

## EPA NEWS

### Bering Sea: New EPA Focus in Alaska

The Bering Sea is about to get some extra attention. In October, the Environmental Protection Agency selected the **Bering Sea Watershed and Pribilof Islands** as a priority area under the **Regional Geographic Initiative** program. Its selection is unique, challenging and full of opportunity.

For many Americans, Alaska and the Bering Sea are mysterious and wild places with little connection to our lives. The words may conjure up images of grizzly bears catching salmon as they leap up river rapids to spawn, killer whales explosively expelling air from blowholes as they breach the sea surface, screeching colonies of cliff nesting seabirds, and native art and dance. Certainly the image is not of despoiled and depleted resources. So why has Region 10 chosen such a place for a geographic initiative? The reasons become clearer when we consider that the Bering Sea, an ecosystem of astounding ecological, economic and cultural importance integral to the well-being of Alaska natives and millions of others throughout the United States and world, is at risk.

**Bering Sea Watershed.**

A vast area of almost a million square miles, the Bering Sea is a subarctic, northern

extension of the North Pacific Ocean, located between Alaska and Russia. It is bounded on the north by the Bering Strait and on the south by the Aleutian Islands. Near the southern edge of its vast continental shelf lies the Pribilof Islands, home to the largest Aleut community in the world and to amazingly diverse and abundant wildlife. Considered the Galapagos of the north, the islands lie as a jewel within the riches of the Bering Sea.




**Its Values.**

The Bering Sea is the most productive marine ecosystem

in the world today. It contains one of the largest eel grass beds in the world, and supports 450 species of fish, crustaceans and mollusks including 25 species of commercially harvested salmon, flatfish, cod, pollock, halibut and shellfish. This bounty supports a world class billion dollar fishing industry, contributing about 56% of all fishery production in the United States. Twenty five species of marine mammals also live and breed there. Over 43% of all seabirds in the United States depend on the region, including 50 species and 25 million breeding individuals.

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The Bering Sea also supports the largest Native population in the United States engaged in subsistence harvest, striving to maintain cultural, artistic, and religious traditions.

### ***Signs of Trouble.***

Despite its current abundance, the Bering Sea is showing signs of trouble. Commercial fisheries are shifting and catches dropping for important species, recently illustrated by catastrophic failures of the Bristol Bay salmon



fishery. Some seabird populations have declined by up to 90 percent. Eleven marine mammal species are thought to be in trouble, including the endangered Steller sea lion. As changes occur, more than economic interests and ecological values are at risk. Native peoples have depended on the Bering Sea for millennia for subsistence, cultural connection and spiritual health. As animal populations decline and fears of contaminants in traditional foods increase, the very fabric of their lives is torn. These changes are occurring quickly, within the last 20 to 50 years, and are linked to contaminants, climate change, overfishing, habitat alteration and debris.

### ***Regional Geographic Initiative Focus.***

Human impacts are not solely responsible for changes in the Bering Sea, but they contribute significantly. As global climate change results in ocean warming, as contaminants collect in animals, plants, and people, as economic factors increase fishing pressure, we can anticipate a scenario where the Bering

Sea follows the fate of other formerly abundant and "limitless" ecosystems around the world. Rethinking management strategies may help protect the world's last highly productive ocean system. If we want the Bering Sea to continue to provide economic abundance, ecological and cultural value, and support human health, *we must work together to identify our shared vision for the future and align the efforts of diverse and sometimes conflicting organizations and interests.*

The focus of the Regional Geographic Initiative is to bring all interested parties together to forge a shared vision. The purpose is to provide the basis for diverse and sometimes competing organizations to work in concert to achieve common ends and measurable environmental results. Shared visions provide the basis for win-win outcomes and define important research and guide resource management and economic development.



### ***What Is EPA Doing?***

EPA's work has already begun. In partnership with the State of Alaska, we are developing a resource document that identifies all interested parties in the Bering Sea. We helped establish the Bering Sea Initiatives Group to coordinate efforts in the Bering Sea across federal, state, native and non-profit organizations. We are participating in interagency Bering Sea workshops to develop a research plan and contributing to the U.S.

