



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2004
PNWWATER 045

November 16th Satellite Conference:

Improving Community Involvement in Watershed Restoration



Photo supplied by the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

Our third annual watershed theme-based satellite conference is scheduled for November 16, 2004.

Sustaining community involvement, an often suggested topic received during the two previous conferences, is the focus of the up-coming satellite workshop. Three watershed communities speak from their experience and share successful strategies for drawing local advocacy and community involvement. Through video visits in the communities, we observe diverse organizational models that have created solid partnerships among local governments and natural resource management agencies and fit the community. Interviewing community partners reveals organizational aspects such as the structure and support, processes and evolution, and creation of good relationships through responsive communication.

Visiting the Walla Walla River Basin we find concerns ranging across dry-land wheat production, irrigated agriculture, a tribal fishery, and forest interests all meeting at tables on both sides of the of the Washington-Oregon state line to co-manage the water resources for the best future of all interests. The Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative in Boundary County Idaho draws from all segments of the population for a Board that sits as a forum for natural resource management agencies and the community to meet and share concerns for a sustainable environment for all inhabitants. Curry County Oregon's South Coast Watershed Council is an umbrella group in an area of the Oregon coast featuring incredible diversity: there are five wild and scenic rivers as well as three wilderness areas; several hundred miles of streams and rivers; dozens of rare plants and animals, and a multitude of other attractions as well as forest harvest, agricultural production, and a prosperous tourist industry.



Photo supplied by the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.



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.

The workshop broadcast on November 16th from 9:00 to 11:30 (PST) gives insight to how these groups have included all interests in habitat protection. Representatives from the watersheds will be live on camera to answer questions by phone or e-mail. A multidisciplinary panel joins the representatives to discuss strategies employed in the case studies as well as others not portrayed.

Extension offices are invited to be hosts to their communities for viewing the conference. For more information, please email seago.jan@epa.gov or call Jan at 206-553-0038. Updated information is found at <http://wawater.wsu.edu/>.



Photo supplied by the South Coast Watershed Council.

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.