



WaterTalk

Alaska

Idaho

Oregon

Washington

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

October 2005

October is Children's Health Month!



Each October, EPA celebrates **Children's Health Month** with activities that highlight the importance of protecting children from environmental risks. You are invited to join us in that celebration by taking action (see next section). The theme for 2005 is "Promoting Healthy School Environments." Visit www.epa.gov/schools for information and links to

school-related environmental health issues. You can learn about mold and indoor air quality, diesel school bus exhaust, chemical management, pesticides exposure, lead, asbestos, PCBs, and drinking water contaminants in schools. For more topics and tips, visit www.childrenshealth.gov.

To help schools minimize environmental health threats and to celebrate Children's Health Month, EPA now offers a new tool called the **Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (Healthy SEAT)**. This

database will help school district administrators and facilities professionals customize, establish, and manage their own district-level environmental health and safety inspection programs. Participating districts can generate baseline facilities data that will allow them to address environmental health threats in a systematic way. Healthy SEAT is an easy-to-use Microsoft Access database application and is completely free of charge and voluntary. It is available for download at www.epa.gov/schools. For information about Healthy SEAT or EPA Region 10's school-related activities and resources, contact **Pam Emerson** at 206-553-1287, or emerson.pamela@epa.gov.



Discover the Rewards!

In This Issue...



EPA News to update you on agency activities, pages 1 & 2.



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



Spotlight to showcase success stories and environmental stars, page 8.



WaterWords to share stories from communities around the Greater Northwest, page 9.



Ecosystem to provide news that goes beyond water topics, page 10.

National Effort to Reduce Lead in School Drinking Water

EPA and several organizations have joined forces and signed a memorandum of understanding. This agreement is to encourage schools and child care facilities to test drinking water for lead, to inform parents, and to correct problems. The agreement is an unprecedented partnership among EPA, the Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Water Works Association, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the National Association of Water Companies, the National Rural Water Association, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. For more general information on lead in drinking water, go to www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



New Administrator Joins EPA Region 10



Michael Bogert was sworn in as EPA Regional Administrator for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska in August. Prior to working as an attorney at the firm of Perkins Coie, LLP, in Boise, Idaho, he spent much of his career in public service. In this Region, he worked for over five years for Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, as principal legal advisor. Beyond Region 10, Michael served as Counsel to the Office of Governor-Elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I am looking forward to this exciting and challenging opportunity to advance the Agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment for the benefit of all the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska," said Bogert.

Pictured above, new EPA Regional Administrator L. Michael Bogert (on left) is sworn into office by Administrator Stephen Johnson (on right) as Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Julie Hagensen looks on.

EPA Contributes to Katrina Response



EPA workers survey the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina - the job ahead will be a big one.

EPA emergency response personnel are working with FEMA and others to help assess the damage and begin cleanup from **Hurricane Katrina**. In emergency situations such as this, EPA serves as the lead agency for the cleanup of hazardous materials, including oil and gasoline. Our national and regional Emergency Operations Centers are activated 24 hours a day. EPA's mission also includes working with the states and others to assess the condition of drinking water and wastewater treatment plants.

Thousands of homes and dozens of towns and communities need to be assessed for contamination before reoccupation can occur. EPA's effort will focus on assessing water and air quality, and the extent to which communities have been contaminated with oil and other hazardous materials. Several staff members from EPA Region 10 are already deployed to the area. EPA staff members include on-scene coordinators, drinking water specialists, Public Health Service Officers, and others with specialized expertise. For up-to-date details on EPA's Hurricane Katrina activities, go to www.epa.gov.



A Month's Worth of Actions to Protect Kids from Environmental Health Threats In honor of **Children's Health Month**, WaterTalk shares the following tips.