Global Change



Research Program to assess the consequences of climate change for Alaska. We are designing a web site and educational brochure. In addition, we provided grants to the Bering Sea Coalition, a native organization attempting to establish a shared vision among Alaska and Russia natives, the Pribilof Island St. Paul Tribal Council to conduct a local visioning process, and to The Nature Conservancy to help bring partners to the table.

### ***What Do We Hope to Accomplish?***

The Initiative is intended to catalyze the coordination of diverse organizations to achieve shared environmental results. Shared visions and coordinated actions are intended to: 1) clean up local contaminated sites and reduce contaminant inputs from foreign countries; 2) reduce contaminants in subsistence foods to re-establish the health and cultural connection of native peoples; 3) allocate fisheries resources for wildlife and better protect habitat that results in the removal of the Steller sea lion and other species from the endangered species list; 4) reduce fisheries failures and distribute fisheries catches better; and 5) address climate change. These are a few anticipated measurable results. Other outcomes will be defined by the Bering Sea community, a diverse collection of people and organizations who care passionately but differently about Bering Sea values.

### ***For More Information***

**Contact:** Suzanne Marcy, Ph.D., EPA, at 907/271-2895, or email [marcy.suzanne@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:marcy.suzanne@epamail.epa.gov).



## **Animal Feeding Operation Strategy to Curb Runoff**

As part of the Clean Water Action Plan, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner recently announced a draft plan to improve America's water quality and reduce public health risks associated with animal feeding operations. Public comments on the proposed **USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations** will be accepted through mid-January.

The Strategy is one of more than 100 actions President Clinton directed as part of the Clean Water Action Plan. Despite tremendous progress, 40 percent of the nation's waterways assessed by states are still unsafe for swimming and fishing. The plan identifies nonpoint sources (runoff from urban and rural areas) as the most important remaining source of water pollution and provides a coordinated effort to reduce polluted runoff. About 35,000 miles of rivers (out of 694,000 surveyed) are adversely affected by animal feeding operations.

Animal feeding operations, or AFOs, are livestock-raising operations, such as hog, cattle, dairy, and poultry farms, where animals are kept in confined situations. When not properly managed, animal waste can run off into nearby water bodies. The draft strategy addresses the resulting water quality problems of runoff polluted by excess nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens, and other compounds. Elevated concentrations of these pollutants have been associated with contamination of drinking water, crops, and animal feed, and harm to fish and shellfish.

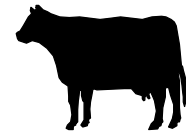
The draft strategy proposes voluntary and regulatory approaches. It establishes a

national expectation that all animal feeding operations develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans by the year 2008. These plans include manure handling and storage, application of manure to the land, record keeping, feed management, integration with other conservation measures, and other manure utilization options.

USDA and EPA estimate that 95 percent of the 450,000 animal feeding operations will be encouraged to implement voluntary comprehensive nutrient management plans. An estimated 15-20,000 livestock operations will be required to develop comprehensive nutrient management plans as part of permits under the Clean Water Act (currently about 2,000 permits have been issued). The regulatory program intends to focus activities on the largest concentrated AFOs (those with 1,000 or more animal units), AFOs with unacceptable conditions such as direct discharge into waterways, and AFOs that are significant contributors to water quality impairment within a watershed.

EPA and states will expand efforts to ensure that all permits include comprehensive management requirements, including land application conditions, and will revise regulations to support this effort by December 2001. In addition, EPA will revise national environmental guidelines to limit discharge from poultry and swine facilities by December 2001 and national guidelines for cattle and dairy facilities by 2002.

Comments on the draft strategy should be addressed to Denise C. Coleman, Program Analyst, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, ATTENTION AFO, Washington, DC 20013-2890. Copies are available from EPA's Water Resource Center at 202/260-7786, or on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/afostrat.htm>



## **Watershed Assessments Status**

Here in the Northwest and around the country, work to assess the condition of watersheds is underway as part of the Clean Water Action Plan. This plan calls upon States and Tribes to work in cooperation with federal, interstate, and local agencies, watershed-based organizations, and the public to identify watersheds most in need of restoration and to develop restoration action strategies. In June, EPA, US Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies developed a framework to assist States and Tribes in preparing these watershed assessments. States were encouraged to draw from existing water quality data and piece together what this information tells us about overall watershed conditions.

