



# WaterTalk

Alaska

Idaho

Oregon

Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Bulletin - EPA 910/9-92-043

July 2006

## *Puget Sound, A Northwest Place of Importance* EPA's Priority Plan



*Puget Sound is a special place of importance in the Pacific Northwest. A vibrant mix of mammals, birds, fish, and other life depends on this uniquely valuable estuary—as do countless communities of people.*

*This issue of WaterTalk begins a series of articles about Puget Sound, its environmental problems, and the work going on to solve them.*

Remarkably fragile and facing increasing pressures, Puget Sound is an estuary at risk. From the top of the food chain to the bottom, the sound's living resources are in decline. Habitat loss and shoreline changes threaten the ecosystem. Toxics and nutrients are building up in the waters and sediments of the sound.

Much work to protect this regional jewel is being done. Even so, problems are mounting more quickly than those efforts can tackle.

To help solve the environmental challenges, EPA is preparing a **Priority Plan for Puget Sound**. EPA's plan will support the *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* developed by the interagency Puget Sound Action Team.

EPA is organizing its activities around priorities set by the Puget Sound Action Team [see box]. Over the coming issues, WaterTalk will feature EPA's work on these priorities. This issue features efforts related to *reducing the harm from stormwater runoff* into Puget Sound.

### *Puget Sound Priorities:*

- Reduce the Harm from Stormwater Runoff
- Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Sediments
- Conserve and Recover Orca, Salmon, Forage Fish, and Groundfish
- Protect Shorelines and Other Critical Areas that Provide Important Ecological Functions
- Reduce Toxic Contamination and Prevent Future Contamination
- Prevent Nutrient and Pathogen Pollution Caused by Human and Animal Wastes
- Restore Degraded Nearshore and Freshwater Habitats

### *In This Issue...*



*EPA News* to update you on agency activities, pages 1-3.



*Tools* to clue you in on resources, publications, opportunities, and services, pages 3-7.



*Spotlight* to showcase success stories and environmental stars, page 7.



*Ecosystem* to provide news that goes beyond water topics, pages 9-10.



*Calendar* to highlight environmental events, page 11.

## A Puget Sound Priority: Reducing the Harm from Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater pollution is a challenging water quality problem. Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment facilities, which is caused by a discrete number of sources, stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. Rainwater and snowmelt run off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites. On the way to local waterways, that runoff picks up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and other pollutants. Stormwater runoff is our most common cause of water pollution. Because stormwater pollution is caused by so many different activities, traditional regulatory controls only go so far.

Stormwater is a watershed issue. Stormwater is related to how, where, and to what extent we develop a watershed. How we manage stormwater affects the quality and quantity of water in our streams and aquifers. Management actions and solutions cross jurisdictions, occur inside and outside of permitted areas, and are connected to almost every other water related issue.

EPA is working on a **comprehensive stormwater management strategy** for Puget Sound with state and local governments. The strategy will help identify and close gaps in the overall management of stormwater. This is a significant, proactive effort likely to bring meaningful results.

EPA and Washington Department of Ecology will continue making sure that restrictions for **stormwater discharge permits** within Puget Sound are protective. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre, municipalities within census-defined urban areas, and various industrial facilities must get "NPDES" stormwater permits. EPA is in charge of issuing permits to tribal and federal facilities in Washington. Other facilities in the state are permitted by Ecology.

### *Funding Opportunity Coming Up:*

This summer, Washington Department of Ecology will request proposals from local governments in Puget Sound for low impact development pilot projects. Ecology will have \$2.5 million to fund 5 to ten projects. Projects solicited include rain gardens, garden roofs, bioswales, impervious pavement, reducing the footprint of a building, and so on.

For details, check Ecology's webpage at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/2007/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/2007/index.html) or contact Ecology's **Dan Filip** at [dfil461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dfil461@ecy.wa.gov) or **Emily Morris** at [emar461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:emar461@ecy.wa.gov).



