

Oregon Country Fair awards funds to groups for sustainability

VENETA — Nearby Nature, School Garden Project, Cascade Wildlands, Long Tom Watershed and Meals on Wheels have earned recognition from the Oregon Country Fair for attention to environmental sustainability.

The fair announced Wednesday that the five Lane County nonprofit organizations will be the recipients of this year's Jill Heiman Vision Fund awards. Each organization will receive its award after the fair's run in July, said Norma Sax, who served on the committee that chose the organizations.

Money for the awards comes from volunteer donations and from those who attend the fair. Sax estimated that each organization will receive about \$4,000.

Nearby Nature's money will go toward the development of several sustainabil-

ity workshops at Alton Baker Park in Eugene.

School Garden Project will conduct a 15-week garden education program at 12 schools in Lane County.

Cascade Wildlands plans to apply its funds toward the protection of several wildlife areas in the Coast Range.

Meals on Wheels will replace its Styrofoam materials with biodegradable paper containers.

Long Tom Watershed is budgeting its money for eight restoration projects and for educational endeavors focusing on teaching landowners how to practice environmental restoration.

The vision fund honors the memory of Jill Heiman, a local attorney who was instrumental in establishing the Country Fair and purchasing the fair's property.