WEEK ONE: Minimize kids' mercury exposure

- If mercury spills, open windows and contact your local fire, health or environmental department about clean-up. Never sweep or vacuum mercury or pour it down the drain. Call your local poison control center at 800-222-1222.
- Replace mercury thermometers with digital or mercury-free thermometers. Safely dispose of mercury thermometers and household mercury at a hazardous waste collection site.
- Eat a balanced diet, including fish. Avoid fish with high levels of mercury and other contaminants. Be aware of local fish advisories. Contact your state health or environmental department.
- Avoid using liquid mercury in school. Check labs for mercury and other unused chemicals.
- Safely dispose of products such as thermostats, fluorescent lamps, and button batteries that may contain mercury. Contact your state health or environmental department.

WEEK TWO: Help kids breathe easy

- Minimize asthma triggers by keeping homes, schools, and child care centers clean. Use dustproof, zippered bedding covers. Control triggers such as cockroaches, pet dander, dust mites, mold, and secondhand smoke. Call 866-NO-ATTACKS for more information.
- Don't smoke or let others smoke in your home or car. Take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge by calling 866-SMOKE-FREE.
- Urge schools to stop unnecessary bus idling. Retrofitting buses and replacing the oldest buses in the fleet also decrease diesel exhaust exposure.
- Prevent mold by fixing moisture problems. Thoroughly dry wet areas such as carpets, walls, and ceiling tiles within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. Fix leaky plumbing and other water problems in your home and school.
- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that meets UL, IAS, or Canadian standards in all sleeping

rooms. Never sleep in rooms with un-vented gas or kerosene heaters. Call 800-638-2772.

- Check fuel-burning appliances, furnace flues, and chimneys yearly. Never use gas ovens or burners for heat, or use charcoal grills indoors. Never run generators, cars or mowers inside the garage or living spaces. Call 800-638-2772.

WEEK THREE: Minimize kids' pesticide exposure

- To avoid pests in your home, store food and trash in closed containers. Use baits and traps when you can and place them where kids can't get them. If pesticides are used, choose the least toxic alternative and read the label carefully.
- Wash fruits and vegetables under running water before eating, and peel them whenever possible to reduce dirt, bacteria, and pesticides.
- Store pesticides and other chemicals in a locked cabinet. Never put them in other containers that kids can mistake for food or drink. If a child is poisoned, call your poison control center at 800-222-1222.
- Train school staff, teachers, and facility managers to handle chemicals, including pesticides and cleaning products, safely. Implement an Integrated Pest Management program at your school.

WEEK FOUR: Prevent lead poisoning

- Have your kids tested for lead by their health care provider or your local health department. If your home was built before 1978, test for lead paint hazards. Call 800-424-LEAD.
- Sellers and landlords must disclose known lead hazards in houses or apartments built before 1978 to all prospective buyers and renters. For information call 800-424-LEAD.
- To temporarily reduce lead hazards, wash floors and windowsills to protect kids from dust and peeling lead-based paint. To remove lead hazards, hire a certified abatement professional.
- Run water from the tap until it becomes cold. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.

Local Educators to Get Funds for Environmental Projects

Now that schools have opened their doors for a new year, some educators in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska are doing environmental education projects to be funded, in part, by EPA grant monies.

The grants were awarded to local organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools, and universities. The funds support projects which strive to increase people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and its challenges. Regional grant recipients and projects follow:

ALASKA

- **Homer Soil & Water Conservation District:** "Training Alaska's Youth – A Natural Resource Career Development Program"
- **Takshanuk Watershed Council:** "Nature Studies Outdoor Education Expansion for Haines Borough"

IDAHO

- **Bonneville County Historical Society and the Museum of Idaho:** "Rocky Mountain Adventure"
- **Idaho Department of Health and Welfare:** "Environmental Education – Curriculum Workshops"

OREGON

- **Friends of Zenger Farm:** "Grow Wise Youth Education Program"
- **Portland State University:** "Walking Softly Teacher Workshop"
- **Education Environmental Association of Oregon:** "Professional Environmental Education Certification Program Development"
- **Beaverton School District:** "Marmot Dam Removal Study"
- **Cascadia Region Green Building Council:** "High Performance Green Building: Weighing the Options"

WASHINGTON

- **Port Townsend Marine Science Society:** "Discovery Lab Monitoring Program"

"The grants help local communities stretch their own resources and try new ways of connecting reading, writing and arithmetic to environmental issues," said Sally Hanft, Environmental Education Grants Coordinator. To learn more about grant opportunities for the coming year, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/r10earth or call 800-424-4372.