After receiving feedback on drafts from an interagency workgroup and the public, 47 States/Territories and the District of Columbia as well as eleven Tribes submitted final Unified Watershed Assessments on October 1. Here in Region 10, all four states--Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington--and about half a dozen tribes have submitted assessments. The next step will be to map the results of these assessments. A large part of the new resources available from the President's Budget in fiscal year 1999 is to implement restoration strategies targeted at watersheds not meeting clean water and other natural resource goals. For more information visit the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/owowwtr1/cleanwater/uwafinal/uwa.html>. Or, call Teena Reichgott, EPA, at 206/553-1601.

## Model Community Program Screens Water Supplies

A model program built on citizen involvement and education wrapped up this summer in south central Washington. Because of water quality concerns in the White Salmon River basin, in 1994 the Underwood Conservation District sponsored a successful grassroots initiative: the White Salmon River Watershed Enhancement Plan. A community-based partnership involving landowners, businesses, and natural resource groups formed in the interest of sustaining natural resources and contributing to long-term economic and community stability within the basin. As part of this comprehensive effort, a notable year-long effort to inventory water quality conditions took place.

Called the **White Salmon River Screening Program**, this effort offered residents a free screening of their well and spring water supplies. The screening presented an opportunity to educate the community about the importance of water quality protection and provide people with practical methods to protect local waters in their daily lives.

Participants in the Screening Program received one-on-one technical advice and information at their homes from Laurie Berkowitz, an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Conservation District. Water screening results were given to participants as part of a packet that explained what each test measured, and how that information could help an individual protect their water supply. Also included was related resource and education information. The program tested water samples for 58 families.

By incorporating education with quality controlled data collection, the Screening Program educated local landowners about protecting water quality while gathering groundwater quality data that will be used to track trends and help anticipate and prevent water quality declines. Project representatives expect that involving the public in the monitoring process will influence people to be more likely to support future water quality protection efforts. Other cooperators in the project included the White Salmon River Watershed Management Committee, Southwest Washington Health District, Klickitat Health Department, WSU Cooperative Extension, local businesses, and regional agencies. For more information, call Laurie Berkowitz at 509/493-1936.

## Sinclair Cleanup Brings Up Mounds of Trash

*The following piece highlights just one of scores of events that occurred during Washington WaterWeeks 1998. For more information about WaterWeeks call 360/943-3642 or visit [www.waterweeks.org](http://www.waterweeks.org).*

Cub scouts, divers, students, and other volunteers from around Sinclair Inlet have a success story to share. These folks rolled up their sleeves (or put on their air tanks) this September to participate in the bi-annual **Sinclair Inlet Shoreline & Underwater Cleanup**. As in past years, mounds of trash were recovered. Enough cans and bottles were collected to overload a 45-gallon recycle container. Also found were cigarette butts and other garbage, a bicycle, couch, car radiator, lawn mower, fireworks debris, and miscellaneous other items

that don't belong on shores or in waterways. The Sinclair Inlet Cleanup is a WaterWeeks Awareness Event and part of an International Coastal Cleanup hosted by the Center For Marine Conservation. Coordinators include Kitsap Diving Association, Kitsap County, Washington Sea Grant, and Sinclair Inlet Citizen's Action Committee. For more information, call Donald L. Larson, Kitsap



*Sinclair cleanup volunteers filled this dumpster to overflowing.*

Diving Association President, at 360/373-7593, or email: [dolarson@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us](mailto:dolarson@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us).

# Willamette Named American Heritage River

The Willamette River in Oregon is now officially an **American Heritage River**. Out of 126 nominations, fourteen rivers were recently awarded this designation under the President's American Heritage Rivers Initiative. This program is aimed at recognizing and rewarding local efforts to restore and protect America's rivers and riverfronts. Communities along the named rivers will get federal help implementing their plans for protecting the environmental, economic, and cultural values of the rivers. For instance, agencies will work with communities to attack pollution problems, build greenways and pedestrian paths, protect watersheds, and seek out other economic opportunities. For more information about the initiative, call John Bregar, EPA, at 206/553-1984, or 1-800-424-4EPA x1984, or email bregar.john@epa.gov. Or, visit EPA's American Heritage Rivers web site at [www.epa.gov/rivers/](http://www.epa.gov/rivers/).



