



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Spring 2004
PNWWATER 035

Water Education:

Project W.E.T. in Northeastern Washington

Over 4,400 youth from Ferry, Okanogan and Stevens counties in northeastern Washington participated in over 200 programs offering 28 different hands-on learning activities as part of the W.E.T. (Water Education and Training) Project between 1999 and 2003. Dan Fagerlie (fagerlie@wsu.edu) and Carolyn Blake (blakec@wsu.edu), Washington State University faculty located in Ferry County (phone: 509-775-5235), conducted this program funded by a USDA-CSREES 406 Water Quality Programs grant. In addition to Washington State University, project partners included: the Kettle River Advisory Board, Curlew Lake Association, 4-H Volunteers, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR), Ferry County, Echo Bay Minerals, local schools and the Republic Ranger District of the United States Forest Service.

Project W.E.T. improved awareness about private drinking water concerns and solutions in the north-eastern region of Washington. The project newsletter, "The W.E.T. Look," provided the 4,000 households in the area with pertinent information related to water quality efforts and actions as well as practical ways to reduce non-point source pollution through everyday activities.

Over 440 adult volunteers aided in the design and delivery of water quality educational programming in local communities. This project resulted in over 10 percent of private drinking water sources being tested for lead, nitrates and coliform bacteria.

Watershed models of local terrain were developed for four project area schools. The students then became the educators as they used these models to teach



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/>

For more information contact
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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.

others ways to reduce non-point source pollution from erosion, nutrients, bacteria, detergents and other chemicals. In addition, area schools are incorporating water quality education as a part of their standard curriculum.

This project is considered to be a great success because youth in the W.E.T. project area are being well prepared to address water quality and quantity issues in the future!



This photo shows Karen Honeycutt of the U.S. Forest Service electro-shocking the stream to determine what fish lived there with Project W.E.T. students.

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.