WaterTalk Newsletter, February 2000

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

In This Issue:

Earth Day 2000: Thirty Years Later

It was a paradigm shift toward earth stewardship. That monumental **Earth Day** "teach in" in 1970 did not just happen, though. Decades of industrial growth and prosperity had reared its ugly side several times in the decades before the first Earth Day.

In October 1948, a suffocating cloud of industrial gases and dust from a zinc smelter descended upon the community of Donora, Pennsylvania, killing 20 residents and sending 7,000 people (half the population) to the hospital with difficulty breathing. In 1969, the Cuyahoga River, polluted with volatile chemicals, caught fire in Cleveland, Ohio.

Closer to home, Oregon's Willamette River, the nation's 12th largest, was ranked as one of the most polluted. Also in the 60's, Lake Washington in Washington State was so polluted, some beaches were closed for swimming.

Not until citizens joined together 30 years ago -- politician, business leader, student,

homemaker, and other everyday folks -- did the environmental consciousness of our nation bring about substantial change.

For three decades the United States has enacted laws to protect the air, water, land, and human health. Agencies have been created to help protect the environment on the federal, state and local level. Groups of citizens have banded together forming environmental organizations to be the watchdogs of government and business, and to make their own strides towards preserving the environment. Each step forward can be attributed to individuals who have made being a steward of the earth a part of their everyday lives.

On this anniversary of the first Earth Day, we can celebrate our progress and resolve to remember the past and protect the future.

Celebrate Earth Day 2000

People will be celebrating **Earth Day** this year in every corner of the Pacific Northwest, from small community celebrations to a gathering of thousands at the Seattle Center in Washington. Earth Day is officially recognized on April 22, but events are taking place on other days as well.

For a list of events near you, visit EPA Region 10's web site at www.epa.gov/r10earth. Click on “Index” then click on “E” for “Earth Day in the Pacific Northwest.” You can also visit the national EPA Earth Day Home Page at www.epa.gov/earthday/ for lots more information.

WATERWORDS

Clean Water Action Plan Update

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the White House asked federal agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to help revitalize the nation's commitment to our valuable water resources. The result was the **Clean Water Action Plan**. This initiative will give us cleaner water by strengthening public health protections, targeting watershed protection efforts at high priority areas, and providing communities with new resources to control polluted runoff and enhance natural resource stewardship. For more information, visit EPA’s Clean Water Action Plan website at www.cleanwater.gov.

Local Watersheds Showcased

Among the many assignments to federal agencies under the Clean Water Action Plan was the

direction to "...showcase the application of stream corridor restoration technology in 12 demonstration project areas for water quality improvement." Final selections were made in 1999.

Three watersheds in Region 10 are among the showcases: Duck Creek in Alaska; McCoy Creek Watershed in Oregon, and the Duwamish-Green River Watershed in Washington. The sites were selected for their ability to showcase the application of stream corridor restoration technology and for improving the community, the environment, and water quality as endorsed in the Clean Water Action Plan. To learn more about these watersheds, visit the website which celebrates these successful projects as examples of accomplishments through restoration: www.epa.gov/owow/showcase/.

Bringing Salmon Back to Rogue River Basin

River Network, a Portland-based conservation organization, received an EPA Watershed Assistance Grant in 1999. In turn, the River Network offered grants to help communities protect and restore their watersheds. The following story highlights one project funded by River Network.

Plans are being developed to find ways to ensure that salmon and steelhead trout can once again return to waters in the Rogue River basin to migrate, spawn, and rear. Today there are over 800 physical barriers that prevent fish from returning to their historic habitats. These barriers range from large dams, to gravel "push-up" dams put in place for seasonal irrigation, to culverts and bridges.

The Rogue Basin Coordinating Council received a grant from River Network in 1999. The Council team is wasting no time using these funds to identify, prioritize, and develop a plan to address these barriers. The team is made up of representatives from private, state, local, and federal natural resource, environmental and enforcement partners. Each team member brings special expertise and knowledge to the council. As a result the team is off and running.

