



Success Story:

FieldSTEM: FieldDesign

January 11 & 25, 2022

On January 11, PEI's Central WA and East Sound North FieldSTEM Coordinators, Megan Rivard and Tressa Arbow, delivered our FieldSTEM: FieldDesign workshop, Engineering Design for Field-Based Applications. During this statewide session, 58 educators attended from 35 schools and districts. Participants learned about the FieldDesign framework and made plans to implement the techniques and materials in their own classrooms.



On January 25, most of these educators returned for our regional sessions to further identify strategies and tools to support outdoor learning, reflect on the scaffolds and resources, as well as identify needs for their own classrooms. They also heard from some of our amazing partners about how they use FieldDesign in their own programs and projects.

FieldSTEM Coordinators Julie Tennis and Lara Tukarski led the Coastal, West Sound and South Sound regional session. Jill Silver, Executive Director, and Raena Anderson, Watershed Project Coordinator, from the 10,000 Years Institute shared information about what they do as an ecological restoration organization. They organized their presentation in a way that mirrored the steps of the FieldDesign



FieldSTEM Coordinators Tressa Arbow and Cindy Haverkamp led the East Sound regional session. Robb Krehbiel, Pierce Conservation District's Green Stormwater Program Manager, shared with teachers how rain gardens and other solutions can be designed, in partnership with students, to manage school roof and parking lot stormwater run-off. Robb works with schools to prevent polluted stormwater runoff from reaching our creeks, rivers, and the Salish Sea by helping them replace concrete and lawns with rain gardens and native plants.





Megan Rivard led the Central Washington regional session. Andy Perleberg, Extension Forester for Washington State University, shared the many ways extension foresters work with private landowners to engineer and propose healthy forest management solutions, and how to engage students in forestry.



FieldSTEM Coordinator Amy Dawley and Project Specialist Michelle Townshend led our Eastern Washington regional session. Kat Hall, Restoration Program Director with The Lands Council, shared field engineering steps for their Thompson Creek Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) Stream Restoration Project.

Participants loved the two-session format commenting, “The individual observation and planning work during the 2 weeks between virtual sessions was invaluable to helping me consider real ways I could implement this kind of investigation and field design with my students.” Other participants stated, “The presenters clearly shared their expertise. They were open to questions and gave relevant examples. Having them take us through the process, completing the process on our own, and coming back to share was invaluable.”

Visit our website to learn more about using FieldDesign to design engaging projects for your classroom.