

The Land Conservancy

OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

P.O. Box 12206 • SLO, CA 93406 • (805) 544-9096 • FAX (805) 544-5122

VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.LCSLO.ORG

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Carlos Torres, *Restoration Project Manager*, (805) 544-9096

Steelhead Habitat Improvements: From a Teenage Perspective

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – The **Outside Now Academy** has partnered with The Land Conservancy in providing young teenagers with educational opportunities to learn more about endangered species, nature, and our planet's natural systems over the next year.

The Outside Now Academy offers nature-based, secondary educational programs that unite people, specifically students, to learning more about the well-being of nature, as well as the connection between land, animals, plants, humans, and the earth. Teacher, Brian Engleton, of the Outside Now Academy, has encouraged his students to find something they were passionate about and make their studies into a "Nature Challenge". The students were particularly interested in endangered species. Lands owned or protected by The Land Conservancy are home to myriad special status species, thus providing a great learning opportunity for the students.

"We let the kids come up with project ideas that will benefit the community," Engleton said. "They expressed interest in wanting to help endangered species, and we were able to connect with the Land Conservancy."



The Land Conservancy recently received funding to coordinate volunteers to help restore a mile and a half of the Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve, by removing the invasive species, Cape Ivy, and in turn, protect the habitat of threatened, special-status species such as steelhead. Nine Outside Now students, between the ages of 13 and 19 years old, assisted for three days during one week of November, working five hours each day. They removed 80 40-gallon bags of Cape Ivy and restored the streambed by planting 24 trees to secure the stream banks and prevent growth of more invasive species.



Students also found a few critters along their journey near the San Luis Obispo Creek. Time was taken to enjoy the creatures that they found, including the fascinating tarantula spider. The Outside Now Academy has committed to having its students continue their involvement by coming once a month to the Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve for the next year, until June 2011.

To learn more about how to volunteer with The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, please contact (805) 544-9096 or Volunteer@lcslo.org. You may also visit our website at, www.LCSLO.org, to fill out our Volunteer Profile Form. The **Outside Now Academy** has space for three more students next year, with applications accepted in the spring. For more information about Outside Now please visit, www.outsidenow.org.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit working to protect and restore land for the benefit of people and wildlife. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to

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permanently protect over 11,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.

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