## Poets, Artists...

Poets and artists ages 5-19 may be interested in the 4th **River of Words International Environmental Poetry and Art Contest**. The Library of Congress and International Rivers Network recently announced details for this year's contest. The theme is "watersheds" and the deadline is February 15, 1999. "The River of Words Project strives to give children a sense of place and belonging," said Poet Laureate and project co-founder Robert Hass. The project encourages children to explore their neighborhoods, creeks, and imaginations, while increasing awareness of the natural world and its connection to artistic expression. Judges will choose winners in four age categories for both poetry and art. One international winner, plus eight grand prize winners and their parents will win trips to Washington DC. Last year, thousands of children in 44 states and ten countries submitted works about their own natural surroundings. For entry forms and guidelines (free) contact IRN River of Words Project, PO Box 4000-J, Berkeley, CA 94704 or send email to [row@irn.org](mailto:row@irn.org), or visit [www.irn.org](http://www.irn.org).

## Lead Guide Helps Parents

To heighten awareness about lead poisoning prevention, EPA has developed **Lead in Your Home: A Parent's Reference Guide**. This guide is an essential resource for anyone---from owners to tenants---concerned about the dangers of lead in their home and environment. The guidebook provides agency recommendations on how you can reduce your family's risk of lead exposure and prevent lead poisoning, ranging from simple steps you can do now to more rigorous procedures that will permanently get rid of lead hazards in your home. The guidebook has been designed with simple Quick Tips listed at the beginning of each chapter, highlighting important information. The appendix offers a list of hotlines, organizations, and people with further information on lead related issues. For a free copy, call EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center at 1-800-424-4EPA or 206/553-1200, or visit online at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/leadpbcd.htm>.

## Water Web Site for Schools

US Geological Survey recently released its latest education-based web site called **Water Science for Schools**. Located at <http://water.usgs.gov/droplet>, the site is available for students aged 9-90 and for anyone who wants to find out more about the many aspects of water, from what it is to how we use it.

The site allows you to test your water knowledge and learn about water properties and how they are measured. It includes an interactive activity center, a picture gallery, water Q&A, charts, maps, data, and many other topics. Along with the topics, the site includes help screens, navigation guides, a water glossary, a subject search, and links to schools conducting water studies and to other sources of water information. Contact Howard Perlman, [hperlman@usgs.gov](mailto:hperlman@usgs.gov), for more information.



## Report Spotlights Northwest Environment, EPA

Free copies of EPA's very popular report, **Our Northwest Environment 1997**, are still available. This colorful 24-page booklet outlines in reader-friendly style the current trends in our local environment, while giving a glimpse of the challenging nature and mixed results of EPA's work. Learn about issues surrounding water, air, hazardous waste, and protection of ecosystems, drinking water, and food. Though a year has passed since its development, the report contains timely, valuable information about our environment, including specific information and maps for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Compelling quotes and art from children are featured throughout, as are tips on what you can personally do to help the environment. For a free copy, call our Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

## Environmental Presentation Kit Available

Attention potential speakers! Here's a resource worth checking out. **Conservation: It's About Community** is a new presentation kit now available for short-term loan from EPA. Great for use in classroom visits or for other presentations, this kit includes two 20-minute scripts (one aimed at kids sixth grade and up, the other at adults), colorful slides, and some supporting material. The kit is billed as a tool for "building localized conservation commitment." It explores the issue of environmental ethics in our everyday lives, while highlighting the work and legacy of conservationist Aldo Leopold. The kit was produced by the Aldo Leopold Foundation with support from EPA and other organizations. To borrow the presentation, call our Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

## Guide Makes Alaska Water Regs Easier

A new guidebook to help make understanding water and wastewater regulations easier for rural Alaskans is now available. Funded by EPA, the user-friendly guidebook can be a resource for Alaskan water or sewer operators frustrated with confusing regulations. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs prepared the document with the intent to help sanitation operators and managers of small, rural systems serving 25 to 1500 people. It offers a straightforward explanation of state and federal requirements and clearly outlines what small communities need to do to comply with them. To receive a copy of the **Plain English Guide to Drinking Water and Wastewater Regulations** call Cheryl Flothe, ADEC, at 907/269-7517 or email [Cflothe@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Cflothe@envircon.state.ak.us).



