

## Invertebrate Count Narrative.

by Abe J.

I jumped in and felt the ice cold water rush around me. Last week we completed the Izaak Walton league invertebrate count, which is where our 8th grade class at ABVM helps the Izaak Walton League learn the health of the Rogue River. My class walked down the trails to the Rogue River with Mr. Stegmier, a member of the local Izaak Walton league. We arrived at the edge of the Rogue River, the water looked cold as it rushed past all of the rocks of varying sizes. As we all put waders on and climbed down into the river, Mrs. Sochacki began talking to us about what we were doing, she explained, “ We are going to take these nets and catch different invertebrates, like the caddisfly we caught last year.”



8th-grade class in the Rogue river.

I continued climbing into the water holding two small nets given to me by Mr. Stegmier. I was struggling to get down so I jumped in and felt the cold water rushing around me. I handed one of the nets to Annika who also had just gotten in the river. Both of us immediately started to kick up rocks and sticks to knock invertebrates around so we could catch them.

We caught many invertebrates and several crayfish, 50 in total. We all climbed back onto the land to look at all of the invertebrates. There were so many different invertebrates like the water penny and the stonefly nymph. We looked at the invertebrates and I learned crayfish eat fish, shrimp, water worms, and water plants, and that crayfish are omnivorous. We continued to look until our time was up, we all thanked Mr. Stegmier as we walked back to school to write about what we just experienced. We also learned that the Rogue River was in good, almost excellent, condition!

Sources.

<http://www.iwla.org/>

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/commercial/crayfish.html>