

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BENEWAH COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- **7,347** direct contacts
- **5,409** youth participants
- **87** volunteers
- **3,480** volunteer hours
- **\$705,494** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Benewah County: Erin Reid, Becky Harold, Amber King, Mary Getz, Penny Carpenter, Kristy Tucker and Steve Cuvala

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2023 Impact

Extramural funding allowed UI Extension, Benewah County to drastically increase outreach efforts both during in-and-out-of-school time. Funding was used to start the Benewah County 4-H STEM Center in partnership with the City of St. Maries, providing weekly education to six youth programs including elementary, middle, home school and community library groups.

The Idaho Master Gardener program certified a new class of volunteers in 2023, and provided education through local community groups and libraries as well as maintained demonstration garden spaces throughout the county.

A total of 174 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Benewah County in 2023, including Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Update, Identifying Idaho Trees, Landscaping for Fire Prevention and Backyard Forests. Many Benewah County forest owners, loggers and foresters also attended programs held in adjacent panhandle counties. Certified UI Extension volunteers called Idaho Master Forest Stewards, provided over 509 hours of volunteer service to over 1,027 forest owners and others in the Idaho Panhandle in 2023.

4-H in Benewah County

The Benewah County 4-H program was greatly enhanced by new volunteers and grant funding to include additional STEAM programming such as sewing, engineering and natural sciences. Through grant funding project day camps were held for youth to experience 4-H STEAM project areas that didn't have 4-H volunteers leading education. Opportunities for youth to experience these project areas opened a new connection with them and a more robust understanding of the depth of 4-H opportunities to community members and families. 4-H project program participation increased in 2023 through these opportunities, allowing youth to explore new opportunities and experiences through 4-H resources.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Benewah County looks forward to continuing school programs, relocating and continuing the Benewah County 4-H STEM Center as well as looking for new partnerships and opportunities within the community. Education programs around small farms, horticulture and forestry will also continue in 2024.