### November

**7-8:** Livable Communities Fair, Seattle Center, Washington. Shirley Tomasi, 206/296-0355, <http://www.scn.org/civic/livable/>.

**14:** Johnson Creek Watershed Summit, Portland, Oregon, 503/813-7537, [pw2.netcom.com/~jcwcc/summit.html](http://pw2.netcom.com/~jcwcc/summit.html).

**17-18:** Northwest Environmental Conference and Trade Show, Portland, Oregon. NW Environmental Business Council, 503/227-6361, <http://www.nbec.or/nwec/conference.html>.

**17-20:** Association of Oregon Counties, Annual Conference, Eugene, Oregon, 503/585-8351.

### December

**1-3:** Wastewater Collection System Operation and Maintenance, Auburn, Washington. Washington Environmental Training Center, 1-800-562-0858, or 253/833-9111 x3369.

**10-11:** Greening State Taxes, Seattle, Washington. Energy Outreach Center and Center for Sustainable Economy, 360/943-4595, [www.eoc.org](http://www.eoc.org).

**15-17:** Wetlands Ecology, Protection, and Restoration Course, University of Washington. Engineering Professional Programs, 206/543-5539, <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/Pepl/peplcal.html>

## Grant Funding Opportunities

### **EPA Solicits Enviro Ed Grant Proposals**

Schools, universities, not-for-profit organizations, state government education or environmental agencies, and local or tribal government education agencies are now invited to apply for **Environmental Education Grants**. This annual grants program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Past projects have included environmental career development, faculty wilderness training, wetland creation, curriculum and workshop development, science camp, and many others.

This year's applications are due to EPA by November 16. Application forms, plus more information about the grants program are available by phoning EPA toll-free at 1-800-424-4372. If you have questions after reviewing the solicitation, call Sally Hanft, Region 10's Environmental Education Grant Coordinator, at the above toll-free number or at 206/553-1207. The 1999 environmental education grant solicitation appeared in the August 25, 1998 Federal Register. Internet users can download EPA's solicitation notice, descriptions of past projects funded under the program, and information on other education resource materials. This material is available by computer at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed>. New this year is a tutorial for grant applicants, at <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm>.

### **EPA Calls for Wetland Grant Proposals**

State, tribal, and local government agencies: now is the time to submit proposals for 1999 **Wetland Protection Grants**. Grant funds may be used to develop new wetland programs or refine existing wetland programs. Projects must clearly demonstrate a direct link to improving the ability of the state, tribe, or local government to protect, restore and/or manage wetland and other aquatic resources. Grants require matching funds of at least 25% of the total project cost. Pre-proposals are due November 25. This is a competitive grant program, and successful pre-applicants will be requested to submit a final grant application. Prior to submitting your proposal, visit our website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth), click on Programs/ Offices; under Office of Ecosystems/Communities, click on Aquatic Resources. Or, contact the appropriate EPA state grant coordinator listed below.

Alaska: Mark Jen, 907/271-3411  
Idaho: John Olson, 208/378-5756  
Oregon: Yvonne Vallette, 503/326-2716  
Washington: Richard Clark, 360/753-8072

### **Sustainability Grants Will Benefit Communities, Economy, Environment**

EPA announces the 1998 **Sustainable Development Challenge Grants** program. Eligible applicants include local, state, and tribal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. Grants are intended to encourage communities to recognize and build upon the fundamental connection between environmental protection, economic prosperity, and community well-being. EPA seeks to award grants that serve as seed funding to leverage private investment and build partnerships that increase a community's long-term capacity to protect the environment and sustain a community's economic and social progress. The emphasis on strong community involvement requires a commitment to ensuring that all members of a community, of varying economic and social groups, have opportunities to participate in decision-making and benefit from successful sustainable development activities. Proposals are due November 24, 1998. For more information call Anne Dalrymple, EPA, at 206/553-0199, 1-800-424-4EPA x0199, or [dalrymple.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dalrymple.anne@epa.gov). Or visit the web site at [www.epa.gov/ecocommunity](http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity).



## Web Site Gives Community-Specific Info

EPA recently launched a new tool to help expand citizens' ability to learn about pollution in their communities. The web site, established by the Center for Environmental Information and Statistics, offers one-stop access to information about air quality, water quality, drinking water safety, hazardous wastes, and toxics releases in a specific community, all in an environmental profile report. It allows users to quickly make a map showing sources of pollution in their communities. The web site also contains a digital library of environmental quality maps and reports. Visit the web site at [www.epa.gov/ceis](http://www.epa.gov/ceis).