Since the council began tackling the issue in September 1999, they already have developed criteria for prioritizing which barriers should be addressed first. And the council is well on the way to identifying steps to be taken over the next 5-10 years to remove or modify fish barriers. The first project begins this summer. The council's efforts represent a key first step in a long process that hopes to bring back salmon and steelhead trout to the basin.

For more information on the Rogue Basin Coordinating Council's efforts, contact Rose Marie Davis at 541/734-3143.

New Curbs on Storm Water Runoff Announced

EPA recently announced completion of another significant action under the Clean Water Action Plan---a new rule to protect America's drinking water and waterways by curbing storm water runoff. The new regulation will reduce storm water runoff from construction sites between one and five acres and municipal storm sewer systems in urbanized areas serving populations of less than 100,000. This new storm water rule builds on the existing program to control storm water runoff from municipalities with populations greater than 100,000 and 11 industrial categories, including construction disturbing over five acres. For a copy of the final **Storm Water Phase II Rule**, visit http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2/ on the Internet.

On February 15, the American Public Works Association, with a grant from EPA, will present a satellite video conference on the Phase II rule. For downlink and registration information, see http://www.apwa.net/education/workshops/stormwater.htm.

EPA NEWS

Wastewater Program Involves Communities

EPA Region 10 is moving into the year 2000 with new ways to get communities and other stakeholders engaged in the wastewater permitting process. A lot has been happening with community outreach in the NPDES Program, particularly in Idaho and Alaska. Some examples of activities are highlighted below.

NPDES stands for “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.” It is the main permitting system under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), which governs all discharges to the nation’s surface waters. NPDES permits set limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be released into waterways by industries and municipalities.

In Alaska

Last year, EPA Region 10 hosted meetings with Tribes in the Kenai Peninsula area of Alaska. The meetings were held to discuss the reissuance of NPDES permits for two facilities (Tesoro Refinery and Unocal), and a municipality (the City of Soldotna). Issues ranged from specific concerns about permit limits to more complex, wide-reaching concerns. These included concerns about regulatory and jurisdictional authorities, the role of the Tribes in the NPDES permitting process, and concerns about beluga whale and other animals’ habitat. Facility tours were held after both meetings, giving attendees the opportunity to see the refinery equipment and how waste is managed. EPA and the Tribes plan to schedule future meetings to continue this discussion and begin identifying ways to work the most effectively together.

In Idaho

EPA held a Wastewater Permit Workshop in Pocatello, Idaho on January 5, 2000. Nearly 50 people attended to learn about the NPDES permit process and discuss the draft permit for the FMC Corporation. Attendees raised many issues about industry, the permit extension process, and enforcing environmental regulations. More hearings on the proposed wastewater permit for FMC will be held in March.

Hatcheries

Did you know there are 350 fish hatcheries in EPA Region 10? Last year, EPA issued a general NPDES permit for hatcheries ("aquaculture facilities") in Idaho. In 2000, it plans to issue general permits for all hatcheries in Alaska and for federally-run hatcheries in Washington. EPA plans to send an "Aquaculture Bulletin" to hatchery owners and operators and other stakeholders next month. The bulletin will provide updates on permitting activities, as well as the environmental reasons behind regulating hatcheries. Hatchery workshops and public hearings are planned for summer 2000, exact dates and locations to be announced. Stay tuned for more information in the May issue of WaterTalk.

For more information about NPDES Program activities, contact Debbi Packard, EPA, at 206/553-0247 or 1-800-424-4372, or email packard.debra@epa.gov.

Hard Rock Mining Source Book for Review

EPA Region 10 is pleased to announce a new draft report entitled ***EPA and Hard Rock Mining: A Source Book for Industry in the Northwest and Alaska***. Region 10 is soliciting public comment on this draft report, generally referred to as the *Mining Source Book*, until March 31.