*Not all pollution comes out of pipes. Stormwater pollution comes from our daily activities.*

EPA also provides **grants and low interest loans** for projects that help prevent and correct stormwater pollution problems. Some projects funded in 2004 and 2005 by EPA in Puget Sound include:

- Assessing salmon mortality from urban stormwater runoff
- Designing innovative stormwater management and low impact development
- Assessing urban land cover in local watersheds
- Implementing low impact stormwater systems for community re-developments in Tacoma and Seattle

### **Whatcom County Stormwater Pilot Project:**

Knowing how water moves through their watersheds, local governments can make land use and restoration decisions that can slow the water and reduce the toxicity. EPA and the Puget Sound Action Team have joined a state task force to conduct a pilot project in Whatcom County. The project will help keep water up in the watershed and reduce current and future stormwater impacts. The task force includes the Washington Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, Community Trade and Economic Development, the Washington Association of Counties, and others.

The pilot project includes:

- 1) **Watershed Characterization:** State experts will characterize watershed processes, identifying areas which are most important to the local hydrology.
- 2) **Action Agenda:** Over the past decade there has been extensive local planning on water quality and quantity, shellfish protection, and salmon recovery.

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## Reducing the Harm from Stormwater Runoff

An action agenda will prioritize recommended actions from those existing plans that best protect the watershed.

- 3) **Community Workshop:** A workshop will be held this fall. Early results of the characterization and a draft action agenda will be presented. Participants will identify federal and state activities to support the action agenda and identify barriers. The workshop will be open to other counties.

Whatcom County borders Canada on the northeast side of Puget Sound. Its Birch Bay watershed has about 4 to 8% impervious cover and high quality streams and shellfish beds in need of protection. Typical of many small watersheds in Puget Sound, the county faces high development pressure. The county is looking to direct future growth into the watershed of Birch Bay. It is hoped that this pilot project will help Whatcom County

and other counties around Puget Sound manage development using innovative approaches which protect watersheds.

### What You Can Do To Help

You can reduce your contribution to stormwater pollution. Limit your use of pesticides, pick up after your pet, have your septic tank inspected, and recycle used oil, for example. More quick ideas can be found online. For “*A Citizen’s Guide to Understanding Stormwater*” visit: [www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/after\\_the\\_storm.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/after_the_storm.pdf). To find out how to “*Make Your Home the Solution to Stormwater Pollution*” visit: [www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution\\_to\\_pollution.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution_to_pollution.pdf). For resources to help others learn about stormwater, visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm>.

## TOOLS

### Water Efficiency Program Saves Dollars, Makes Sense



By using water-efficient products and practices, homeowners can help save natural resources and

reduce their water consumption and costs. To realize these savings, consumers need to be able to identify products and services that use less water while performing as well as or better than their less efficient counterparts.

**WaterSense**, a new voluntary public-private partnership program sponsored by EPA, is making it easy to find and select water-efficient products. WaterSense is a labeling program backed by independent testing and verification.

To label their products, manufacturers will need to verify that their products meet criteria for efficiency and performance. WaterSense will also recognize professional service programs that incorporate water efficiency.

Generally speaking, WaterSense labeled products will be about 20 percent more water efficient than the average product in the same category. Testing protocols are included to verify that products perform as well as—or better than—their less efficient counterparts.

The first place to look for the WaterSense label will be certification programs for landscape irrigation professionals. The program will allow homeowners to ask for professionals who have been certified through a program recognized by WaterSense.

Toilets—the biggest water user in the house—will be labeled next. EPA is also developing a Web registry of labeled products, which will be available on [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) later in 2006 to help consumers find water-efficient products and services.

Easily corrected household water leaks often rob consumers of eight percent of their water bill. The average household adopting water efficient products and practices can save 30,000 gallons per year – enough to supply a year of drinking water for 150 of their neighbors. For details visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

### Satellite Stormwater Conference: October 17

Mark your calendars now for October 17, the date of the next satellite/video stream conference on **Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective: Extreme Western Climates**. This is the fifth in the award-winning Watershed Issues Satellite workshops offered by the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Program. The broadcast will target stormwater management in both cold and arid climates. If you are interested in hosting a viewing site in your community, or finding out where to view this workshop, call **Jan Seago**, EPA, at **206-553-0038** or e-mail [seago.jan@epa.gov](mailto:seago.jan@epa.gov). Updates are available at [www.pnwwaterweb.com](http://www.pnwwaterweb.com).

