Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

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PNWWATER 139

Water Resources:

Pacific Northwest Regional Goals, 2008-2012

Over the next four years the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Resources Program will concentrate its efforts in three distinct areas. We plan to develop and deliver appropriate: (1) pollution prevention, (2) agricultural water conservation and management, and (3) watershed education/management programs that improve water resources in the Pacific Northwest. All of our programming is logic model based.

Pollution Prevention Programs

The goals of the pollution prevention programming area include: (1) creating awareness of water quality issues and alternative solutions with water users; (2) supporting current efforts by small groups to positively influence water quality; and (3) building capacity in Land Grant educators to affect change in attitudes and behaviors, concerning pollution prevention.

The outcomes expected are: (1) an enhanced awareness of mechanism of pollution, and (2) identifying the means of pollution prevention. The major audience of the educational materials and events produced by the pollution prevention program are educators and the expected outcome is that they will multiply the effect by applying the training to their programming for their clientele and stakeholders. Reduced pollution and therefore a higher quality of water for multiple user groups will be a result.

Watershed Education/Management Programs

The goals of the watershed education management programming area include: (1) educating rural residents and people in rapidly growing communities about how to maintain and protect the functions and quality of their local water bodies and natural systems, and (2) providing educational materials that are effective and well designed to meet the needs of regional watershed working groups and Extension professionals.

Outcomes expected are that an increased number of homeowners, businesses, and community groups in the Pacific Northwest will gain knowledge about natural system functions and develop the behaviors needed to protect water and land resources. There will be regionally consistent education messages that are practical, effective, and based on current scientific research. Extension faculty and staff throughout the region will be trained to disseminate accurate information in effective ways to affect changes in behavior within the larger communities.

Washington State University

Oregon State University OSU

University of Idaho
A LEGACY OF LEADING

Northwest Indian College

UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks

United States Environmental Protection Agency

CSREES Education Research Extension USDA

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
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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

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, indivudual 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.

Agricultural Water Conservation and Management

The overarching goal of this programming area is to provide regional programming to the public, Extension personnel, and state and federal partners on a variety of conservation issues and opportunities such as: irrigation management, water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery, water harvesting, water and energy linkages, and rural conservation techniques.

Outcomes expected are that citizens understand that better conservation of water resources requires an understanding of technologies, reliable local expertise, and open lines of communication between regulatory agencies and stakeholders. The anticipated outcomes of this project will be the creation of a regional network of conservation specialists, an agricultural irrigation web site for the region, and an informed public through state-of-the-art knowledge transfer of agricultural water conservation techniques that work to regional water users and decision makers.

Evaluation

Evaluation of outcomes will be accomplished by conference surveys, pre- and post- training questionnaires that are statistically analyzed using approved methodologies, and advisory committee reviews. End users using the web-based Survey Monkey procedure will evaluate fact sheets. In addition follow-up needs assessment surveys will be conducted throughout this four-year programming period as deemed appropriate.

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.