Hard rock mining plays an important role in the U.S. economy, particularly in rural areas. Mining projects, however, are generally very complex, often controversial, and may be subject to permit requirements by a host of state, federal and local agencies. Consequently, permitting of new mines can be difficult and time consuming.

The *Mining Source Book* has been developed to streamline the permitting and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. It clearly explains EPA's duties and authorities for the permitting of new mines. It also summarizes the typical information and analysis needed to support Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting and NEPA disclosure. This is based on our experience permitting and reviewing proposed mining projects, as well as our experience following up on unexpected conditions that have arisen at operating mines in the Northwest and Alaska. This draft document intends to respond to concerns raised by the

mining industry that EPA's requirements are not well understood and are not articulated early in the process, thus leading to increased costs and delays. Our hope is that this document will result in more timely and better informed decisions on proposed projects.

The report explains, in plain English:
-the CWA's wastewater discharge permitting process;
-the CWA's Dredge and Fill permit process;
-EPA's role in associated NEPA analyses for new mining projects;
-a summary of the Endangered Species Act and Clean Air Act requirements;
-a discussion of information that Region 10 generally needs to complete the CWA permitting and NEPA processes.

Technical appendices review available methods for developing this information. This document should make it easier for applicants to plan for gathering this information early in the mine exploration and pre-development stages. We also believe that the *Mining Source Book* will help other agencies involved with permit processes for new mines understand how respective jurisdictions may overlap and can be better coordinated. Lastly, we hope that the public and all stakeholders in new mine development would find the *Mining Source Book* of help in evaluating and minimizing environmental impacts of new mining projects.

The draft report can be found on the web at www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm. For a copy, contact Bill Riley, Mining Coordinator, at 206/553-1412 or toll free at 1-800-424-4EPA, or email riley.william@epa.gov. Comments should be mailed by March 31, 2000 to Mr. Riley via email, or to EPA Region 10, OW-135, 1200 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101. Region 10 intends to finalize the document next fall.

EPA Bans Two Types of Waste Disposal Wells

In an effort to better protect ground water quality, EPA now prohibits construction of *motor vehicle waste disposal wells* and *large-capacity cesspools*. These new Underground Injection Control (UIC) program regulations take effect April 5, 2000.

EPA implements UIC regulations directly in Alaska and on Tribal Lands. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington have their own state UIC regulations and programs. These state regulations are modeled after the federal ones, and include particular provisions for protection of ground water quality in those states.

Motor vehicle waste disposal wells are commonly septic systems or drywells which receive waste fluids from floor drains, shop sinks, and other vehicle servicing areas. Sampling across the U.S. has documented that this kind of shallow injection well is likely to contain contaminants found in solvents, fuels, lubricants, and coolants in concentrations that exceed drinking water standards. And it's not uncommon for fluids from shop floor drains to contain

contaminants in concentrations above the hazardous waste threshold.

Discharges from motor vehicle disposal wells have caused significant soil and ground water contamination at some facilities. And they almost always present owners/operators with an unwanted and unnecessary environmental liability.

Proper closure of motor vehicle servicing wells can be simple or complex, depending upon the facility and its hydrogeologic setting. To ensure that these disposal wells are closed in a manner which prevents future ground water contamination, the new regulations specify that the UIC program be contacted at least 30 days prior to closure. Guidance about how to prepare a closure plan for EPA or state review can be obtained from the contacts listed below.

Cesspools are an outdated form of sewage disposal where untreated sanitary waste is placed into drywells. *Large-capacity cesspools* are defined as those which serve multiple residences or a non-residential facility of 20 or more people per day. New cesspools of all sizes have been prohibited, and existing ones phased out, in most jurisdictions across the U.S. since they often pose a threat to ground water quality.

For more information, visit EPA Region 10's website at www.epa.gov/r10earth/water, and click on UIC. Once there, it's easy to link to state UIC primacy programs, order a video about shallow industrial injection wells (including motor vehicle waste disposal wells), and more. Program contacts are listed below.