## Wadeable Stream Assessment Survey Released

EPA recently released the **Wadeable Streams Assessment (WSA)**. The WSA is the first consistent evaluation of the streams that feed rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Alaska and Hawaii were not included in the report but have pilot projects underway. "Wadeable streams" are those which are shallow enough to be adequately sampled without a boat. They are an important natural resource that has been under-sampled in the past.

The study was conducted between 2000 and 2004. 1,392 sites were selected to represent the condition of all streams that share similar ecological characteristics in various regions. The survey found that stream conditions vary widely across the diverse ecological regions of the country. In general, streams in the West were found to be in the best condition.

The WSA is part of a series of surveys to evaluate all of the nation's waters. Coastal condition has already been evaluated. During the next five years, EPA will sample the condition of lakes, large rivers, and wetlands. Then the process will be repeated to provide ongoing comparisons and to point to possible future action. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/owow/streamsurvey](http://www.epa.gov/owow/streamsurvey).


## Public Meeting: Designated Uses, Use Attainability Analyses

*Seattle, July 31 - August 1*

The Water Environment Federation and EPA are co-sponsoring a public meeting on designated uses and use attainability analyses. The meeting will be held July 31-August 1, in Seattle. The session will focus on **water quality standards** regulations, policy, and practices related to designated uses and use attainability analyses. The meeting will provide a forum for the public to join in discussions, ask questions, and provide feedback.

An optional session on the basics of designated uses as they apply to water quality standards is set for July 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This session will provide basic background important to understanding discussions about designated uses, use attainability analyses, and alternatives to changing uses. Details on registration, the agenda, and logistics are at [www.tetratex-ffx.com/stakeholders](http://www.tetratex-ffx.com/stakeholders). If you have questions, contact **Patricia Harrigan** at 202-566-1666 or e-mail [harrigan.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:harrigan.patricia@epa.gov).

## Water Use... Did You Know?



A century ago, the average American used only about 10 gallons of water a day to drink, cook, clean, and bathe. Today Americans use 100 gallons a day per person on average.

At the same time the average American household spends only \$474 per year on water and wastewater charges, yet spends an average of \$707 per year on carbonated soft drinks and other noncarbonated refreshment beverages.

For more factoids, articles, guides and case studies aimed at improving the management and sustainability of water systems, visit EPA's webpage on Sustainable Water Infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at: [www.epa.gov/water/infrastructure](http://www.epa.gov/water/infrastructure).

## Looking for Education Materials?

If you are looking for environmental education materials and funding sources, EPA's **Environmental Education Clearinghouse** may be the answer. This clearinghouse is your online tool to locate materials and funds available from hundreds of organizations in the Northwest. The resources have been sorted by audience, resource type, and subject.



For a simple search, just type a keyword into the search field. For more specific results, check the keywords indicating the resources you are interested in, and click "Find." The list you receive tells where you can obtain the resources (most are free!). To access the clearinghouse online, visit: [www.epa.gov/r10earth/clearinghouse/](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/clearinghouse/). For more information, call EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center at 206-553-1200 or 800-424-4372.

## Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Programs Coming Soon

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington have now completed an extensive Source Water Assessment process. This process was designed to identify drinking water sources and ways to protect them. The states have shared information on source water protection with the owners and operators of public water systems—including specific ideas on how systems can better protect drinking water sources from contamination.

However, needed changes usually cost money, money that many water systems do not have at hand. That's where the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** program can help.

Each year EPA awards DWSRF capitalization grants to the four Region 10 states. Alaska and Idaho each receive about \$8 million, Oregon gets around \$12 million, and Washington about \$17 million. Most of each grant is used to provide low interest loans for infrastructure projects. However, up to 31% of each DWSRF grant can be set aside to fund various types of non-infrastructure assistance to public systems.

