



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Summer 2009
PNWATER 161

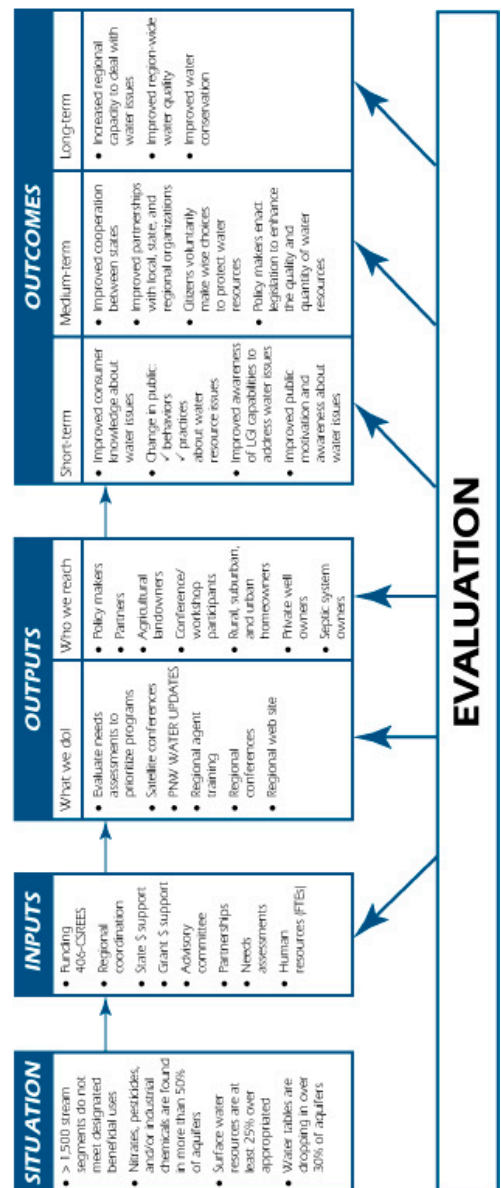
Regional Water Resources Programming: Our Logic Model

Our regional water education program in the Pacific Northwest is based on a logic model (see figure to the right). Our logic model contains a situation statement, desired educational outcomes, and the inputs and outputs needed to achieve these outcomes. This model allows us to design educational programs that have a positive impact on the region's water resources.

Situation We have both water quantity and water quality issues in the Pacific Northwest. From a water quantity standpoint we have both surface and groundwater concerns. In Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington surface water resources are at least 25 percent over-appropriated. From a groundwater viewpoint water tables are significantly dropping in over 30 percent of the region's aquifers. From a water quality standpoint over 1,500 stream segments in the region do not meet designated beneficial uses. In addition nitrates, pesticides, and/or industrial chemicals are found in more than 50 percent of our aquifers.

Outcomes Ultimately our long-term goal is to improve region-wide water quality and water quantity and to increase regional capacity to reach this end. To reach these ideal goals we need to have both short-term and medium-term outcomes. Short term outcomes include: improved consumer knowledge about water issues, changes in public behaviors and practices about water issues, improved awareness of land grant institutions to address water issues, and improved public motivation and awareness about water issues. Our medium term outcomes are: improved cooperation between states, improved partnerships with local, state and regional organizations, citizens voluntarily make wise choices to protect water resources, and to have policy makers enact legislation to enhance the quality and quantity of water resources in the region.

Inputs To accomplish our educational goals we use the following inputs: grant funding from USDA, regional coordination, state support, other grant dollar support, and partnerships. We also have an advisory committee, conduct needs assessment surveys, and count on human resources from the five land grant institutions that are part of this regional coordination effort.



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/>

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 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.

Our target audience in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington includes agricultural landowners, policy makers, conference/workshop participants, rural, suburban and urban homeowners, private well owners, septic system owners, and agency and NGO partners.

To achieve the above outputs we have developed several ways of delivering our messages through programs including: video-streamed watershed education conferences, regional research and extension conferences, PNW WATER UPDATE newsletters, regional Extension agent training, a regional web site, and needs assessments to prioritize programs.

Evaluation We continually evaluate the success of our programs using traditional and non-traditional methods. However, the ultimate evaluation must be improved water quantity and water quality in our region.



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.