Tribal Lands: Craig Paulsen, EPA, 206/553-4350
Washington: Mary Shaleen-Hanson, Dept. of Ecology, 360/407-6143
Oregon: Barbara Priest, Dept. of Environmental Quality, 503/229-5945
Idaho: Scott Anderson, Dept. of Water Resources, 208/327-7956
Alaska: Jonathan Williams, EPA, 206/553-1369

SPOTLIGHT

Girl Scout Water Patch Project Unveiled

EPA recently unveiled a new **Water Drop Patch Project**, a collaborative effort between the Girl Scouts of the USA and EPA. The project, which began as a pilot in the Washington, D.C. area, is now national. The project includes twenty different watershed activities in which Girl Scouts can get involved. Once they complete a requisite number of activities, Girl Scouts earn a water drop patch to wear on their uniforms. The purpose of the project is to encourage girls to:

-make a difference in their communities by becoming watershed and wetlands stewards;

-use their skills and their knowledge to educate others in their community about the need to protect the nation's water resources; and
-explore the natural world to gain an interest in science and math.

To assist with the program, EPA published a Water Drop Patch Project booklet with detailed background information on watersheds, polluted runoff, wetlands, groundwater, and drinking water. The booklet, and other information, is available on EPA's Web Page at http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch.

Help for Tribal Drinking Water Programs

EPA Region 10 currently works with 41 Indian tribes to regulate the drinking water program on Indian Lands. It is widely viewed that helping tribes to develop their own utility program is the single most effective effort that EPA has done in the 12 years of directly implementing the drinking water program on tribal lands. A viable tribal utility program reflects the tribe's investment in its drinking water facilities, identifies the actual cost of delivering safe water to the tap, and defines the roles and responsibilities of the tribal utility for the tribal residents.

To help develop tribal utility programs, EPA Region 10 and the Portland Indian Health Service offer a comprehensive technical assistance program. This technical assistance program is highly successful and serves as a national model for effectively building tribal capacity and achieving safe drinking water supplies on Indian Lands. It is available to all Region 10 tribes, as well as non-tribal water systems on Indian Lands, at no charge. It offers:

-circuit riders to help with operation, management, and compliance issues,
-hands-on apprentice training,
-training for operator certification, and
-workshops on a technical and management subjects.

In addition, this program assists tribes developing "enterprise" utility organizations. An enterprise utility organization functions as a business, although it does not necessarily involve assessment of water user fees, if the tribe chooses to identify other ways to fund the utility. This type of utility organization either directly brings in enough revenues to support the drinking water system, or is funded by the tribe through alternative means.

Results of this program include:
-60% of R10 tribes now have some type of utility board.
-40% have hired tribal utility managers.
-40 of approximately 100 tribal water operators are certified.
-22 others are enrolled in the water operator certification training program.
-87% of 1998 tribal Consumer Confidence Reports were completed, compared with compliance levels of about half this rate for state-regulated water systems.

These numbers show that Region 10 Tribes are committed to providing safe drinking water to their communities and to developing their capacity to ensure safe drinking water for the future. And EPA is committed to helping this happen. For more information, call Craig Paulsen, EPA, 206/553-4350 or 1-800-424-4EPA x4350 or email paulsen.craig@epa.gov.

Washington's Loan Program Addresses Dairy Waste

Last August, WaterTalk introduced the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This funding program offers eligible communities, individuals, citizen groups, and agricultural and nonprofit organizations access to low-interest loans. The Fund can help finance virtually any type of water quality project. This issue, we highlight how Washington is using some of the fund monies to deal with dairy waste.

Since its inception, the **Washington Clean Water State Revolving Fund** has reserved a portion of the funds it has available for loans each year to finance nonpoint source water quality projects. In 1998, the Fund made another innovative loan aimed directly at addressing a difficult nonpoint source water quality problem in the state---water pollution related to runoff from dairies.