Idaho and Oregon are now setting up Drinking Water Source Protection grant programs. These two states will use a portion of the DWSRF set aside funds to provide small grants to public water systems. Those

systems can use the funds to carry out fixes recommended in the Source Water Assessments, or Source Water/Wellhead Protection Plans. While both programs are in the planning phase, below are examples of activities that are eligible for funding under similar grant programs in other states:

- Education on septic system maintenance
- Wellhead protection signage
- Spill containment equipment
- Monitoring wells
- Closure of abandoned wells, septic systems, underground tanks
- Fencing, lights, and berms around wellhouses
- Rebates for low pressure showerheads and water conserving toilets
- Buffer zones to protect lakes against runoff
- Many others

To keep up-to-date on program status, or for other questions about Drinking Water Source Protection, contact **Jennifer Parker**, EPA, at **206-553-1900** or [parker.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:parker.jennifer@epa.gov), or **Eric Winiiecki**, EPA, at **206-553-6904** or [winiiecki.eric@epa.gov](mailto:winiiecki.eric@epa.gov). For more information about the DWSRF program, visit: [www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/index.html). Or, contact **Rick Green**, EPA, at **206-553-8504**, **800-424-4372**, or [green.richard@epa.gov](mailto:green.richard@epa.gov).

## Guidance for Preparing Ships as Artificial Reefs

EPA and the Maritime Administration have jointly released guidance on preparing ships that are to be sunk as artificial reefs. This guidance will promote consistency and help to ensure that military and commercial vessels sunk for this purpose will be environmentally sound. Verifying that the practices were followed can help support permit and certification decisions for vessel-to-reef projects. Guidance for creating artificial reefs can be found at [www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/habitat/artificialreefs/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/habitat/artificialreefs/).



## Nutrient Management Website Launched

**Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Watch** is a new web source for manure and nutrient management planning information. It provides state-by-state information and guidance related to nutrient management plans. The site is intended for the agricultural livestock industry, agencies, and agricultural service providers, but can be valuable for agriculture as a whole, the environmental community, and the general public. The site is made possible by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation through EPA funding. Visit the website at [www.cnmpwatch.com/](http://www.cnmpwatch.com/).

## Water Program Guidance Online

**National Water Program Guidance for Fiscal Year 2007** is now available online at [www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/](http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/). The guidance sets priorities for EPA's National Water Program for the coming year, outlines the strategy for meeting specific environmental goals, and identifies ways to measure progress. EPA Regions will use the guidance in working with States and Tribes to develop work plans and related materials.

## New Guidance for Affordable Drinking Water Treatment

A new guidance document can help small drinking water systems provide safe and affordable drinking water to their customers. Cost can be a serious challenge for very small systems planning to install expensive centralized contaminant-removal equipment.

The EPA document, **Point-of-Use or Point-of-Entry Treatment Options for Small Drinking Water Systems**, gives operators and officials information about treatment devices that can be installed at a consumer's tap (point of use) or on the water line to a consumer's home or building (point of entry).

The guidance describes current federal regulations. It summarizes individual state requirements and offers case studies on how small systems have worked with these treatment options. Maintenance and other issues are covered. Read the guidance at <http://epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm#two>.

## Watershed Benchmarking Tool Can Help Communities

A **Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool** is now online to help local communities. This self-assessment tool can help align urban watershed programs with water resource goals. It can help local program managers make better decisions on watershed restoration priorities and help local watershed groups encourage their local governments to adopt practices that would improve scores.



The document contains:

- the complete benchmarking tool with step-by-step guidance
- detailed profile sheets, including a case study, program tips, and resources and links
- overview of smart watershed programs, benefits, and applications for local communities
- details on restoration budgeting
- ways to adapt the tool for special community conditions.

For a free copy of the Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool, visit [www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org).

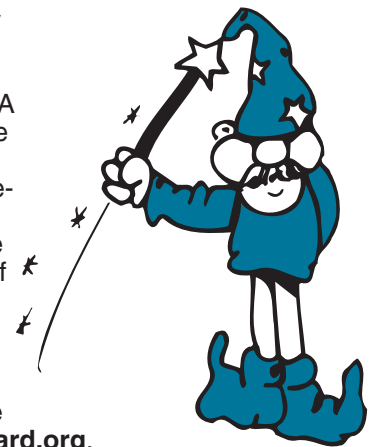
## Watershed Training Opportunities Booklet Published

The updated **Watershed Training Opportunities** booklet highlights training sponsored by EPA's Watershed Academy. The 27-page booklet provides information on live training courses, web-based training, Webcasts, documents, videos, and websites.

