

## USU EXTENSION GRANT-FINAL REPORT

**Project Leader:** Cindy Nelson

**Project Title:** Inspire youth to explore and investigate natural resources

**Beginning Date and End Date:** June 1, 2011-May 31, 2016

**Total Requested:** \$9,730

**Project Objectives:**

- Educate youth about natural resources using the 4-H mission mandates of Citizenship (environmental ethics), Healthy Living (outdoor activities), and Science (STEM exploration)
- Develop and pilot a 4-H Natural Resource activity guide
- Reduce the negative effect of Nature Deficiency through implementation of outdoor activities
- Evaluate impact through youth attitudes and actions towards Natural Resource

**Project Results:**

Youth increased their knowledge about natural resources in numerous 4-H programs, including: 4-H Friday Geology club, After School Achievement Program, Beaver County Summer Adventures, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Club, Beaver County 4-H Camp, Beaver County Fair, National 4-H Science Day, and Shooting Sports Club. They explored solar and wind energy, studied water quality, and participated in outdoor activities that reinforced conservation and sustainability. Over 1,300 youth were positively impacted through hands-on 4-H activities. Various equipment was purchased to enhance learning now and in the future: aquatic bug kits, GPS units, solar mechanic kits, wind turbine kits, National 4-H Science kits, bows, arrows, and archery targets, instructional booklets, and other educational materials. After School Achievement Program Earth Science and Eco System curriculums have been enhanced through additional training and resources.

Three Natural Resource Guides were produced: Photography, Outdoor Hiking, and Wilderness Survival.

These three guides were showcased during a presentation to 4-H faculty at Utah 4-H In-service in November 2015, in St. George, Utah. The Photography and Outdoor Hiking Guides have been peer reviewed and will soon be available as USU Fact Sheets.

Youth were encouraged to become more active and enjoy the outdoor environment through 4-H activities. They learned behaviors that will help them to preserve and protect the environment.

Exposure to Natural Resource subjects increased interest in STEM careers and created a connection to new technology.

A new 2016-2017 Extension grant has been secured to continue Natural Resource investigation through STEM education. Youth will continue to build on current knowledge and expand their knowledge and skills with the aid of a part-time STEM educator.