President's Environmental Youth Award Deadline: October 31st

The deadline for the **President's Environmental Youth Awards** has been extended to **October 31**. This program recognizes student excellence and achievement in promoting environmental awareness and positive community involvement. Youth from kindergarten through high school, individually or as a group, are invited to participate. To learn more, contact **Sally Hanft**, EPA, at 206-553-1207 or 800-424-4372, or by e-mail at hanft.sally@epa.gov.



Region 10 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: A Half Billion Dollars For Grants and Loans

Recent EPA grants awarded to the four states in Region 10 have pushed the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** over the \$500 million mark. This money can be used for low-interest drinking water infrastructure project loans, as well as direct grant funding for drinking water program activities.

The DWSRF was patterned after the highly successful Clean Water State Revolving Fund. In both programs, EPA gives a capitalization grant to the state, and the state provides 20% match. The combined funds are then used as low interest loans for water infrastructure. The loaned funds are used, then repaid over time. The funds are then loaned back out to other communities—thus the name ‘State Revolving Fund.’

The DWSRF offers enhancements to assist public water systems in their efforts to comply with drinking water regulations. These enhancements include the ability to loan directly to public water systems, and the flexibility to offer disadvantaged assistance loans, with such incentives as negative interest, principal forgiveness, and terms as long as 30 years.

Another enhancement with the DWSRF is the Set-Aside program. A portion of each capitalization grant to the state can be “set aside” to fund eligible activities with grant funding. The specific set-asides include:

- 2% for Small System Technical Assistance
- 10% for State Program Management
- 15% for Local Assistance and other State Programs



More information about the DWSRF program can be found at: www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/index.html. Or, contact Rick Green, EPA, at 206-553-8504 or 800-424-4382, or green.richard@epa.gov.

EPA Launches New Watershed Discussion Board

EPA recently launched a new online **Watershed Discussion Board**. This forum offers watershed protection practitioners and citizens a platform to exchange ideas, so that innovative solutions and ideas can be easily shared in (near) real-time cyberspace. EPA hopes to engage watershed leaders from around the country in these interactive, online discussions. The forum currently includes these topics:

 Community Involvement
 Smart Growth/Low Impact
Development
 Source Water Protection

 Stormwater Best Management
Practices
 Sustainable Financing
 Watershed Planning Tools

Visit www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/forum/forum.html and join in! Share your expertise so that others can learn from your experiences. Anyone can view the discussion, but you must register to post messages and get customized updates.

After the Storm: Own the Video Free



EPA is now offering a new, free video. Called **After the Storm**, the video was first aired as a half-hour television special. This program about watersheds was co-produced by The Weather Channel and EPA. EPA now has full rights to the program and encourages cable TV stations, teachers, and others to watch and air the program. The show highlights case studies where polluted runoff threatens water-

sheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. Scientists, water quality experts, and citizens involved in watershed protection efforts give insights into the problems and solutions to today's water quality challenges. For a free copy of the video, call EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center at 206-553-1200 or 800-424-4372. For details about the program, including tips about what you can do to prevent watershed pollution, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/weatherchannel.

New Handbook to Help Accelerate Watershed Programs

EPA recently announced a new resource to help accelerate watershed protection programs. It's called the **Community Based Watershed Management Handbook: Lessons from the National Estuary Program**.

The handbook describes innovative approaches developed and conducted by the 28 National Estuary Programs. These programs are community-based watershed-management organizations that restore and protect coastal watersheds. Topics covered range from starting a program, identifying problems and solutions, to plan development and action steps.

The how-to Handbook can be downloaded at www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/neprimer. For more information about the National Estuary Program go to: www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries.

