



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

# Pacific Northwest

## Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Summer 2004  
PNWATER 044

### Water Quality Monitoring Workshop a Resounding Success — and Paperless Too!



Most, but not all 2004 workshop participants against the backdrop of the Molalla River.

Combine 31 people engaged in water quality monitoring, 2½ days of extraordinary classroom and field instruction, and 3 nights in a relaxed river setting—the event is almost insured to be branded a success by all who were involved. Those gathered at the Canby Grove Conference Center along the Molalla River on the outskirts of Canby, Oregon from July 13–15 enjoyed just such an event.

One of the keys to the success of the 2004 Water Quality Monitoring Workshop was the diversity of participants and instructors gathered at Canby Grove in July. People came from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and the CSREES National Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Facilitation Project based in Rhode Island. They

represented state and federal agencies, tribes, cities, conservation districts, landgrant and sea-grant Extension, several universities, and local watershed groups. Some had years of experience with water quality monitoring, some were just beginning; everyone had something to learn and something to teach the rest of us. Nine people were listed as instructors with a specific responsibility—many others shared their expertise and most instructors were also participants.

Instruction focused on the common water quality criteria most often encountered by those involved in the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) process: temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pH, bacteria, and aquatic invertebrates. In the real world these factors don't occur in isolation, so that is how they were taught—in the context of the whole watershed. Lectures covered the basics, case studies and group planning exercises applied what was learned, and riverside monitoring activities provided hands-on experiences. It must also be added that



Beth Lambert, OSU Watershed Extension, Tillamook County, Oregon, helps groups with monitoring planning exercise.



**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:  
360-392-4299

[mcochrane@nwic.edu](mailto:mcochrane@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  
[seago.jan@epa.gov](mailto:seago.jan@epa.gov)

substantial learning occurred in the informal discussions over meals and during impromptu instruction during “free time.”

A new feature of this year’s workshop is that it was PAPERLESS. A workshop manual or a stack of miscellaneous handouts often accompanies this type of workshop. When one considers the environmental and financial cost these paper piles create in relationship to the actual educational benefit, it is hard to justify the use of these resources. Instead of a notebook, a workshop CD and web site were produced. The CD includes all the PowerPoint presentations, numerous files for handbooks and other resources that can be printed if desired, photos of the workshop, contact information for future networking, and active links to the various web sites suggested by the instructors and participants. The CD saves on download time for those with slow connections because the photos and some publication files are huge. The web site started as an exact posting of the CD, but since this active format allows for updated information there have already been some changes and additions. Visit the web site at:

<http://www.pnwwaterweb.com/monitoring04.htm>.

For more information about this or other PNW CSREES projects, contact one of the team members listed on the back page of this flyer.



*Sharon Collman, Extension Liaison to EPA, provided the hands-on demonstration of macroinvertebrate sampling methods.*

**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.

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