



Training Future Conservation Scientists and Environmental Stewards

The STRAW Project (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) became part of PRBO this year. STRAW has engaged 25,000 students to restore 21 miles of creek habitat for birds, fish, clean water and more, guided by PRBO's science for over a decade.

Next Steps: Increase student and community engagement while also testing new climate-smart restoration practices.

Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed Project Summary

The award-winning Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) Project conducts watershed education and creek restoration implemented by K-12 students in the northern San Francisco Bay Area. Since 1993, STRAW has coordinated and sustained a network of teachers, students, ranchers, scientists, restoration specialists and other community members as they plan and implement watershed education and habitat restoration projects in the San Francisco North Bay area. The environmental education component of STRAW connects students to the natural world, providing hands-on experiences resulting in students who can see their direct role in conservation.

STRAW and our partners will work with 3,000 K-12 students to conduct 30 restoration projects as well as provide learning opportunities on watershed ecology for participating teachers and students. The students will plant over 1,800 native trees and shrubs, and remove invasive plants, to restore over 15,000 linear feet of creek bank. We will also monitor plant health and survival rates as well as bird response as we aim to see breeding neotropical songbirds at the restoration sites increase to over 20 species.

Our projects provide a valuable community connection and educational opportunities for students and teachers while reducing habitat loss. Through "place-based education," students improve their academic achievement in math and science, are encouraged to think independently and critically and are re-invigorated to learn from having direct involvement with community issues.

STRAW also conducts the Youth Watershed Challenge Project (YWC) which provides opportunities for San Francisco high school students to learn about the ecology of the Bay and its watershed, explore careers in science, and initiate actions in the community that promote environmental conservation. Each summer, the project provides a four-week summer program for 12 students from San Francisco high schools. During the school year, YWCP organizes a mentor program to support current and previous students in developing environmental outreach and action projects for their schools and communities. This past summer's Challenge

Project group was just awarded the California Academy of Sciences and X Prize Foundation top award for "Best Scientific Investigation" for their project on The Effects of Oil Spills on the Environment and What Scientists are Doing to Mitigate Future Consequences. This student project will receive national exposure as part of a multi-million dollar education development project by the Environmental Science, Policy and Management Program at UC Berkeley which studies the important role digital media plays in student learning today.

Total Project Budget:	\$750,000
Remaining Funding Need:	\$100,000