Watershed Issues DVDs Available For Loan

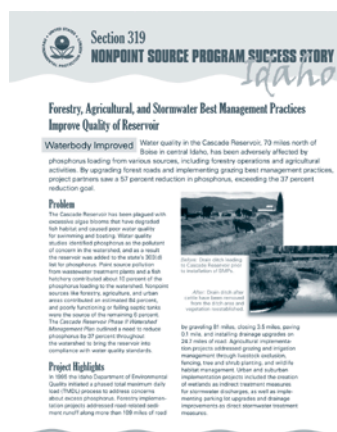
Grassroots watershed planning, writing grants to fund watershed projects, and improving community involvement in watershed issues are featured in a new video anthology.

Anthology of Watershed Issues 2002 – 2004 is a compilation of three stakeholder workshops. The Pacific Northwest Water Quality Program sponsors the Watershed Issues Series, an annual workshop developed with stakeholder input. Washington State University produces the videos.

"Living on the Edge: Grassroots Watershed Planning in the Pacific Northwest" chronicles the paths around barriers to collaborative planning as experienced in three diverse watersheds. The second production, "Funding Watershed Restoration," answers questions about funding opportunities and "smart" grant writing practices to help fund watershed initiatives. The third production focuses on "Improving Community Involvement in Watershed Restoration."

All three videos feature case studies from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon watersheds. To borrow a copy, contact EPA's **Public Environmental Resource Center** at 206-553-1200 or 800-424-4372.

Nonpoint Source Success Stories On Web



A new EPA website, **Nonpoint Source Success Stories**, was recently launched. The site features projects getting grant funds from the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program. These projects have achieved documented water quality improvements, including meeting water quality standards and being removed from

state section 303(d) lists of impaired waters. Visit this new Internet site at: www.epa.gov/nps/success/.

Water Quality Projects Featured Online

The Land Grant Universities, Northwest Indian College, and the Water Resource Research Institutes in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are working together with EPA Region 10 to share resources and develop programs to address water quality issues. Much of their work is featured on the **USDA-CSREES Regional Water Quality Website**: www.pnwwaterweb.com/Initiatives/pnw_061.htm. Excerpts from some recent updates are highlighted below, with their reference numbers noted. Summaries and complete text of the 69 updates are available online at www.pnwwaterweb.com/flyers.htm.

PNW 062: STEEP Protects Water Quality



In the early 1970s, farmers and university scientists in the Pacific NW were concerned about the loss of productivity on croplands, especially those with severe erosion. In 1975, university and USDA researchers began meeting with farmers and agriculture representatives to address soil erosion and productivity losses. In 1976, STEEP

(Solutions To Environmental and Economic Problems) was formed to address soil erosion and associated environmental quality and economic concerns. STEEP is celebrating 30 years of soil and water quality protection and conservation.

PNW 061: Agricultural Water Security



Agricultural water security is defined as the need to maintain adequate water supplies to meet the food and fiber needs of the growing population—maximizing the efficiency of water use by farmers, ranchers, and rural

communities. It addresses pressures in the West causing water traditionally used for agriculture to be transferred to urbanizing areas.

PNW 065: Maintaining Agricultural Waterways in King County



This flyer highlights a water-fish habitat-related study conducted by Washington State University and the University of Washington in King County, WA. The project is investigating ways to avoid or limit agricultural maintenance related impacts on salmonid

habitat by: 1) evaluating factors that determine the function of lowland agricultural watercourse habitat for salmonid fishes; 2) assessing the effects of agricultural drainage maintenance activities on these factors; and 3) identifying drainage maintenance activities that can help avoid habitat impacts. This summary covers research conducted to date.

Expertise Directories Available



Periodically we publish "expertise directories" listing land grant publications and providing contacts in each state. **PNW 063** focuses on Watershed Management expertise. **PNW 034** lists the other six regional expertise directories. **PNW 048** identifies Pollution Assessment and Prevention resources.

