



Farm Ecology and Pollinator Education in Salmon, Idaho

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Introduction



Salmon Valley Stewardship currently has one continuous outdoor education program (in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management) named Hands on the Land. They work with the local middle school to teach students how to be good stewards of the land.

Objective: provide a hands-on experience for students in Salmon to be exposed to the world of sustainable food production through a summer camp

Development Process

working at the farms

Throughout the summer, I worked in some capacity at each of these farms and every time came out of it with lessons on food production, and even basic biology. I mostly worked at Swift River Farm with transplanting, harvesting, and hand pollinating. In the other farms, I stripped herbs, made tea blends, and helped at a one-day summer camp.



working a summer camp

I worked at the inaugural Homewaters camp with the Sacajawea Center and Trout Unlimited. This also included hearing from members of the Agaidika tribe speak on valuing food



curriculum development

Combining both experiences of actively learning in the farms and the exposure to the education and summer camp that is already present in Salmon, I put together 4 lesson plans for each farm including value of food focused on Agaidika Tribe traditions, pollinators, pasta making, soil testing for a 4-day farm ecology camp.



The Farms and Their Lessons



Swift River Farm

Certified organic vegetable farm. Provides vegetables for the local market, CSA, and the Lemhi County Farmers' Market.
Educational Activities: pollination techniques, harvesting, monarch life cycle, mason bee house building



Sweet Belly Farm

Small scale farm grows herbs and flowers for medicinal purposes like teas and salves.
Educational Activities: lasagna bed making, creating tea blends, soil testing



Summer Creek Farm

Personal farm with livestock (pigs, sheep, chickens). Eggs are sold locally.
Educational Activities: feed making, pasta making, learning how much of the animal is able to be used

Next Steps

SVS is a non-profit organization, so the next step is to find funding through grants. They will also continue to work with the Sacajawea Center and Trout Unlimited to collaborate on a series of summer camps to include this one.

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