

Susan Carpenter, School Grant Chair
Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited

School Grant Report
January 8, 2010
Iowa-Grant Elementary-Middle School
498 Cty IG
Livingston WI 53554
Tim Donovan

As part of the 6th grade unit on water, I take students (and 1 parent chaperone) to a stream site for monitoring. Students are in groups of 6-8, and I take each group (after school) to a site 2 times a year (fall and spring). There are nine sites on the Platte, Little Platte, Blue or Pecatonica rivers. 55 sixth graders are involved. Each student has completed a fall visit (monitoring for DO, invertebrates, water and air temperature, and turbidity and a partial flow rate).

The grant money was used to purchase a Labquest flow rate sensor and to fund the use of a school 9 passenger vehicle for the trips. TU grant money allowed me to put everyone and the equipment in one large vehicle, which meant I needed only one parent per trip and we save on gas, and parking at river sites. An added bonus was the camaraderie among the students; they acted more like one team, where previously they had been split up between two or three cars. I could also do some teaching on the way!

The Labquest flow rate sensor was used to monitor how fast the water flows. The Labquest then graphs the data. I plan to teach how to figure the area of the stream in the spring.

Besides learning how to monitor and the importance of monitoring (streams as indicators of land health), the questions students try to answer include what is the overall health of the stream and what can be done to improve it. While at the site doing the monitoring, I ask students to take note of erosion and plant life in and around the stream, and discuss what may be affecting the stream. I also tell of efforts to restore streams and how it is done.

I am, again, very grateful for the grant money Iowa-Grant has received in the past from Trout Unlimited.

Attached is picture 021. Left to right is Mr Donovan, Sawyer Stuckey, Katie Witzig, Nathan Ochab, and Jacob Soman (back to camera) working on the macro invertebrate survey at a site on the Platte River.

Thank you.

Tim Donovan