



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Winter 2005
PNWWATER 055

National Water Quality Conference

Over 25 scientists and educators from the land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest attended the National Water Quality Conference held in San Diego, California from February 6–10, 2005. The theme of this year’s conference sponsored by USDA-CSREES was “Research, Extension, and Education for Clean Water.”

More than 240 oral and poster presentations were viewed by the 350 attendees at this conference. Attendance at this conference has grown by more than 20 percent each year over the last four years. The increasing popularity of this conference has made it one of the most important conferences for scientists and educators interested in water resources held on an annual basis in the USA.

The luncheon keynote address speaker was Dr. Jim Dobrowolski from Washington State University. He addressed water resource challenges that we face in the near future. Dr. Dobrowolski addressed water security for agriculture and the sensitive issue of diverting water traditionally used in agriculture to urban uses—particularly in the western USA. It was pointed out that as urban water needs increase due to a growing population, enough water needs to be set aside so that we will be able to feed our population without relying on food imports. In addition to urban and agricultural water needs the requirements of wildlife will also have to be considered. We have difficult choices to make in the not-too-distant future.

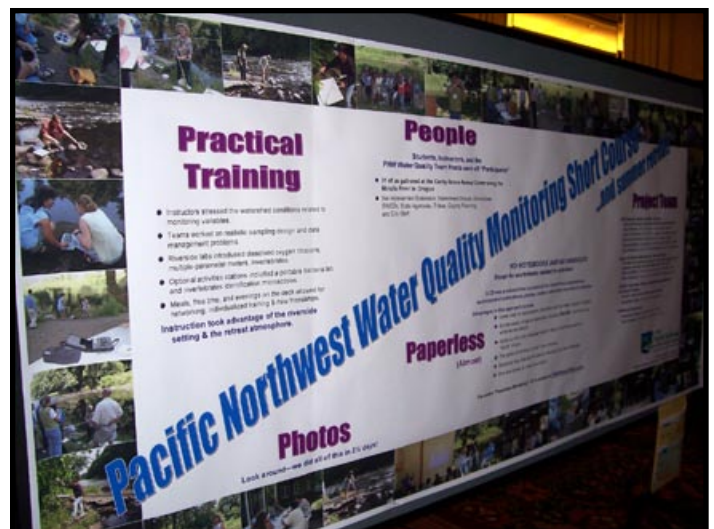
Three concurrent track sessions were used to organize paper and poster presentations at the national conference. The three topic areas were: (1) agricultural best management practices (BMPs), (2) rural environmental protection, and (3) watershed assessment and restoration. Pacific Northwest attendees presented papers in all three topic areas. Below are some of the papers presented from our region. E-mail addresses of the main author are provided if you would like any additional information.

Agricultural Best Management Practices

- ◆ Protecting water quality in the Hood River Basin (Jeff Jenkins, jenkinsj@ace.orst.edu)
- ◆ The iSNAP project—a regional approach to agricultural professional education (Mary Staben, mary.staben@oregonstate.edu)

Rural Environmental Protection

- ◆ Protecting family drinking water in rural Alaska—transport and survival of fecal indicator organisms (Dan White, ffdmw@uaf.edu)
- ◆ Water quality monitoring education (Robert Emanuel, robert.emanuel@oregonstate.edu)
- ◆ 4-H wildlife stewards—helping to restore our watersheds one school at a time (Maureen Hosty, maureen.hosty@oregonstate.edu)



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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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.

- ◆ Domestic water use: A resource guide for Extension (Fred Sorensen, dffes@uaa.alaska.edu)
- ◆ Scooping the poop (Fred Sorensen, dffes@uaa.alaska.edu)

Watershed Assessment and Restoration

- ◆ Effective community engagement in water resources planning (Robert Simmons, simmons@wsu.edu)
- ◆ The watershed science symposium: An alternative to a science fair (Frank Burris, frank.burris@oregonstate.edu)
- ◆ Rainstorming! Assisting coastal communities in reducing runoff, improving water quality, and meeting water quality standards (Derek Godwin, Derek.Godwin@oregonstate.edu)
- ◆ Nooksack river watershed bacteria TMDL (Michael Cochrane, mcochrane@nwic.edu)
- ◆ Water erosion prediction project (WEPP) (Joan Wu, jwu@wsu.edu)
- ◆ Evaluation of conservation practices in a mixed land use watershed (Jan Boll, jboll@uidaho.edu)
- ◆ Pacific Northwest water quality monitoring short course (Gail Glick Andrews, glickg@onid.orst.edu)
- ◆ Region 10 watershed issues satellite conferences (Jan Seago, seago.jan@epa.gov)

Several of the above titles will be featured in upcoming editions of PNWWATER updates.

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.