The program entered into a $1,500,000 loan agreement with the Washington Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission negotiated a contract with Darigold, a cooperative owned by dairy farmers in Washington---over 90% of the state's 830 dairies are member-owners of Darigold. The contract would help give interest-free loans to dairy farmers to implement practices to protect water quality identified in individual farm plans.

Individual dairy operators get applications from their conservation district and submit them to Darigold. If the applicant "passes" credit checks and security verification, the conservation district then makes sure that the applicant has completed a farm plan that addresses dairy waste management issues. The conservation district also verifies that the proposed project will implement the farm plan.

A Department of Ecology Dairy Waste Inspector makes a site visit at this point, and verifies that the applicant is not a CAFO (a large operation subject to additional regulatory requirements). If this last test is passed, then the Conservation District board would normally approve the loan application. The Commission ranks all pending applications and notifies loan applicants, Darigold, and the conservation districts of approvals. Darigold then sends papers to the applicants and the loans are signed and executed.

Once loans are executed, the dairy farmers begin implementing their farm plans in coordination with conservation district personnel. When allowable costs are incurred, the farmers submit bills through the conservation districts for payment. Darigold initiates loan repayments from the milk checks due to that dairy once a project is completed. Repayments

are accumulated in a holding account until a periodic loan repayment to Ecology's Revolving Fund is due.

For more information about the State Revolving Fund, contact Michelle Tucker, EPA, at 206/553-1414 or 1-800-424-4372, or email tucker.michelle@epa.gov.

TOOLS

Temperature Standard To Protect Salmon

The last issue of WaterTalk discussed a new, two-year long project to develop a temperature standard. EPA, along with other state and federal agencies, will develop water quality criteria to make sure rivers and streams are cold enough to support salmonids. The next issue of WaterTalk, in May, will give you more information on how to become involved. In the meantime, for details, call Dru Keenan at 206/553-1219 or 1-800-424-4372, or email keenan.dru@epa.gov.

Stream Temperature on Internet

A new Internet site for stream temperature data has been developed by EPA Region 10. The **In-Stream Temperature Data Web Site** can help users get and analyze stream and river temperature data in the Pacific Northwest.

The site contains data about stream monitoring activities in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. For each monitoring location a user can determine what type of temperature monitoring was performed, how long data was recorded, and who to contact regarding the data. The databases are constructed by sub-basin (USGS HUC) and can be accessed by using either a hierarchical text listing or graphically through the use of state maps.

All of the data on the site was submitted voluntarily by the original collectors. The primary source of data was a consultant who solicited data from various agencies and individuals under contract to EPA. Other data came from past EPA projects and the EPA's STORET database. There are over 3500 stations in the database, with more submittals being added daily. Currently, data for the HUC's in the upper Columbia River basin are viewable. Data for central Oregon, the Snake River, and the Willamette Valley will be 'turned on' during the winter of 2000 as they are completed. Data for the coastal areas of Oregon and Washington, including Puget Sound, will be added in Spring of 2000. The site address is: http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/data/sdata/sdata.htm

For more information call Scott Augustine at 206/553-1795 or 1-800-424-4EPA, or e-mail augustine.scott@epa.gov.

Sustainable Development Guide On Line

A step-by-step guide to planning and implementing sustainable actions is now on the internet. EPA's **Green Communities Assistance Kit** guides users through a series of steps towards becoming a "Green Community" - a sustainable community that integrates a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a high quality of life. The kit can help communities identify and resolve environmental and economical needs, interests, and problems. It contains case studies, software tools, frequently asked questions, information on other resources, and more. For more information on the Green Communities Assistance kit, call Susan McDowell at 215/814-2739. Or visit the web site at www.epa.gov/region03/greenkit.