Copies are available at no charge from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at: 800-490-9198 (ask for document number EPA 841-B-06-001). The booklet is also on the Watershed Academy website at: [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/wtopps.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/wtopps.html).

## Tools Help Small Utilities Monitor Drinking Water

A new set of user-friendly multimedia products for small drinking-water utilities is now available. A new **Rule Wizard** website helps utilities determine federal monitoring requirements and prepare water compliance samples. The site provides a list of all of the federal monitoring requirements for a selected type and size of public drinking water system. Launch the Rule Wizard at [www.RuleWizard.org](http://www.RuleWizard.org).



A companion CD-ROM, **Interactive Sampling Guide for Drinking Water Operators**, features a video and a slide presentation. This tool shows proper sampling procedures, which users can download. Case studies are presented to help public water system owners and operators work with agencies when contaminants are detected. For the CD-ROM, call the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at 800-426-4791.

## Cool Your World with ENERGY STAR @ Home

The average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills, much of which goes to heating and cooling. With summer here and energy costs high, you might be looking for ways to cool your home, stay comfortable, and save money. When you reduce the amount of energy used in your home, you save money on energy bills, and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by burning fossil fuels to make that electricity. That also reduces the risks of global warming and protects our environment for future generations.

Explore the **ENERGY STAR @ home Interactive Tool** to find ideas to help cool your world! EPA has designed

this tool to bring you the best information on how to save energy and protect the environment. We offer advice on home sealing, what products to buy, and everyday energy-saving tips. Visit:

[www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products\\_at\\_home](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products_at_home)

Go to the ENERGY STAR @ home Tool!



## National Estuaries Day: September 30



### Mark your calendars!

**National Estuaries Day** is set for September 30, 2006. The featured event of this celebration is **EstuaryLive**, a free, interactive field trip of special estuaries over the internet. It is hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Estuarine Research Reserves and EPA. You can register on the website beginning in August to view the 2006 EstuaryLive program.

Estuaries are the places where rivers meet the sea. These bays, sounds, lagoons and sloughs are enjoyed by boaters, swimmers, hikers and bird watchers. They are essential to the U.S. economy for commercial fishing and tourism. Estuaries buffer uplands from flooding and help protect coastal communities from severe storms. Our actions—even far from the coast—impact the health of our estuaries and ultimately our water quality, food supply, and livelihoods. To learn more visit <http://estuaries.gov>.

## *Alaska Student Gets Award from US President for Stream Protection*

When sixth grader Marit Hartvigson saw her fellow students collecting water samples along Slikok Creek, she knew she had to put a stop to such destructive behavior. What young Hartvigson noticed that others had not, was the stream bank erosion caused by frequent trips to the creek. Five years later, Hartvigson is being honored by the President of the United States for bringing her community together to protect the stream.

Hartvigson is one of ten recipients of the 2006 **President's Environmental Youth Award**. President Bush and EPA Administrator Steve Johnson presented the award to Hartvigson at the White House in April.

In high school, Hartvigson began to plan a solution to the problem she observed as a sixth grader. With the help of government agencies, Mike's Welding, and Kenai River Sportfishing Association, she coordinated a volunteer effort to raise \$14,000, and engineer, permit, and construct a platform for creek monitoring. While



planning the project, access to the original sampling location became unavailable. Hartvigson worked with the community to gain access to state land, erect the stream protecting platform, and ensure the future of the stream monitoring program.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program — celebrating 35 years of recognizing student excellence and achievement — has both a regional certificate program and a national awards competition. Regional certificates from the President are awarded by each of the ten EPA regions. One outstanding project from each region is presented with a Presidential plaque at an EPA sponsored award ceremony. Youth of any age - from kindergarten through high school - can enter as individuals, or as a group. Young people are invited annually to participate. The awards program is aimed at encouraging individuals, school classes, summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness and positive community involvement. For details or application information, contact **Sally Hanft**, EPA, at **206-553-1207**, **800-424-4372**, or **hanft.sally@epa.gov**.

