



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PARTNERSHIP

In recognition of the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership, that has collaborated to achieve substantial wetlands protection and sound urban development in Oregon's second largest metropolitan area, particularly through one of its member organizations, the Willamette Resources and Educational Network, offering environmental education programs that display vision and excellence in communicating effectively with a broad range of audiences.

The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership is a community-based collaboration of Federal, state, and local governments and nonprofit organizations established to sustain biological communities on Interior-managed and influenced lands and waters and to protect cultural and natural heritage resources. It coordinates shared management of the wetlands to be more effective, use limited resources more efficiently, and extend conservation beyond Federal lands to a broader landscape. The program is based upon the *West Eugene Wetlands Plan*, a multiple-objective, wetlands management and land use plan adopted by the City of Eugene and Lane County in 1992. To date, it is the only Wetland Conservation Plan adopted by the State of Oregon, and one of the only plans of its type in the United States. The Partnership collaborates to implement the goals and policies originally established by the plan. One of the partners, the Willamette Resources and Educational Network, handles environmental education and outreach, a major program category in the plan. The Network has now served more than 22,000 participants through school programs and interpretive programs for children and adults out of a 30 foot-diameter yurt, the Network's outdoor classroom. An exciting new Network effort is the Ethnobotany Resource Area Project that will restore Native American traditions at the West Eugene Wetlands. The creation of an ethnobotanical resource area at the wetlands presents an opportunity to diversify and expand stakeholder involvement and partnerships, especially with Native Americans, an underrepresented group from the community. The Ethnobotany Resource Area will provide a place where tribal members, especially youth, can learn about traditional practices in wetland areas. For the outstanding conservation achievements that protect, enhance, and restore the Nation's natural, cultural, and heritage resources, increase collaboration among the region's partners and demonstrate excellence in communicating effectively with a broad range of audiences, the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.