a light on the vulnerability of human health and the fragility and interconnectedness of human economies. The fires and number and intensity of storms are recognizable by scientists as being consistent with a warming climate. I'm hopeful these events may help us see that we need to take care of each other as much as ourselves. I'm hopeful that we may gather the resolve to begin taking actions to slow the progress of climate change, rather than kick it down the road for our children to deal with. I'm hopeful we will emerge from the pandemic with a renewed and refreshed mindset about how we treat other people and the natural world that supports us.

Here's to the future of us all! - Jeff

A note from the education team!

Dear Docents, Donors, and Friends of Spring Rivers Foundation,

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your encouragement and steadfast support of the Outdoor Education Program over the last year. Thank you to the teachers and students for embracing the Field Trip in a Box program for the 2020-2021 school year and thank you to all of our dedicated volunteer docents who let us know that they are ready to get outside with us again when we return to our regular field trip schedule. Please know, although we are not together this year, we are thinking of all of you wonderful docents, donors, teachers, students, and friends often. We cherish each and every one of you. You have become a wonderful extended family over the years and we can't wait to see all of you again at one of the beautiful outdoor learning lab sites or out on the trails when regular field trips with our whole team resume!

Wishing you happiness, health, and some inspiring outdoor fun in 2021!

Allison Breedveld, Education Program Director
Lauren Bridgeman, Education Program Coordinator





Field Trip in a Box

Our traditional field trips are not possible this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, so the Spring Rivers Foundation education team is excited to be launching our brand new Field Trip in a Box program for 2020-2021 school year! Educational standards-based field trips remain important learning tools, despite the current limitations posed by Covid-19 on our local schools. The Field Trip in a Box program has been carefully designed to provide teachers with easy to use outdoor learning kits. Each kit is complete with all supplies needed for a fun and educational teacher-led field trip day to help support student learning in the outdoors. Every kindergarten through sixth grade student at Burney Elementary School and Fall River Elementary School, Fall River High School's biology students, and students from several Redding-Area schools will be able to participate in the Spring Rivers Foundation Outdoor Education Field Trip in a Box program. Students will study important concepts in science, writing, art, math, and local history during outdoor learning field trips. We are very thankful to the Burney Fall River Education Foundation for providing much-needed funding for the Intermountain Area elementary school students' Field Trip in a Box program supplies.



Take it Outside at Home

The change of seasons is a great time to take advantage of the beautiful nature of the Intermountain and Redding Area. Spring Rivers has put together some fun activities for you and your family.

Check them out at:
www.springrivers.org/take-it-outside-at-home



COME AWAY, O HUMAN CHILD! TO THE WATERS AND THE WILD.. - YEATS



Project Wet Workshop



BECOMING WATER MOLECULES WHILE PRACTICING
"MOLECULES IN MOTION," A PROJECT WET ACTIVITY

Spring Rivers Foundation hosted two Project WET "Watersheds to the Sea" educator workshops this fall. The free workshops were presented virtually and 24 enthusiastic educators from Shasta County, to Oregon, to Pennsylvania participated. We hope to partner with Project WET on more educator workshops soon.

Send Allison an email at allison@springrivers.org to be added to our email list for future workshops.

Giving Tuesday December 1, 2020



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give where you live

**NORTH STATE
GIVING TUESDAY**
Powered by the Community Foundation of the North State

We are excited to announce our participation in North State Giving Tuesday on December 1st.

North State Giving Tuesday is a local initiative to increase philanthropy in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties. The effort is brought to you by Community Foundation of the North State. The 2020 North State Giving Tuesday event will take place from 6 a.m. PST to 8 p.m. PST on Tuesday, December 1st. For those 14 hours, online donations will be accepted through [northstategives.org/springriversfoundation](https://www.northstategives.org/springriversfoundation). Donors can also donate ahead of time starting November 17, 2020 on the same webpage.

Check out North State Giving Tuesday:

<https://www.northstategives.org/springriversfoundation>



Sucker Springs Clean-Up

The Sucker Springs Education Site will look a bit different during the 2021/2022 field trip season. Over time, the entire site has become overrun with invasive non-native plants and nuisance weeds including Himalayan blackberry and various bur weeds. These plants have been steadily encroaching and taking over the areas we use for fields. We have spent much of 2020 working on invasive plant and dead wood removal.

Pam and Henry Giacomini generously donated the use of their goats to graze the property and naturally remove the invasive plants and vegetation overgrowth. The goats have done an amazing job clearing the property to allow us access to remove dead wood that was previously covered in Himalayan blackberries. The dead wood was donated to Symbiotic Restoration, a local ecological restoration group, to use as part of their beaver dam analog program. Larry Drouin donated his time and tractor expertise to remove Himalayan blackberry canes. We are looking forward to continuing the ecologically friendly and sustainable invasive plant removal at Sucker Springs and eventually replanting the property with native plants.



HUNGRY GOATS READY TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS



BEATRIZ LEADS AN ACTIVITY IN OVERGROWN AREA



AREA CLEARED BY GOATS

Fundraising Online Auction December 4 – 11, 2020

Looking for a fun outdoor adventure for 2021? Need a perfect gift for family or a friend? Join us for the online Auction for Outdoor Education where you will have a chance to bid on some great tickets for fun outdoor activities while supporting outdoor education!

Many business and organizations donated awesome fundraising items for our 2020 Annual Friends of the Foundation BBQ. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the event and we have some items that will be expiring before we can hold another event for our wonderful supporters. We will be holding an online auction for the following items: 2 admission tickets to the wonder-filled San Francisco Zoo, 2 lift tickets for the lovely Mt. Ashland Ski Park, 2 admissions to the amazing Wild Animal Safari in Winston Oregon, family admission to the fun-packed Sacramento Zoo, family pass to beautiful Shasta Caverns, and 2 admission passes to the exciting Turtle Bay Exploration Park. This is a great opportunity to support the Spring Rivers Foundation Education Program while purchasing some holiday gifts.

Keep an eye out for more information in your email and on Facebook!