To sign up for WaterTalk electronically by list-serv, go to [www.epa.gov/region 10](http://www.epa.gov/region10).

Visit WaterTalk online at [www.epa.gov/r10earth/watertalk.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/watertalk.htm)



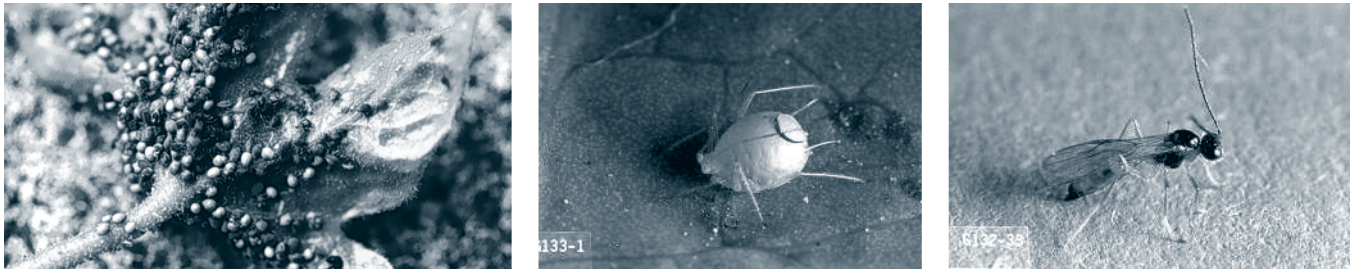
## Beneficial Landscaping: Beneficial Insects – Wanted *Alive*, Part 2

Fetch your hand lens – see the trap doors! Sharon Collman, entomologist and WSU Snohomish County Extension agent, gives us the second installment in our series on beneficial insects...

### *Insects Working for You*

Sharon J. Collman, WSU Snohomish County Extension

In Part 1, we left you relaxing in the garden with a beverage-of-choice while watching insects flit about in pursuit. Many are **pollinators** necessary for a good harvest, or even for seed pods for arranging and craft work. Others are **predators** (they physically consume pests) or **parasitoids** (like a parasite, but these kill their hosts rather than just live in them). So perhaps you've run into a few more insects you weren't sure about. Here are more good things to watch for:



The little bumps above are aphid mummies, or aphids that have been parasitized by a small (non-stinging) parasitoid wasp. When the mummies are abundant, and the trap door hasn't yet opened releasing the wasp, you can snip them from the leaf and move them about the garden by pinning the leaf pieces with mummies near other aphid outbreaks.



Ground beetles and centipedes **feed on** cutworms, slugs and other **garden pests**. They are active at night and hide under rocks, sod, or debris by day.

Then there's the clean-up crew, the **decomposers**. These feed mostly on decaying organic matter. They are the millipedes (hard shell, many legs, coils up when disturbed), sowbugs (can't roll up) and pillbugs (curl into a pill-like ball).



*"When you kill a beneficial insect, you inherit its work." Dr. Carl Huffaker, Univ. Calif.*

For more information about Beneficial Landscaping, contact **Elaine Somers** at 206-553-2966, 800-424-4372, [somers.elaine@epa.gov](mailto:somers.elaine@epa.gov), or visit the website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth/bl.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bl.htm).

## *Birds to Get Safer, Cleaner Feeding Grounds*

Migrating waterfowl winging their way across Idaho's Panhandle will have a safe new place to rest and feed. The new haven is the result of an innovative Conservation Easement agreement among EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and a willing private property owner.

The agreement covers about 400 acres in the Coeur d'Alene River valley near Medimont, Idaho. More than a century of mining has contaminated the sediments of the Coeur d'Alene River, nearby lakes, and wetlands. The sediment has high levels of cadmium, lead, zinc, and other metals. Waterfowl often eat lead-contaminated sediment and suffer serious toxic effects or die. An annual "die off" of waterfowl has taken place in the area for decades.

The agencies will begin cleaning up the area this year, converting the existing agricultural land to clean feeding habitat. In coming years, FWS proposes to do a wetland restoration project at this site. By returning the area to a more natural state, the partnership predicts it will be an attractive feeding area and safer habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. The property will continue to be privately owned and will not be open to the public. For details, contact **Anne Dailey**, EPA, at 206-553-2110, 800-424-4372, or [dailey.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dailey.anne@epa.gov).



