

Date: September 21, 2020

Subject: Tree Campus Higher Education – Service Learning Project

Supervisor: Blair McNeillie
FMD – Grounds Supervisor
509-963-3469

Location: South Park riparian area, Munson Hall between University Way and 7th Ave.

When: October 29th, 10 am – 12 pm

Proposal:

The Riparian area know as “*South Park*”, south of Munson Hall requires annual inspection and maintenance to monitor the health of Wilson Creek and the surrounding vegetation. Given the dense tree canopy in the area some thinning of the Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) population is normal. Trees with signs of disease, poor health, or close proximity to other trees should be removed to thin the habitat for healthy trees to grow.

As CWU expanding its partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) it is important to understand our impact on Wilson Creek. This project will provide data to use as a template for our future development of the riparian area throughout the Ellensburg campus. The project has four (4) phases for students to complete. Phases one through three are on site and phase four may be done remotely given the possibility that interested student may prefer not to be in person or they are learning remotely.

Phases:

- 1) Identification of tree and plants in the area
- 2) Identify trees or plants that are candidates for removal based on above stated criteria
 - a. Health
 - b. Pest concerns
 - c. Density
- 3) Measure diameter at breast height (DBH) and count the total number of trees
- 4) Data collection of tree count and DBH
 - a. Use these findings to calculate the potential storm water and CO² benefit of the riparian area
 - b. Calculate the square foot benefit of the riparian area

These findings will satisfy the project objectives. Students may use this data for projects outside of this objective as they see fit.

How:

Have Students work in groups of 2-3, or individually if desired. Each group will be assigned a task and lead by onsite team leader

Covid Rules:

Students who wish to participate in groups will be limited to 3 and must remain 6 feet apart while doing data collection. Masks must be worn at all times. One or two students may physically measure the trees while a third student can document the data.

All activities can be performed on separate days if students wish to remain isolated. Please coordinate with event supervisor.

If students wishing to participate are unable to be on site, they will have priority to input data and calculate results.