



## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### The Freshwater Trust's education director named to state environmental education task force

**November XX, 2009 – Portland, Ore.** – Governor Kulongoski recently appointed Traci Price, education director for The Freshwater Trust and Environmental Education Association of Oregon co-chair, to the Environmental Literacy Task Force established by No Oregon Child Left Inside (NOCLI) legislation. NOCLI, which will ensure students graduate as environmentally literate citizens and position Oregon to receive federal monies through the No Child Left Inside Act, passed during this year's legislative session with the help of a coalition of more than 90,000 citizens led by Price.

"Traci's enthusiasm for connecting Oregon's youth to the environment will be of outstanding value to the task force. With her help, the task force will surely develop a literacy plan that will provide our students with an invaluable education of the environmental challenges before our state and our country," said Governor Kulongoski.

Because today's youth are spending less time outside than any time in this nation's history, proponents of environmental education have long voiced the importance of connecting students to the natural world as they will be charged with addressing decisions facing Oregon's natural resources.

"Creating an environmentally sound future is a task for all of us, and I am honored the Governor selected me to help lead this essential effort," said Price. "Putting in motion an environmental literacy plan that gives the next generation the tools to deal with mounting natural resource problems starts by getting them outside – the natural world provides an applied learning platform without parallel."

Since 1993, The Freshwater Trust has worked collaboratively with teachers, school administration and community partners to connect students to their local watersheds by getting them into their local rivers and streams. Students participate in field experiences and restoration projects, which provide hands-on learning opportunities that are relevant to existing curricula. For more information, visit [www.thefreshwatertrust.org](http://www.thefreshwatertrust.org).

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Other members of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force include:

John Sheehan, Metro  
Morgan Allen, Oregon Department of Education  
Brent Searle, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Keith Anderson, Department of Environmental Quality  
Rick Hargrave, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Jim Quiring, Tillamook Forest Center  
Kyleen Stone, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Tom Gaskill, Department of State Lands  
John Falk, Oregon State University – Department of Science  
Kaety Hildenbrand, Oregon State University – Oregon Sea Grant

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**About The Freshwater Trust**

The Freshwater Trust is a statewide not-for-profit organization headquartered in Portland, Oregon with satellite offices in Bend and Corvallis. The Freshwater Trust takes an integrated, innovative approach to restoring freshwater ecosystems – from restoring a river’s architecture to working with landowners to keep more water in streams to educating children on the importance of freshwater conservation.