



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Focus on Partners: Idaho's IWRRRI

Fall 2003
PNWWATER 025

The **Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRRI)** represents Idaho's water resources research community on the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Team. IWRRRI is one of the 54 state-based water resources research centers funded by the United State's Geological Survey (USGS).

The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (at the University of Idaho) is dedicated to supporting and promoting water and water-related applied investigations and solutions, education and information transfer throughout Idaho. IWRRRI collaborates with more than 100 scientists and educators from all of the Idaho state universities in order to provide a broad-based, diverse and interdisciplinary effort in helping to solve water issues. This is extremely important because Idaho's problems are complex. Our state is fortunate because Idaho's leaders in water resources and the state community have recognized the importance of protecting this finite resource.



IWRRRI is the mechanism in Idaho that provides an autonomous statewide source of support for water and water-related, problem-solving research and training, without regard to specific topic or discipline area. This is important because Idaho's water problems are cross-topic and interdisciplinary.

Over the past 30 years, IWRRRI has funded more than 250 projects. In addition, approximately 1,000 Institute administered projects have contributed to Idaho's water resource solutions. The majority of these projects have been in partnership with state and federal agencies, industry, and private groups and organizations. These projects have answered critical water resource questions

in agriculture, mining, forestry, recreation and energy management. Solutions have been effected within institutional, technical and legal frameworks.



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.htm>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension
Contact Bob Simmons:
360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact Charlotte Clausing:
360-392-4319

cclausing@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute
<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)
<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center
<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10
The Pacific Northwest
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory
<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

For more information contact
Jan Seago at 206-553-0038 or
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The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

Examples of water research activities managed by IWRRRI include:

- ◆ Water quality requirements for various uses
- ◆ Contamination of surface waters from point and non-point sources
- ◆ Development of remediation technologies
- ◆ Minimizing impacts of recreation and development on water quality
- ◆ Improvement of riparian, aquatic habitats and wetland environments
- ◆ Water conservation
- ◆ Improved irrigation technologies
- ◆ Management of water resource systems for multi-purpose uses
- ◆ Conjunctive surface-subsurface water management
- ◆ Geothermal and ground water reservoir management



National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource Extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

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