



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Summer 2007
PNWATER 114

6th Annual Satellite Conference:

Targeted Watershed Initiative Grants: Pacific Northwest Success Stories



Targeted Watershed Grants: Successes in the Pacific Northwest is the sixth in the award winning Watershed Issues Series, and the fourth that focuses on the work being done in the region by our neighbors. Please check with your local Cooperative Extension office to see if they are available October 17 to host a viewing of this program. For further information, please contact Jan Seago at seago.jan@epa.gov or 206-553-0038.

Returning to the Pacific Northwest, the Watershed Issues Series gives a glimpse into the workings of three basin-wide partnerships that are making a difference in the water quality of their streams. Dedicated landowners, fishermen, timber owners, and ranchers have met at tables in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to find their common interests and are working toward sustainable industries and habitat futures.

The Siuslaw River historically was the channel that moved logs from some of the heaviest logged forests in the west. Early settlers had drained, ditched, and diked riverside lowlands for farm plots. This same river had one of the largest populations of returning Chinook salmon and Lamprey eels in the lower 48. How could all of these activities work together and maintain the health of spawning habitat? That was the question that we asked everyone.

Fascinating new metrics for measuring habitat health are being investigated. Mark your calendars now, so you do not miss this exciting search for a sustainable Siuslaw.

The Clark Fork River watershed is huge; 26,000 square miles of Idaho and Montana are drained into the river that feeds Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River into Washington then flows north to meet the Columbia River in British Columbia. Tri-State Water Quality Council has gathered groups from the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, and Flathead Rivers that are working in their own sub-watersheds, to make the entire river system better.

You will meet one rancher who bought 2,000 acres for conservation. An artesian spring on the land had been degraded through unwise grazing practices. That spring runs clear and cool again and the adjacent wetland is healthy and full of wildlife. Reserve a seat on October 17 to see how this far-flung partnership works to return habitat for trout and a flyway stop over for migrating birds.



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.

Skagit River is the lifeline for Salmon and eels, supports diversified farming, and brings Tribal fisherman and farmers to the table to plan restoration projects that compliment the two lifeways. This area was ditched and diked to keep fields dry for crops, beginning in the late 1800s. Tidegates hold Puget Sound waters from inundating fields leaving little of the estuary available for salmon rearing grounds. Renovating tidegate construction to allow tides to enter former field areas is underway. In one instance, dikes and ditches are being rerouted to open an unproductive farm parcel to tidal influence, returning it to estuary. Do not miss the October 17th airing of this and the other accounts of partnership building and habitat restoration.



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.