



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

# Pacific Northwest

## Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2004  
PNWWATER 050

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Satellite Conference:

## Improving Community Involvement in Watershed Restoration



On November 16, 2004 the third annual Watershed Issues Satellite conference aired at 38 sites across the Pacific Northwest. In addition, numerous people participated at their PCs, through the videostream technology offered by WSU Extension's Information Department. Federal agencies, non-profit environmental organizations, and city halls opened their facilities to supplement the land grant universities' satellite installations providing evidence of community support for this program.

The themes of the Watershed Issues conference series are based on suggestions received at the previous year's broadcasts. Last year's Funding workshop attendees wanted to hear more about how groups get beyond friction and begin to achieve results both in

the watershed and around the planning table. Three community groups' members volunteered to stand before the cameras and describe the way their group works, how each has evolved over time, and strategies used to build strong community relationships through responsive communication.

Three groups involved in watershed restoration were highlighted with video case studies — Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative in Boundary County Idaho, South Coast Coordinating Watershed Council of Curry County Oregon, the Walla Walla River Basin Watershed Council and the cross state boundary Walla Walla County Planning Unit for Water Resource Inventory Area 32. The video interviews with council members and community partners highlighted different strategies employed by the groups to sustain community involvement and increase understanding of the natural resource issues facing those communities.



## 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](mailto: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  
Jan Seago at 206-553-0038 or  
[seago.jan@epa.gov](mailto:seago.jan@epa.gov)

### 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.

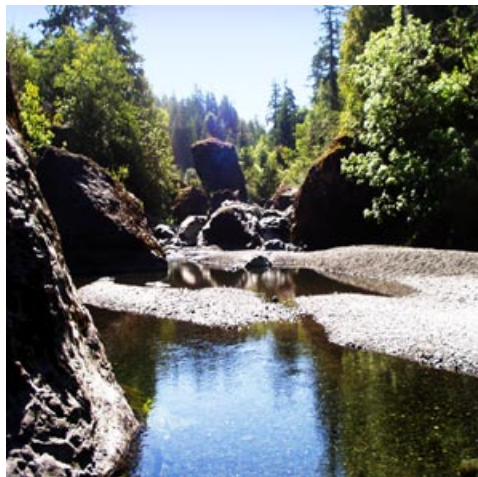
### Our Strengths

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.

Videoed case study interviewees offered nuggets of insight that were echoed by workshop participants in the evaluation forms. A participant, referring to the 'deep-listening' method introduced in the Walla Walla River Basin segment, wrote that their group must learn to practice the concept to rise above battles based in fear. Relating to the Walla Walla River groups, one person wrote "...made me realize our watershed planning group needs to develop concepts for more on-the-ground restoration activities."

On a scale of one to five (highest), the participants rated the workshop at 4.2. Attendees rated the three case studies very high.

An archived videostream of Improving Community Involvement in Watershed Restoration is available at <http://caheinfo.wsu.edu/video/satellite.html>. A Chat Page with postings of questions about the program is at <http://wawater.wsu.edu/pages/chatpage.htm>. The first two in the Watershed Issues Workshop Series, Living on the Edge: Grassroots Watershed Planning in the Pacific Northwest and Funding Watershed Restoration are archived at <http://caheinfo.wsu.edu/video/other.html>.



### 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.*