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**POLLINATOR PROJECT ROGUE VALLEY AWARDED SECOND GRANT  
FROM COW CREEK UMPQUA INDIAN FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT YOUTH EDUCATION**

*Phoenix, OR - January 17, 2024* - Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) is honored to be a recipient of a \$12,500 grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation (CCUIF) for the second time in two years. Grants were announced at the CCUIF's annual Grant Awards Ceremony at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino in Canyonville on Tuesday, January 9th.

This grant award continues CCUIF's support of PPRV's *Pollinator Pals* youth education program, to will assist in the development of a curriculum and activities to engage young people in learning about Southern Oregon native pollinators and native plants.

"PPRV is honored and excited to receive this second award from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation," said Kristina Lefever, President of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. "In large part because of the Foundation's generosity last year, we were able to hire Ethan Robison as our first Pollinator Pals Education Coordinator. With Ethan and Sam Inada, our current [United Communities / AmeriCorps](#) member, we are expanding this unique program. We are grateful for the wonderful support and funding from CCUIF, so we can continue our programming and inspire more children to become Pollinator Pals." Lefever said.

The grant funds will be used to further develop the *Pollinator Pals* program with place-based lesson plans and hands-on activities applicable for multiple grades, with a focus on 3rd grade. The unique program incorporates citizen science, research and individual learning activities, and is designed in collaboration with PPRV's Education Committee, local schools, youth programs, and youth education partners.

Ethan Robison, PPRV's Pollinator Pals Education Coordinator, is developing the *Pollinator Pals* program. "It has been wonderful connecting with youth in classrooms and working in collaboration with our educational partners. We want to grow a network of knowledge in young people, and help them see how beautiful, and how, well, cool, these wonderful creatures are, and get them to help increase native pollinator populations here in the Rogue Valley. I am grateful to the Foundation for their support of this program."

"This knowledge can change the world simply by helping local youth become more connected to the

natural world while they gain an understanding of how crucial all the species of native pollinators are for our native ecosystems and food systems, and why it is important to incorporate native plants into our urban landscapes,” Lefever noted.

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#### **ABOUT POLLINATOR PROJECT ROGUE VALLEY**

Pollinator Project Rogue Valley is a volunteer-led Oregon-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with a mission of *envisioning communities and landscapes working together, supporting diverse ecosystems rich with native plants and thriving native pollinators*. PPRV is a growing grassroots organization serving the local, mostly urban, communities of the Rogue Valley. PPRV, through its educational center, propagation nursery and demonstration garden located in the heart of Phoenix, is the only local institution focused on educating and engaging the community about all of our diverse native pollinator species, making the direct connection to our native plant species and their value within and for our local ecosystems. In addition to the *Pollinator Pals* youth education program, PPRV offers many other programs, educational tools, and volunteer opportunities to individuals and businesses within the Rogue Valley. For additional information, or to become more involved, please visit [www.pollinatorprojectroguevalley.org](http://www.pollinatorprojectroguevalley.org)

#### **ABOUT COW CREEK UMPQUA INDIAN FOUNDATION**

The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians has a long and proud history of giving to the communities in which they live and work. In 1997 the Tribe formalized this tradition of philanthropy by establishing a grant-making Foundation. The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation is a private, independent foundation, representing the Tribe, not to be confused with one of the Tribe’s many economic development endeavors, the Seven Feathers Resort. Each year the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation makes grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in communities in Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane counties.

The mission of the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation is to offer assistance in education, strengthen youth and family, provide for a positive youth development, and add to the quality of life for people in southwestern Oregon. Since its beginning, the Cow Creek Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million dollars in grants to community nonprofit organizations in their seven-county homeland territory. [www.cowcreekfoundation.org](http://www.cowcreekfoundation.org)