



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2003
PNWWATER 026

Regional TMDL Conference is a Huge Success!!



More than 200 people attended the 2003 regional research and extension water quality conference held at the Dolce Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. The conference theme was the role of TMDL implementation in watershed restoration and was a follow up to last year's research and extension water quality conference. The conference brought together a broad range of expertise in the form of researchers, regulators, practitioners and educators. The sessions provided opportunities for attendees to learn from their experiences: what's been tried, what's worked, what hasn't worked and what's being researched. Forty-two oral and seventeen poster presentations were made on a wide range of topics including urban and rural best management practices, economic and institutional factors, political and social factors, implementation and effectiveness monitoring, roles for local input development and implementation, and educational outreach and technical assistance.



One highlight of the conference was the keynote presentation by Read Smith, Past President of the National Association of Conservation Districts and Palouse area farmer. Read's presentation compared past and present techniques of farming practices and their effect on water quality and the progress we've made. Some conference attendees said that Read's presentation was "a good voice for reason" and one person called it "the highlight of the whole conference." Another highlight was the banquet speaker, Jane Frankenberger of Purdue University, who gave an inspiring presentation on how to incorporate research and extension into the TMDL implementation phase. Other presentations that made an impression with conference attendees were Dave Ward's, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, "Bang for the Buck: Better Targeting of Public Education Efforts;" George Boggs', Whatcom Conservation District, "Achieving TMDL Bacterial Goals through Conservation Plan Implementation;" and Dennis Lynch's, USGS, "Background Sources of Phosphorus in the Tualatin River Basin: Implications for the TMDL Process, Oregon." Conference attendees also said that the sessions "exceeded my expectations" and that "all the sessions and individual presentations were exceptionally well done."



Based on results from the evaluation forms, the majority of conference attendees agreed that the conference was well organized, the content was relevant and interesting, and the location and facility were first class. In fact, one attendee commented that the conference was a "good forum to hear about innovative and state-of-the-art methods being used," and another said that the conference was "extremely effective and all inclusive" and that it was "a must for any TMDL planner or pre-TMDL project area." Many attendees commented on the



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/index.html>

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.html>

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: Michael Cochrane:
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<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/>

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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 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System (CSREES).

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.

affordability of this conference, which was provided by generous support from the USDA-CSREES, Washington State Department of Ecology, the State of Washington Water Research Center, and Clark County. Other contributing/participating organizations that helped make this conference a success include the Alaska Water and Environmental Research Center, the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System, the Oregon Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability, Oregon State University Extension Service, Washington State University Extension, and the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10. One attendee summed up the conference by saying "excellent conference with great material in an ideal location—great job!"

The conference provided ample opportunities for discussion and dialog and concluded with an interactive panel discussion on the financing of TMDL implementation. The majority of conference attendees came to the conference to learn and share information about TMDLs and said that they will use the information for current and future TMDL work and for communicating and contacting others regarding TMDLs in the region. In addition, Extension personnel and researchers now have a better understanding of the problems and opportunities for applied research. The wide range of organizations and individuals represented at the conference will help ensure that TMDL implementation in watershed restoration will happen in an effective manner in the region.



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 Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension System.

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

CSREES is the Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is the federal partner in this water quality program.