



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Spring 2003
PNWWATER 013

Focus on Partners: Oregon State's CWEST

The **Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability** (CWEST) represents Oregon's water resources research community on the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Team. The Center provides a connection to the research faculty and helps sponsor the team's annual research and extension water quality conference (see orange box).

Plan to attend the 2003 Research and Extension Water Quality Conference —

Getting It Done: The Role of TMDL Implementation in Watershed Restoration.

FMI: <http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/conference2003/index.html>

CWEST 2002-2003 Water Resources Project Topics

- Stream Temperature
- Endocrine Disrupters
- Transboundary Water Conflict
- Urban Wetlands
- Water Conflict in the Klamath Basin
- Stream Flow Sources
- Nitrates in Groundwater
- Water Quality

CWEST is one of the 54 state-based water resources research centers funded by the US Geological Survey. As the Center for Oregon, CWEST serves as a hub for water resources activities in the state. For example:

- CWEST initiates and coordinates interdisciplinary water resource research projects and funds seed grants on critical water issues for the state (see green box).
- CWEST facilitates water resources education and internship opportunities such as Oregon State University's Graduate Water Resources Minor.
- CWEST sponsors regional water resources conferences and events on topics such as drinking water, stream restoration, water quality and water conflict.

One of CWEST's strengths is its interdisciplinary approach to complex water resources issues. For example, CWEST recently provided social science expertise to a study of water conflict in Oregon's Klamath Basin. During spring 2001, federal agencies shut-off irrigation withdrawals in order to prevent jeopardizing two endangered fish populations. CWEST's co-director, Denise Lach, contributed her expertise in environmental sociology to a study of the effects of the water shut-off on the basin's people and society, natural environment and economy. The study was conducted jointly by the research and extension communities at Oregon State University and the University of California – Davis.



University and agency scientists participate in a workshop on urban wetlands.



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.



Sulphur Creek running into the Yakima River. Photo printed with permission from the Washington Department of Ecology.



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.

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