REACCH
Regional Approaches to Climate Change – PACIFIC NORTHWEST AGRICULTURE

2014 Annual Meeting
Speed Science

http://reacchpna.org

Climate change in Pacific Northwest Classrooms

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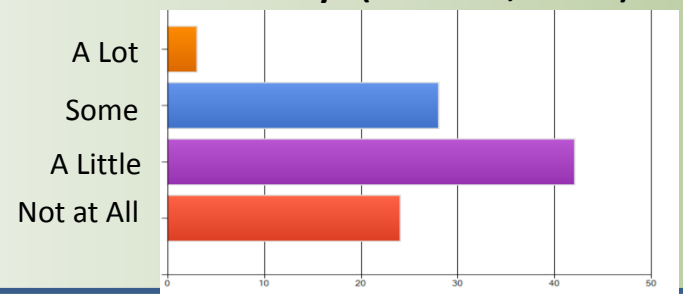
Pictures shown, from top to bottom, are:

1) Teachers learning about soil volcanic ash horizons at summer workshop
2) Collecting soil from eluvial horizons near Troy, ID
3) Teachers measuring seed respiration using digital CO_2 sensors.

Impact: Improved awareness of the complexities of climate change in public schools, teachers given the equipment to conduct hands-on climate science activities in their classrooms, students given the opportunity to learn about climate science.

Teachers across the three-state region participated in the annual teacher workshop hosted at the University of Idaho, Moscow campus last July. The focus of the workshop was on three units of the REACCH curriculum. The units of focus this year were soils, erosion, and ecological cycles. Teachers participated in hands-on activities which they in turn were able to return to their classrooms and teach throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Teachers represented the entire spectrum of climate change beliefs from dismissive through alarmed. Following the workshop teachers agreed to teach and survey students on the impact of the units. Initial results indicate teacher attitudes toward climate change shifted away from the dismissive end of the continuum. Current student data indicate no shift in attitudes, but a weakening in the strength of their resolve. Additionally, student knowledge about soils and erosion showed improvement as a result of the units. Data collection continues as more teachers complete their instruction, with complete analysis expected prior to the third teacher workshop scheduled for June, 2014.

How much had you thought about global warming before today? (Students, *n* = 97)



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USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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