Bryan Benz

Bryan is currently an Associate Professor at Umpqua Community College where he teaches natural resource and science courses. Prior to his work at UCC, he worked on the Umpqua National Forest as a Zoned District Botanist for 11 years and was responsible for the district's rare plant surveys, revegetation program, and invasive weed treatments.  During his time with the US Forest Service, he got involved with a number of different organizations in the area that focused on Environmental Education.

Being inspired by his time involved with Environmental Education, Bryan went back to school and received an Education Doctorate with a focus on Environmental Education and Professional Development from Portland State University in 2021.  He also holds a MS and BS in Biology with a focus on botany from PSU, and an AAS in Forestry Resource Technology from Mt. Hood Community College.

In addition to his appreciation for Environmental Education organizations, and being a veteran, he volunteered at the Roseburg VA for four years in their greenhouse and helped them to establish their native plant garden.  In his free time, he likes to explore the beautiful surroundings of the Umpqua with his wife, travel to the many National Parks in the US, and they try to get to Thailand every year to visit his wife’s relatives and friends.