Find WaterTalk on the Web at www.epa.gov/r10earth/watertalk.htm



Gresham-Barlow School District: **National Leader in ENERGY STAR**

The Gresham-Barlow School District is the first organization in the nation to be awarded the top achievement level of the **EPA ENERGY STAR Leader award**. The district received this prestigious award for improving the average energy efficiency of all its buildings by 47 percent over their baseline and raising the average efficiency of all their buildings to the top 25 percentile on EPA's Energy Performance Rating System.

As a result of the district's efforts, 12 of its 20 buildings earned the ENERGY STAR distinction. These awards are similar to the widely-recognized ENERGY STAR label on household appliances and like the appliance label, denote superior energy efficiency. Each of the 12 buildings outperforms similar buildings in the U.S. by at least 25 points (on a 100 point scale) in EPA's Energy Performance Rating System.

The Gresham-Barlow District's buildings use about 40 percent less energy than the national average for K-12 school buildings. That means it will cost the district about 40 percent less to heat, cool, and light the buildings than average schools in the area. In turn, their buildings, directly or indirectly, prevent 40 percent of greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts associated with the energy generation.

The ENERGY STAR program has tools and resources that help consumers, businesses, schools and many other organizations improve energy efficiency. Learn more about the ENERGY STAR Program at: www.energystar.gov. More information about Gresham-Barlow School District is available at: <http://district.gresham.k12.or.us/>.

EPA Coordinator Receives Industry Group Award

Congratulations to **Mary Lou Soscia**, Region 10 Columbia River Coordinator! Mary Lou was recently awarded "Outstanding Performance by an Individual from a Regulatory Agency" at a Northwest Pulp & Paper Association meeting.

At the meeting, Llwellyn Matthews, Executive Director of the Association, praised Mary Lou's

work. "The award is about excellence and creativity in going beyond basic process to assure stakeholders," said Matthews. "It is not just about specific substantive results. In many water quality issues, pulp and paper representatives were anxious. Mary Lou went the extra mile to create transparency, openness and [worked] to allay those concerns." Good work, Mary Lou!



Diving in the Desert: Helping to Study the Yakima River

The Region 10 Dive Team recently helped in an important study on the Yakima River, which flows through the deserts of Eastern Washington. The effort is a partnership among the US Geological Survey (USGS), South Yakima Conservation District, and Benton Conservation District. The **Lower Yakima River Eutrophication Study** is a five-year study of the "eutrophication" processes taking place in the lower Yakima River. The work is funded mostly through a Centennial Clean Water Fund grant provided by the Washington Department of Ecology.

The study's major focus is the large increase in plant growth in the lower river in recent years. That increase has led to very low dissolved oxygen levels (3-6 mg/L) and extreme pH swings (e.g., 7.4 to 9.5). Ecology intends to use the infor-

mation from this study to help address these environmental problems.

Divers operated in the river's currents by using a high-strength tether line that doubles as a communications cable. This way, a tender on the boat was in constant communication with the diver. Divers would pendulum from an anchored platform to collect aquatic plants for identification on the surface and later analysis at the University of Idaho. Due to low levels of pesticides and bacteria in the water, divers wore drysuits and washed with freshwater after each dive. Project details can be found at: http://or.water.usgs.gov/projs_dir/yakima_nutrient/. For information on EPA's dive team, visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/oea.nsf/webpage/dive+team>. Or, call Chad Schulze, EPA, at 206-553-0505 or 1-800-424-4372 or e-mail schulze.chad@epa.gov.

EPA divers collect plant material in the Yakima River



Superfund's 25th Anniversary: *Capturing the Past, Charting the Future*

On December 11, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Superfund program initiated by this Act. A milestone such as this one offers a chance to reflect on the history, progress, accomplishments, and future of the program. Superfund is EPA's program for cleaning up the nation's hazardous waste sites.

In 25 years, Superfund has learned much and changed a great deal. To commemorate the coming anniversary, Superfund will collect some of the stories, personal experiences and images that enrich the historical perspective of the program. The goal is to capture the past, by letting people who have been integral to the Superfund program tell their stories, while opening a dialogue about the future of the program. To learn more, or to contribute, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/25anniversary/index.htm.