Guidebook Highlights Financial Tools

Searching for ways to pay for environmental programs? A tool now on the Internet can be a big help. EPA's **Guidebook of Financial Tools**, available only on the web, covers more than 300 financial tools that governments and the private sector can tap into, to support environmental activities and systems. Visit http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/guidbk98/index.htm.

Clearinghouse Offers Drinking Water Resources

The **National Drinking Water Clearinghouse** offers several free resources, and some are listed below. The Clearinghouse, with funding from EPA, helps small and rural communities by collecting, developing, and distributing information about drinking water issues. To tap into this resource, contact the Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301 or www.ndwc.wvu.edu.

On Tap and ***Water Sense***: two publications for drinking water operators, government officials, engineers, and the public offering helpful information and technical assistance

Drinking Water Products Catalog: lists over 240 educational products to assist small communities with their drinking water needs

1999 Outreach Resource Guide: lists information about more than 80 federal, national, professional, and trade organizations that have drinking water-related interests

Registry of Equipment Suppliers of Treatment Technologies for Small Systems: also called RESULTS 3.0, a handy drinking water treatment technologies database, searchable online, useful when considering different technologies for replacement or upgrade of treatment plants

Facing Community Wastewater Issues?

Struggling with issues surrounding wastewater and technologies for small communities? **National Small Flows Clearinghouse** may be able to help. This nonprofit organization, funded by EPA, provides free and low-cost information about small community wastewater treatment. Beginning in 2000, they will offer a new publication called the *Small Flows Magazine*. The free, quarterly publication will include technical articles, news, features, and product information. Also available is a newsletter called *Pipeline*. Pipeline explains wastewater technologies and related issues of interest to small community residents. A free index of publications on small community wastewater issues is also offered online at www.nsfc.wvu.edu. For information about any resource mentioned here, call 800-624-8301.

Quiz Helps Households, Businesses Make Environmental Choices

How do you make good environmental choices at home and at work? You can find out by taking a fun and informative quiz that focuses on the environmental impacts of everyday activities.

The two-part quiz, entitled *Episode 2: The Pollution Menace*, is available for viewing and downloading at the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center's web site. Try the *P2 at Home* part at http://www.pprc.org/pprc/pubs/quizes/quiz99home.html. Or, check out the *P2 at Work* part at http://www.pprc.org/pprc/pubs/quizes/quiz99work.html. Both parts have an automatic scoring feature. (P2 stands for pollution prevention. Preventing waste and pollution at the source is a proactive approach to environmental management.)

Light-hearted in tone, the quiz is a solid information resource that will help households and businesses make low-impact choices in purchasing and other activities.

Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center, which receives some funding from EPA, is the Northwest's leading source of high quality, unbiased information about pollution prevention. The Center works collaboratively with business, government and other sectors to promote environmental protection through pollution prevention. For more information, contact Jim DiPeso at 206/223-1151 or jdipeso@pprc.org

ECOSYSTEM

Beneficial Landscaping – Good Wintertime Reading

Better than your favorite seed catalogs? Well just maybe! Here are a few publications to curl up with in front of your fire this winter.

Hot off the press is *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* by Russell Link of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This comprehensive, 320-page resource was produced with the help of several grants, one of them from EPA Region 10. It is available now in local bookstores and from the EPA Region 10 library.

There are four parts to the main text: wildlife habitat design and maintenance; PNW wildlife in the landscape; special features for wildlife landscapes; and coexisting with wildlife. Equally useful are the five appendices, which cover PNW habitats; wildlife plant lists, tables, and maps; landscape and wildlife information for specific plants; construction plans for nest boxes and bird feeders; and additional resources including books, magazines, videos, organizations, nurseries, internet sites, and more. Russell has brought together a wealth of information that formerly was available only through scattered sources.

Delve into this rich and most rewarding aspect of beneficial landscaping and reap the full range of ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits!

Another useful book of 116 pages is *Grow Your Own Native Landscape* by Michael Leigh of the Cooperative Extension Washington State University Thurston County Native Plant Salvage Project. This guide introduces readers to the use of PNW native plants for landscaping, tells how to obtain and propagate native plants, and covers lakes and aquatic plants as well as problem aquatic and terrestrial plants. It too provides further resources.

