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CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS & INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

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

Phoenix, OR - January 12th, 2023 - Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) is the proud recipient of a \$12,423 grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation (CCUIF) for 2023. The grant was received at the Grant Awards Ceremony, held at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino in Canyonville, on Wednesday, January 11th. In addition to the grant, PPRV was named as the Martha Young Award Recipient for 2023 by the Board of Directors of the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. The Martha Young Award is named for the first CCUIF Executive Director, who served from 1997 until her death in 2006. Both the grant and the Martha Young award were given by Carma Mornarich, the current CCUIF Executive Director.

The grant was awarded to PPRV to support their *Pollinator Pals* youth education program and assist in the development of a curriculum to engage students in learning about native pollinators and native plants.

“PPRV is very honored to receive this grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation,” said Kristina Lefever, President of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. “In mid-2022, we submitted our first [United Communities / AmeriCorps](#) application, and were thrilled to bring Ethan Robison on board to develop our *Pollinator Pals* program and coordinate our Youth Education Committee. With this new energy and expertise, we have already expanded this unique program and, now, with this incredible support and funding from CCUIF, we have the assurance that we can continue our efforts to make connections with the educational community in a way we have not been able to before. We are very honored and excited, and the additional Martha Young award, well, that was very unexpected, and is just so special for everyone on our team.” Lefever said.

The grant funds will be used to develop and expand the *Pollinator Pals* program to create a curriculum to help young people in the Rogue Valley learn about the importance of native pollinators for our local

food systems and ecosystems. Lesson plans and hands-on activities will be applicable for multiple grades, beginning with a 3-week curriculum for 3rd grade. The unique program incorporates citizen science, research and individual learning activities that will further expand the knowledge of youth about native pollinators and native plants and the role they play in our survival. The program is designed in collaboration with local schools, youth programs, and youth education partners.

Ethan Robison, PPRV Pollinator Educator and Outreach Specialist, is developing the *Pollinator Pals* program. “By connecting with youth in a number of venues, in schools and in collaboration with educational partners, we hope to reach a wide range of adults, parents and instructors, resulting in a growing network of knowledge that will help further our goal of bringing back native plants to support and increase native pollinators in pesticide-free corridors throughout the Rogue Valley.”

“We believe this knowledge can change the world simply by helping local youth become more connected to the way of the natural world and gaining the understanding of how crucial all the species of native pollinators are to our native ecosystem, and why it is important to incorporate native plants into our urban landscapes,” Lefever noted. “This grant will make a huge difference in our ability to develop the *Pollinator Pals* Program and reach out to more schools and organizations,” Lefever added.

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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 the 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.pollinatorprojectroguvalley.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