Beneficial Landscaping A Stormwater Story: “Drip and Splat”

Now that raindrops have names, we'll never think of them the same! Our thanks to the Jefferson County Natural Resources Division and author Tami Pokorny for allowing us to print this wonderful, and true, story.

By Tami Pokorny, Jefferson County Natural Resources



There were once two raindrops, each searching for a pool of friends. One raindrop, *Drip*, preferred the slower pace of the country life. He descended through the sky towards an expansive forest of older trees. The second raindrop, *Splat*, rode the nearest breeze toward a suburban rooftop.

Drip landed on the bough of a cedar, dropped from one branch to another, trickled down the tree's trunk and onto a pillow of moss. He stayed with the moss for quite some time. Then more rain fell and *Drip* washed out of the moss and into the soil. He meandered slowly downward through decaying leaves, forest duff, and into a thick layer of organic soil called humus.

Time passed and then there was an even bigger storm. *Drip* joined other raindrops making their way to the water table. Together they percolated through the gritty remains of a glacier's passing until they reached the aquifer. They occupied countless tiny spaces between pieces of sand and gravel and permeated the bedrock in little cracks and crevices. Many wonderful years passed cavorting with the other raindrops until one day *Drip* emerged into a beautiful river and flowed into the sea, to begin his next journey in the great water cycle.

In established forests like the one *Drip* landed in, there's no natural fast lane for water—except rocky outcrops or cliffs. Slick, non-porous surfaces are rare otherwise, so *Drip's* route through the soil was anything but a straight line. He was coaxed along by gravity and, alternately, held back by plants and decaying vegetation. In forests, the rich layer of decaying leaf litter, duff, and humus acts like a very large and very absorbent sponge.

When this forest sponge captures rain, surface runoff is reduced—at least until the sponge becomes completely saturated. In areas of extensive native forest, flooding is less frequent and less severe than in developed areas.

Our second raindrop, *Splat*, collided with a rooftop and took a wild, fast ride from there. He could have hit a road, driveway, parking lot, highway, or sidewalk, but his story would be pretty much the same. Even lawns wouldn't have slowed his pace much because they're not very sponge-like compared to forest soils. And lawns and landscaping also frequently contain animal wastes and pesticides.

Almost from the moment he hit the roof, *Splat* was practically run over by countless other raindrops, all rushing downhill. There was no time to talk. Gravity was in complete control. *Splat* sped on, via gutters, storm drains, and pipes to the nearest stream and then, in a rushing torrent, into Puget Sound. Along the way he and the other raindrops dislodged soil particles and rushed them along, causing erosion and sedimentation. They also picked up gangs of pollutants. Pesticides, heavy metals, motor oil, and animal waste: it all came along for the ride. *Splat* swirled around with countless raindrops, but hardly had a moment with any of them. Besides, they were all painfully aware of how dirty they all were.

Did you ever think about how water gets clean? A shower, for a raindrop, is a trip through plants, roots, bacteria and soil. Impurities get bound up or broken down into less harmful constituents. In developed areas, raindrops stay dirty because they aren't filtered through the soils that would clean them up. Instead they're forced into rivers and streams in a great pulse that can become a costly and dangerous flood. Stormwater, laced with pollution and laden with sediments eroded enroute, degrades the spawning and rearing habitat available to salmon and is one reason why several species are threatened with extinction.

By the way, raindrops that never touch soil don't feed aquifers. That's unfortunate because aquifers supply groundwater to wells, and “baseflow” to rivers or streams, during late summer and early fall when salmon and people need water the most. So, when native soils are damaged or removed, there are often two consequences for nearby rivers: flooding and, perhaps surprisingly, drought.

Fortunately, low impact development (LID) practices can help reduce pollution and flooding by



protecting natural watershed hydrology. Permeable pavement, green roofs, rooftop rainwater harvesting, and innovative foundations reduce surface runoff. But the best answer to flooding and stormwater pollution is leaving the native vegetation and soils undisturbed. To the degree that they're left in place during development, they'll do an excellent job of managing your stormwater and helping to keep water clean and pure.

