



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2003
PNWWATER 023

Volunteer Monitoring Regional Workshop

Over 30 educators in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington participated in the region's first annual voluntary monitoring water quality workshop. The workshop was held July 14 and 15, 2003 at the Central Idaho 4-H Camp in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Idaho. The justification for holding this workshop was to enhance Extension's visibility as a provider of science-based education in natural resources.

The workshop was designed for educators who:

- ◆ Plan to conduct water quality training for citizens and students in the Pacific Northwest
- ◆ Plan to conduct training for groups that wish to monitor various water quality parameters
- ◆ Want to learn about water quality and resource information material available through land grant universities
- ◆ Want to increase their skills in leading water quality monitoring programs



Volunteer Monitoring Class of 2003

This workshop contained:

- ◆ A 15-hour short course on water education and monitoring
- ◆ A forum for water quality materials exchange
- ◆ An opportunity to interact with water educators from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington
- ◆ A free, 428-page educator's manual containing water quality and monitoring information

The learning objectives of the workshop were to:

- ◆ Understand water, watersheds and the beneficial uses of water
- ◆ Identify primary sources and issues surrounding drinking water and ground water
- ◆ Recognize the key indicators of surface water quality
- ◆ Learn how to develop or support a local volunteer monitoring workgroup
- ◆ Assess physical, chemical and biological water habitats and quality
- ◆ Empower citizens to protect their water quality

Invitations were sent to educators in Extension, Conservation Districts, schools, state and local environmental agencies, and NGOs. Up to 40 participants could be accommodated at the training, with room and board provided free of charge, transportation being the only cost to participants. This program was provided in collaboration with the CSREES Volunteer Monitoring National Facilitation Project.



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
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, 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.

Over 30 educators attended the workshop, with all four states being well represented. Presenters at the two-day workshop were from the four states as well as two presenters from the Volunteer Monitoring National Facilitation Project. The latter two were from Wisconsin and Rhode Island. Lectures, discussion and field demonstrations were used to get the message across.

Evaluations by the participants showed a high degree of satisfaction with the workshop, for example:

- ◆ *I really learned a lot and have so much more to learn from the manual and resources provided.*
- ◆ *I would recommend the workshop to others. Strengths were the hands-on testing and the diverse groups in attendance.*
- ◆ *Networking opportunities were the most beneficial aspects of the workshop.*
- ◆ *The workshop was well organized and science/experience based.*
- ◆ *It's awesome to be able to meet people who are working on similar issues, as such meetings can lead to collaboration between groups and a stronger program for volunteer monitoring over all.*
- ◆ *Strengths were the location, the instructors, and the content.*

The Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Team is planning to repeat the workshop next summer. For more information go to our website: <http://www.pnwwaterweb.com> or to include your name in our contact list, send an email indicating your interest to Sharon Collman at collman.sharon@epa.gov.



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.