## *Environmental Educational Grants in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska Total nearly \$188,000*

As part of its ongoing effort to help improve environmental education in the Pacific Northwest, EPA recently awarded grants for a total of \$187,900, to twelve top environmental educational programs in the Northwest. The grants were awarded to local organizations, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools and universities whose projects strive to increase people's knowledge and awareness about the environment. The awards are as follows:

### **Alaska**

- Calypso Farm and Ecology Center: Schoolyard Garden Initiative - \$10,000
- Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council - "Reduce the Use" Campaign - \$17,682

### **Idaho**

- Friends of the Teton River (FTR) - Blackfoot Farms Classroom Project - \$10,584
- Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, Inc. - Building a Water-Conscious Moscow - \$14,805
- The University of Idaho - Growing What Works: A Graduate Residency & Outreach Program in Environmental Education - \$26,708

### **Oregon**

- Institute for Applied Ecology - Native Comeback Initiative: A Stewardship Project Pairing Schools and Prairies for Reintroduction of Endangered Plant Species - \$11,000
- Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center - Opal Creek Native Youth Careers Project - \$13,840
- Oregon State University - Change Teacher Workshops - From Information to Action - \$11,000
- Wolfree - Madras High School Research and Stewardship Project - \$10,000

### **Washington**

- Pacific Science Center - Lake Washington Watershed Internship Program Expansion - \$16,500
- Seattle Audubon Society - Finding Urban Nature (FUN) for School Grades 2-5 - \$13,882
- Washington State University - Pre-Service Environmental Education Project (PEEP) - \$31,899

For details on this annual program, contact Sally Hanft, EPA, at 206-553-1207 or 800-424-4372 x1207, or email [hanft.sally@epa.gov](mailto:hanft.sally@epa.gov). Or, visit [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants/html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants/html).



# CALENDAR



### **July 19**

EPA Watershed Webcast: Watershed-Based Permitting and NPDES, info and registration at [www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts/](http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts/).

### **July 25-27**

AQUATOX Training Workshop (computer model for aquatic ecosystems), Olympia, WA, [www.epa.gov/waterscience/models/aquatox/training/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/models/aquatox/training/).

### **July 31 - August 1**

EPA Public Meeting on Designated Uses and Use Attainability Analyses, Seattle, WA. **Patricia Harrigan**, EPA, 202-566-1666, [harrigan.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:harrigan.patricia@epa.gov).

### **August 4**

Deadline for applications for Watershed Stewardship Training in King County, Washington State University, 206-205-3203, [www.king.wsu.edu/enviro/stewardship.htm](http://www.king.wsu.edu/enviro/stewardship.htm).

### **August 10-11**

Renewables & Energy Efficiency Conference, Seattle, WA. Law Seminars International, 800-854-8009, [www.lawseminars.com](http://www.lawseminars.com).

### **September 15**

Deadline for contributions to the October issue of WaterTalk. **Andrea Lindsay**, Editor, 206-553-1896, 800-424-4372, [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov).

### **September 19-20**

Meeting the Challenge: Invasive Plants in PNW Ecosystems, Seattle, WA, 206-685-8033, <http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/invasives/homepage.htm>.

### **September 30**

National Estuaries Day, <http://estuaries.gov>.

### **October 17**

Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective: Extreme Western Climates, Satellite/Video Stream Conference, PNW Regional Water Program, **Jan Seago**, 206-553-0038, [seago.jan@epa.gov](mailto:seago.jan@epa.gov), [www.pnwwaterweb.com](http://www.pnwwaterweb.com).

### **October 25-27**

Communities Working for Healthy Watersheds, Seaside, OR. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, [www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB).



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# WaterTalk

Alaska Idaho Oregon Washington

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## ***In This Issue . . .***

**Reducing Harm from  
Stormwater**

**Tools, Tools, Tools**

**Environmental Ed  
Stuff**

**Insects, Working for  
You**

**Events**

***And More . . .***