

LOCAL NEWS

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 » MORE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESSTANDARD](https://www.facebook.com/timesstandard) AND [TWITTER.COM/EUREKATS](https://twitter.com/eurekats)

EDUCATION

Umpqua Bank grant supports field trips for county students

The Times-Standard

Humboldt County students will benefit from a \$4,000 grant by Umpqua Bank to support the Stewards of Tomorrow programs at the Northcoast Regional Land Trust.

The money will go toward covering the costs of field trips to the Freshwater Farms Reserve property and educational programs led by land trust staff members and others who support the organization's goal of protecting the North Coast's environment and quality of life.

The environmental education program gives students a first-hand look at compatible farming and wetlands restoration projects that have improved rearing conditions for juvenile coho salmon.

"Our kids are getting out on the

land, and they're learning how to be good stewards of the land, valuing both agriculture and wildlife habitat," land trust Executive Director Mike Cipra said.

The field trips for students include:

— Cows and Cattails, where kids learn about wetlands and working farms. Friends of the Dunes members lead activities that can be specially tailored to support in-class learning.

— Farm to School, run through the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, aims to revitalize agricultural, environmental, and nutritional education with hands-on activities involving food and farming.

— Marsh Biological Monitoring, where biologists and botanists monitoring marsh and agricultural lands help students par-

"They're learning how to be good stewards of the land."

— Executive Director Mike Cipra

ticipate in the program and collect data regarding the hydrology, soil chemistry, water quality and wildlife of Freshwater Farms Reserve.

The land trust works with conservationists, ranchers, timberland managers, natural resource scientists and others to protect ranch, farm and timber land, and to protect salmon-spawning areas. Its programs are designed to educate people on wetland ecology, restoration, and productive, multiple-use land management.