

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BENEWAH COUNTY**

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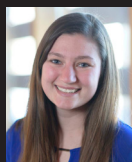
2024 By the Numbers

- **2,591** direct contacts
- **167** youth participants
- **68** volunteers
- **2,000** volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Benewah County.

UI Extension Educators



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2024 Impact

Benewah County Master Gardeners volunteered over 1,000 hours, engaging with community members and diagnosing in the plant clinic along with a symposium and fair booth.

The STEM center continued to engage youth throughout the summer and school year with afterschool programs. The center hosted a forestry field day, sewed blankets for the local animal shelter and provided afterschool time with robotics, GlowForge and Cricut crafts.

Over 30 participants attended the annual 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour. This tour consists of a two-day field trip learning about natural resources and exploring different career options within different fields. There are many hands-on activities including tree identification, digging for fossils, insect identification, searching for star garnets, visiting a logging job and touring the PotlatchDeltic Sawmill.

A total of 28 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Benewah County in 2023-2024, including Successful Tree Planting and the Forestry Shortcourse. Many Benewah County forest owners, loggers and foresters also attended programs held in adjacent panhandle counties. Certified UI Extension volunteers, Idaho Master Forest Stewards, provided over 750 hours of volunteer service to 1,867 forest owners and others in northern Idaho in 2023-2024.

4-H in Benewah County

The Benewah County 4-H program had 167 youth participants and 34 active volunteers. Throughout the year, multiple clinics were held for youth including a rabbit/poultry pre-show and clinic, dog obedience, dog agility and a beef showmanship clinic. There was also a county oral presentation contest where youth gave presentations to community members. The indoor projects were very competitive this year resulting in a tie. The winner was determined by interview with judging from community members and outside 4-H staff and faculty.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Benewah County plans to grow programming for both youth and adults this upcoming year. New Extension Educator Lauren King and Program Coordinator Madison Sotin are excited to engage with the community. For youth, plans are being made for a 5th Grade Farm to Table Fair and an 11th Grade R.A.N.G.E Field Day in addition to the 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour. The STEM Center is moving into the St. Maries Middle School and will be used in elective classes facilitated through the UI Extension office. There will be more natural resources and agriculture programming including forestry, nursery management and livestock education. The Extension office hopes to grow 4-H programming and host more clinics and workshops for youth this year.