For those who choose the out of doors over the warm fire, Thurston County Native Plant Salvage Project also offers *Winter in the Woods: A Winter Guide to Deciduous Native Plants in Western Washington*. This 49-page guide helps you to identify at least 34 native trees and shrubs using the general plant description, the bark and twigs, leaf buds and scars, flower buds, and the plants' habitats.

For more information on topics in beneficial landscaping, contact Elaine Somers, EPA Region 10 Beneficial Landscaping Program, at 206/553-2966 or at somers.elaine@epamail.epa.gov.

CALENDAR

February

7-11: Alaska Forum on the Environment and Watershed Roundtable, Anchorage, Alaska. 907/276-606, www.akero.org

17-18: Winter Meeting of Oregon Society of Soil Scientists, Newport, Oregon. Crig Busskohl at 541-278-3817, or John DePuy at 503/315-5919 or jdepuy@or.blm.gov.

22-24: Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, Management and Technical Conference,

Yakima, WA. 509/962-6326.

March

7-9: Farming and Ranching for Profit, Stewardship, and Community; Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Portland, OR. Gina Hashagen, Oregon State University, 541/737-5477, www.usu.edu/2000

15-16: Idaho Rural Water Association Technical Training Conference, Boise, ID. 1-800-962-3257.

21-22: Understanding and Surviving ESA: A Technical Workshop for Project Managers, University of Washington. Professional Engineering Practice Liaison Program, 206/543-5539 or email uw-epp@engr.washington.edu.

28-30: Designing and Implementing Habitat Modifications for Salmon and Trout, University of Washington. Professional Engineering Practice Liaison Program, 206/543-5539 or email uw-epp@engr.washington.edu.

April

9-12: Northwest Regional Management Conference, Anchorage, AK. Washington City/County Management Association, 206/625-1300.

12-16: National Indian Timber Symposium, Warm Springs, OR. Intertribal Timber Council, 503/282-4296.

14: Deadline for submissions for the May issue of WaterTalk. Andrea Lindsay, Editor, 206/553-1896, 1-800-424-4EPA, lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

16-18: American Waterworks Association, Information Management and Technology Conference and Exhibition, Seattle, WA. Frank Triplett, 509/625-7800.

22: **Earth Day, 2000**

23-28: Our Water World Workshop for 5th and 6th Graders, Centrum Arts & Creative Education, Port Townsend, WA. www.centrum.org, 360/385-3102, judy@centrum.org

26-27: Northwest Watershed Roundtable, Portland, OR. Bevin Reid, EPA, 206/553-1566, reid.bevin@epa.gov.

26-28: Association of Oregon Counties Spring Conference, Kah-Nee-Ta, OR. AOC, 503/585-8351 or www.orlocalgov.org/AOC/

May

American Wetlands Month, Terrene Institute, 703/548-5473, www.terrene.org/

3-5: American WaterWorks Association Spring Conference, Spokane, WA. Frank Triplett, 509/625-7800.

7-13: National Drinking Water Week. Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

17-18: Northwest Watershed Roundtable, Spokane area, WA. Bevin Reid, EPA, 206/553-1566, reid.bevin@epa.gov.

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WaterTalk is published each February, May, August, and November by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10. WaterTalk seeks to be a useful tool for those who protect water resources and ecosystems in communities of the Greater Pacific Northwest, by providing practical resources and relevant agency news.

You are invited to contribute items for publication. Submittal deadline is the 15th day of the month before publication. WaterTalk articles can be used in other publications. Please give credit to WaterTalk.

For mailing changes, call Tomi Rutherford at 206/553-0603. To contact the editor, call Andrea Lindsay at 206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1896, or email lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

Accessibility information: To request services to accommodate persons with disabilities, contact EPA at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

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