

## Our Healthy Rogue River

Have you ever done an Invertebrate Count? When we did the Invertebrate Count in the beginning or middle of October, I saw crowds of crayfish sitting in between rocks, heard the water rushing and birds singing. I touched the



Dobsonfly, which felt really weird, and the freezing Rogue River. The weather was perfect for the Invertebrate Count because it wasn't too hot or too cold.

When I went into the river with my waders on, it felt like my calves and legs were getting constricted higher and higher up

my leg (depending on how deep it was) the farther I got into the Rogue River. The pressure of the water felt really hard and it felt like your feet had no gravity because when you lifted your foot it felt like you could do the Moon Walk. The



water was pretty clear which was very nice because you could see crayfish sitting in the cracks of rocks and other cool things.

It was super cool when you brought the siene up with little bugs in it. When I did it with Sarah, we caught a Dobsonfly and a bunch of little squirmy insects. I think the Crayfish were the coolest though, but the scariest, weirdest and most interesting had to go to the Dobsonfly because it was long, had lots of legs and swam very strangely. People can keep the river clean and clear by not littering and picking up trash if you see it.

We caught probably fifty crayfish, thirty scud, twenty stonefly nymphs, three water pennies, five riffle beetles, one fishfly larvae, one damselfly, five snails and one leech. These are the entire seventh and eighth grade finds, not just eighth grade.

A crayfish's diet contains dead fish and aquatic plants. The crayfish digs



burrows in the mud and hides under logs, lily pads and rocks. They usually live in freshwater. Crayfish need quite a bit of oxygen. If they don't have enough it stresses them and then they die. It's good to find

crayfish in rivers. It means there's good oxygen, aquatic plants, other fish and

nice objects to hide under.

I think the Izaak Walton League is helping students learn about Invertebrate Counts because they need kids to take leadership roles over when they get old enough. The Izaak Walton League is an organization that is helping others enjoy and help protect the outdoors. They are trying to work to advance conservation, engage people in outdoor recreation, and safeguard natural resources for the future in communities across the country.