



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Spring 2004
PNWWATER 033

Your Regional Water Quality Team



Your regional water quality team consists of nine professionals that represent the land grant universities, the Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. We 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).

The goal of this regional 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 regional water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Members of your regional water quality team. Front row: Gail Glick Andrews (Oregon State), Sharon Collman (Liaison to EPA), Michael Cochrane (Northwest Indian College), Jan Seago (Washington State). Back row: Bob Mahler (Idaho), Mike Barber (Water Institutes), Karl Arne (EPA), Fred Sorensen (Alaska), Bob Simmons (Washington State).

This project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assessing 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.

Our partnership has been active for over 15 years. Current members of our regional team include:

- Sharon Collman, University Liaison located at EPA Region 10 in Seattle
- Michael Cochrane, Water Quality Coordinator, Northwest Indian College
- Gail Glick Andrews, Water Quality Coordinator, Oregon State University
- Fred Sorensen, Water Quality Coordinator, University of Alaska
- Robert Mahler, Water Quality Coordinator, University of Idaho
- Robert Simmons, Water Quality Coordinator, Washington State University
- Mike Barber, Director, State of Washington Water Research Center
- Karl Arne, Office of Ecosystems and Communities, EPA Region 10
- Ron Shavlik, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



**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.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 Dan Burns:
360-392-4328

dburns@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/>

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Below are highlights of several goals and/or projects we have developed in the past three years:

- ◆ **REGIONALIZATION** – Perhaps our most important accomplishment is that we think as a region instead of as separate states when it comes to water quality programming. Working as a region is an efficient use of resources – especially when budgets are tight. We can use expertise located in one state to meet needs across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.
- ◆ **NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY** – We developed and conducted a scientifically-based survey to document public awareness, aptitudes, attitudes and actions toward water quality and to assess programming needs in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The results of this survey have provided focus for our regional programming.
- ◆ **WATER QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING** – We have developed an annual water quality monitoring workshop. This workshop is designed for educators who: (1) plan to conduct water quality training for citizens and students in the Pacific Northwest, (2) plan to conduct training for groups that wish to monitor various water quality parameters, (3) want to learn about water quality and resource information material through land grant universities, and (4) want to increase their skills in leading water quality monitoring programs. This workshop was held in central Idaho in 2003 and will be held in Canby, Oregon in 2004.
- ◆ **WATERSHED THEME-BASED SATELLITE CONFERENCES** – We developed watershed theme-based satellite conferences that are held on an annual basis. Over 500 people at 53 down-linked sites took part in the 2003 conference. Conference topics include: “Living on the Edge: Grassroots Watershed Planning in the Pacific Northwest” (2002), “Funding Watershed Restoration Projects in the Pacific Northwest” (2003), and “Improving Community Involvement in Watershed Restoration” (2004 projected).
- ◆ **DOMESTIC WATER RESOURCE USE HANDBOOK** – We developed this resource that will enable Extension offices and local health districts across the Pacific Northwest to effectively answer public inquiries about drinking water quality and water systems using state-of-the-art information. This guide contains over 70 current publications.
- ◆ **WATER QUALITY THEME-BASED REGIONAL DIRECTORIES** – Regional expertise directories were developed for the following water quality themes: (1) nutrients and pesticides, (2) animal waste management, (3) drinking water and human health, (4) water conservation and agricultural water management, (5) environmental restoration, and (6) water policy. Each directory contains a summary statement of the issue in the region, a list of desired outcomes, and information for the four most pertinent research and/or extension contacts for the specific issue at the land grant universities in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.
- ◆ **RIPARIAN BULLETINS** – We developed a set of regional riparian bulletins. The seven protecting streams PNW bulletins developed to date are: (1) Suburban Homeowners – west of the Cascades and Coastal Alaska, (2) Suburban Homeowners – east of the Cascades, (3) Rangeland Managers, (4) Rural Landowners – west of the Cascades and Coastal Alaska, (5) Rural Landowners – east of the Cascades, (6) Recreationalists, and (7) Developers. Since development, over 18,000 copies of these publications have been distributed in the region.
- ◆ **REGIONAL WEBSITE** – Our regional Web page: <http://www.pnwwaterweb.com>, was developed, expanded and enhanced. Information on all of the projects cited above can be found on this site.

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.