The moral of the story: *Drip, don't Splat!* The forest soils of Puget Sound continue to be scraped up and compacted by pavement or lawns. For a future of clean water, a better water supply, more salmon, fewer shellfish closures, reduced danger of flooding and landslides, maintain as much natural forest and undisturbed soils as you possibly can on your lot or acreage.

For more information about this and other topics in Beneficial Landscaping, contact **Elaine Somers** at 206-553-2966 or somers.elaine@epa.gov. Or, visit our website at www.epa.gov/r10earth/bl.htm.

For more information on low impact development, visit the Puget Sound Action Team website: www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/LID.htm and download *Natural Approaches to Stormwater Management* at www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/LID_studies/LID_approaches.htm

Story by Tami Pokorny, tpokorny@co.jefferson.wa.us, for the WRIA 16 Planning Unit newsletter, *Rivers for Life*, 2005 with contributions from Elliott Menashe, Greenbelt Consulting, www.greenbeltconsulting.com.

 <h1>CALENDAR</h1> 	
<h2>October</h2> <p>18-19: Region 10 Air Toxics Summit—Seeking Solutions for our Rural and Urban Communities, Portland, OR. EPA, Lisa McArthur, 206-553-1814 or 800-424-4372 x1814, www.epa.gov/region10/airsummit.htm.</p> <p>19-20: Northwest Environmental Summit, Tacoma, WA. Assn. of Washington Business and the Northwest Environmental Business Council, 360-943-1600, www.ecwashington.org/.</p> <p>24-25: Wetlands in Washington Conference, Seattle, WA. Law Seminars International, www.lawseminars.com/seminars/05WETWA.php, 800-854-8009.</p> <p>25-26: Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality, Vancouver, WA, http://isnap.oregonstate.edu/workshops.htm, 541-737-2683.</p> <p>26-28: Climate and Fisheries: Impacts, Uncertainty and Responses of Ecosystems and Communities, Victoria, BC, Canada. American Fisheries Society, www.fishclimate.ca/, 250-756-0930.</p> <p>27: The Future Ain't What it Used to Be: Planning for Climate Disruption, Seattle, WA. King County, http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/climate-change/conference-2005.htm, 206-296-1927.</p> <p>28-30: Inland Northwest Restoration Conference: Improving Ecological Health and Economic Viability in Local Communities, Pullman, WA. www.okanogan1.com/restore, 541-447-8166.</p>	<h2>November</h2> <p>2-3: Groundwater Under the Pacific Northwest: Integrating Research, Policy, & Education, Stevenson, WA. Washington State University, www.swwrc.wsu.edu/conference2005/, 800-942-4978.</p> <p>7-10: American Water Resources Association National Conference/Environmental Volunteer Day Nov 10, Seattle, WA. http://awra.org/meetings/Seattle2005/index.html, 206-263-6029.</p> <p>14-15: The Mighty Columbia – A River for All?, Seattle, WA. The Seminar Group, www.theseminalgrou.net/seminar-agenda.lasso?seminar=05.RIVWA, 800-574-4852</p> <p>14-15: Growth Management Conference, Seattle, WA. Law Seminars International, www.lawseminars.com/seminars/05GMAWA.php, 800-854-8009.</p> <p>15-16: Professional Training: Improving Stormwater Management Using Low Impact Development Practices, Center for Urban Horticulture, UW, Seattle. www.engr.washington.edu/epp/cee/lid.html, 206-543-5743.</p> <p>17-18: Energy in Alaska Conference, Anchorage, AK. Law Seminars International, http://www.lawseminars.com/seminars/05ENAK.php, 800-854-8009.</p>



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WaterTalk
October 2005



WaterTalk

Alaska Idaho Oregon Washington

WaterTalk is published quarterly 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 list changes, or to contact the editor, call Andrea Lindsay at (206) 553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1896, or e-mail lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

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Health Month**

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Helpful Resources

A Story of Raindrops

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