

Blue Water Lake, NGO River Conservation Project

Holly Jobe

During our trip to Mongolia, we had the opportunity to meet Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba, sister of one of our hosts on the trip, (Oyungerel Tsedevdamba (Oyuna). She created a non-profit environmental organization in northern Mongolia to engage public involvement and develop projects to conserve the precious little water there is in Mongolia.

Her organization, Blue Water Lake's mission is to help local communities understand their surrounding environment and contemporary social and political issues and worldwide concerns that affect their environment; to promote effective means of protecting the environment, especially water; and to educate all ages of population on environmental issues and assist the communities to handle and overcome pressing challenges of their environment based on their local resources.

She works in is Khuvsgul province in Northern Mongolia near the Siberian border, the source of most of the water in the country with a focus is to preserve the Delgermuren and Shishged watershed areas. The most polluted area of the rivers is the fifteen km near Muren, the provincial capitol. There are about 72,700 residents and about 1.2 million livestock in the watershed area.

Sources of pollution are unpaved roads, unauthorized washing of cars in the river, picnicking and leaving trash, lack of sanitary facilities, pollution from a 100-year-old town dump site, and dumping of winter coal refuse.

Oyuntsetseg's proposal has two components. She is asking for support to improve conditions along the river and to develop a program for high school students to participate in environmental responsibility. Improvements include reducing pollution by erecting additional concrete barriers another two km along the river to deter cars getting close to the river, creating a specific parking area for cars, installing a picnic table with shade cover, installing an eco-toilet and hiring activists to monitor the most vulnerable areas. The proposed budget for this component of the project is \$2760.

The second component of the project is an education program involving high school students in creating a public service campaign to raise awareness throughout the community about the need to care for their river. This project is expected to cost about \$1857.

Detailed information is located on the Delegation website in two powerpoint presentations Oyuntsetseg sent.

The total for the two projects is \$4617. It is amazing what they expect to accomplish with relatively little money. I hope that we can fulfill this project through contributions from delegates. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check with Blue Water Lake NGO on the memo line to:
The Delegation c/o Mary Pomeroy
18926 Latigo Lane
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

IMPORTANT!

One of our new delegates, Barbara Teafor, will be visiting Oyuna in Mongolia and has generously offered to carry the funds. She leaves in June, so we have little time to send contributions. Thank you for getting a check in the mail today.

Blue Water Lake contact: gotsbar@yahoo.com (Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba),

Photos:



Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba



Blue Water Lake Logo



Delgermuren river south of Muren



People wash their cars even though it is against the rules and cars leak liquid oil waste in the water



Picnicking along the river, leaving trash



Waste comes to river from Muren's nearly 100 year old dumpsite



Heavy metal pollution comes to river from Muren's winter time dumping of coal ashes



Propose to add more concrete protection markers to prevent cars from getting to the river's edge.



Add an eco-toilet for visitors to use. One was previously built and it was destroyed by vandals who probably didn't understand its function.