



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

# Pacific Northwest

## Regional Water Program

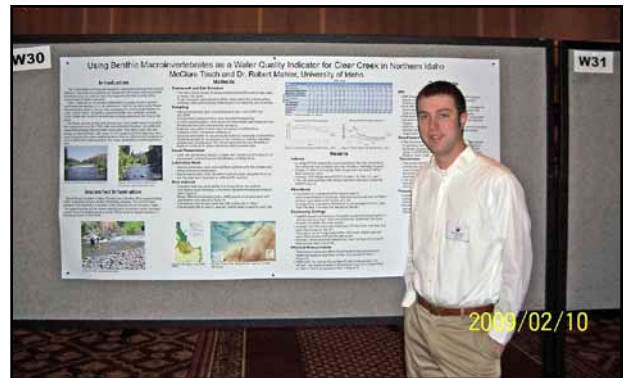
A Partnership of USDA NIFA  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Spring 2009  
PNWWATER 154

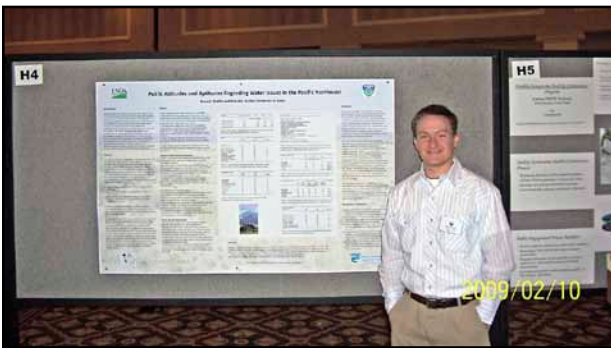
### 2009 National Water Conference:

## Highlighting Research and Extension Programs

Over 500 scientists and professionals attended the 2009 National Water Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri (February 8-12, 2009). This conference included over 300 oral and poster presentations and seven major symposia. USDA-CSREES and the nation's land grant institutions jointly sponsored this conference. Sponsoring institutions included Northwest Indian College, Oregon State University, University of Alaska, University of Idaho, and Washington State University in the Pacific Northwest. 2009 symposia topics included: (1) Applications of Climate Information at the Intersections of Agriculture and Water, (2) Protozoan Water Pathogens: *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, (3) Biofuels and Community Needs for Outreach Programs, (4) Making the Most of Your Monitoring Data, (5) Extension Youth Water Education: Expanding Community-based Outreach Efforts, (6) Green Development: LID and Beyond, and (7) Setting Sustainable and Acceptable Levels of Off-Field Nutrient Losses.



McClure Tosch, graduate student at the University of Idaho, is pictured with his poster about water quality on Clear Creek in Idaho County, Idaho.



Brian Chaffin, graduate student at the University of Idaho, is pictured with his poster on citizen views of water issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Over 30 graduate students participated in the 2009 Student Poster Competition at the National Water Conference. The officials that judged the contest noted that all entered posters were of high quality and represented outstanding research and extension efforts in water resources. The first place poster, "Changing Homeowner's Lawn Care Behavior to Reduce Nutrient Losses in New England's Urbanizing Watersheds: The Role of Social Science" was presented by Nicholas Stevenson from Plymouth State University. Mark Davis from Kansas State University placed second with "Effects of Conservation Practices on Erosion in Cheney Lake Watershed." Keely Davidson-Bennett from The Ohio State University placed third in this competition with "Water Quality in the North Fork of the Sugar Creek Watershed." McClure Tosch and Brian Chaffin, graduate students from the University of Idaho, are pictured with their posters in this Update. McClure and Brian both did outstanding jobs!

The National Water Conference had its beginning back in 2002 in Boise, Idaho. Eighty-five scientists, who served as water quality coordinators at land grant universities across the country, attended this initial meeting. In the ensuing seven years this annual conference has grown to attract over 500 professionals working in water research and extension programs across the country. We also enjoy participation from professionals that work outside the university system (government, consultants, NGOs). This meeting has become the professional meeting of choice for many water scientists across the country. In 2009 every single paper presented dealt with a water resource issue.



## 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.htm>

#### 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 Charlotte Clausing:  
360-392-4319

[cclausing@nwic.edu](mailto:cclausing@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 National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

### 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.

Specific water track sessions at the National Water Conference included the following topics: (1) agricultural best management practices, (2) conservation resource management, (3) rural environmental protection, (4) watershed assessment and restoration, and (5) the human dimension of habit change.

The Pacific Northwest states were well represented at this national water meeting. We had a one-day workshop covering water issues in our region on the first day of the conference. In addition, approximately 20 papers were presented by professionals from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Scientists who have received competitively funded National Research Initiative (NRI) Projects from the United States Department of Agriculture also met at this meeting to share ideas and their latest findings. USDA-CSREES scientist Mary Ann Rozum led this meeting. Rozum is in charge of the NRI Water Program. The University of Idaho (Dr. Ron Crawford) and the University of Alaska (Dr. William Schnabel) both have NRI funded projects that investigate pathogens in water.

Scientists participating in the USDA-led Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP) also attended several special sessions at this national conference. CEAP is a program that is evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural cost share programs that have been implemented on over 500,000 farms across the USA in the last 40 years. Specific CEAP presentations from the Pacific Northwest were provided by Oregon State University (Dr. William Gerth) and the University of Idaho (Dr. Jan Boll).

The proceedings of the 2009 USDA-CSREES National Water Conference can be found at: <http://www.usawaterquality.org/conferences/2009/default.html>. A complete index as well as all abstracts and posters presented at this meeting are available at this site.

### 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 National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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

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