## Report Helps Hospitality Sectors Prevent Pollution

Hospitality covers a range of travel and entertainment-related sectors, including lodging, food service, conference centers, tour services, cultural and sporting event venues, golf courses, and parks, to name several. Numerous pollution prevention opportunities can be implemented in existing facilities, or incorporated into new facilities during design. Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center's first **P2 Topical Report** is a compendium of resources available to help those in the hospitality industry prevent

pollution. Included are web sites and publications on general topics such as building commissioning, lighting, and water efficiency, as well as sector specific resource listings. The Report is available at <http://www.pprc.org/pprc/regional/hospitalty.html>. For details call Catherine Dickerson at 206/223-1151, or [cdickerson@pprc.org](mailto:cdickerson@pprc.org). PPRC is a non-profit organization that works collaboratively with business and other sectors to identify opportunities, share ideas and catalyze projects that facilitate adoption of pollution prevention in the Northwest.

## Sustainability CDROM Now Available

A new multimedia CDROM-based training called **SUSTAINABILITY: Holistic Perspectives for the Next Century** is now available. Produced by EPA Region 10, the CDROM provides an overview of the topic of "sustainability," which may be defined as integrating environmental protection and community and economic goals. The CDROM can be used as a single-user training or as a group discussion and lecture tool. The CDROM is free but supplies are limited. [System requirements: Windows 95 system with audio capacity.] Contact Anne Dalrymple at 206/553-0199 or Tanya Webb at [webb.tanya@epa.gov](mailto:webb.tanya@epa.gov) to request a copy.

## Helpful EPA Resources

### Our Web Site:

Visit us on the internet for important and timely items of environmental concern. Whether you are seeking information about EPA programs, laws, environmental education, events, or the latest EPA news, our Home Page can help you. ([www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth))

### Our Public Environmental Research Center:

We offer free publications, posters, and classroom materials, as well as an entire library of environmental videos for kids and adults. (206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA)

### Our Library:

EPA's entire Seattle library collection is available in-house during business hours; some documents are available for checkout. The library will mail reports free of charge to anyone outside Seattle. The public can also access the OnLine Library System, EPA's national computer library network. (206/553-1289 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1289)

### Other Good Stuff:

We have other services, too---speakers, classroom visit opportunities, technical assistance, grant programs, exhibits and more. Give us a call. (206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4EPA.)



## Resource Helps Wetland Assessments

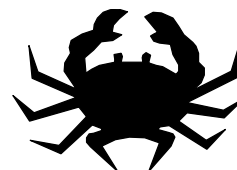
A series of ten **Wetlands Bioassessment Fact Sheets** is now available free from EPA's Wetlands Information Hotline. EPA's national Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds developed the fact sheets in response to the increasing interest among wetland and water quality professionals to develop sound methods that measure the biological condition of wetlands. Wetland biological assessments measure the health of plant and animal life within wetlands. Measuring the biological integrity of a wetland allows scientists to determine if the wetland is degraded by any chemical, physical, or biological stressor. For copies, call 1-800-832-7828.

## Gate NW Web Site Up and Running

A new web site is up and running which focuses on the **Government and Academia Team for the Environment/Northwest**. GATE/NW is an informal collaboration between government agencies (EPA and Idaho, Oregon, and Washington environmental agencies) and 23 universities throughout the region. It offers environmental hot links, internship information, and a people directory. For more information about the GATE/NW program, call Clark Gaulding, EPA, at 206/553-1849 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1849. Visit the web site at [www.epa.gov/gatenw](http://www.epa.gov/gatenw).

## Contribute to WaterTalk

You are invited to contribute items for possible publication in WaterTalk. For more information, call Andrea Lindsay, Editor, at 206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1896, or email [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov).



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Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

You are invited to contribute items for publication. Submittal deadline is the 15th day of the month preceding publication.

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To contact the **Editor**, call **Andrea Lindsay** at **206/553-1896**,  
**1-800-424-4EPA x1896**, or email: **[lindsay.andrea@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epamail.epa.gov)**.

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