



Year of Clean Water Celebration Continues

The **Year of Clean Water** celebration continues, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. This issue of **WaterTalk** includes many articles that highlight resources related to the Year of Clean Water. EPA is featuring a different water topic each month. Brochures, posters and other free materials are available now – too many to list. Contact EPA’s Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4372 to find out what is available. To learn more, or for electronic copies of materials, visit the internet at www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater/ Party on!

Year of Clean Water 2003

January Oceans
 February ... Wastewater
 March..... Nonpoint
 Source Pollution
 April..... Stormwater
 May Wetlands
 June Oceans and
 Coasts
 July Lakes
 August Water
 Conservation
 Sep/Oct Water
 Monitoring
 Nov/Dec ... Source Water
 Protection

In This Issue...



EPA News to update you on agency activities



Tools to clue you in on resources, publications, opportunities, and services



WaterWords to share stories from communities around the Greater Northwest



Spotlight to showcase success stories and environmental stars



Ecosystem to provide news that goes beyond water topics

In honor of the Year of Clean Water, EPA offers you these **Ten Simple Steps You Can Take to Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution** (also called "people pollution"):

1. *Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.*
2. *Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.*
3. *Never dump anything down storm drains.*
4. *Revegetate or mulch disturbed soil as soon as possible.*
5. *Clean up spills of vehicle fluids or household chemicals and properly dispose of cleanup materials.*
6. *Minimize pesticide use and learn about Integrated Pest Management.*
7. *Direct roof drains away from paved surfaces and bare soil.*
8. *Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.*
9. *Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil.*
10. *Pick up after your pet.*

Learn more about nonpoint source "people" pollution at www.epa.gov/nps.

Act Quickly: **Clean Water Act Awards Competition Open**

EPA's **Clean Water Act Recognition Awards** will recognize municipalities and industries for outstanding and innovative technological achievements through their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs, projects or activities. The program includes awards in five categories including:

- outstanding operations and maintenance at wastewater treatment facilities
- biosolids management
- pretreatment
- storm water management
- combined sewer overflow controls.

Nominees must be in compliance with appropriate water quality requirements, and otherwise have a satisfactory record with respect to environmental quality. Interested parties should contact their state water pollution control agency or Bryan Yim, EPA, at 206/553-8575 or 1-800-424-4372. Nominations are due **May 30, 2003**.



Guide to "Sense of Place" Available

EPA's **Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place** is now available. The Guide explores the concepts of community and culture and provides tools for identifying, assessing and working cooperatively within the social dynamics and local values connected to environmental protection. These tools will help you define your community, identify stakeholders, enhance education and outreach, build partnerships and consensus, identify resources, plan and set goals, and integrate local realities with ecological issues.

The Guide is for people involved in community-based initiatives, including those affiliated with community and watershed-based organizations, universities, and federal, state, tribal and local agencies. To learn more about how this resource can help you achieve your environmental goals, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf>. For a free copy, call the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198 or send an e-mail request to ncepimal@one.net. Include your complete mailing address and the Guide's publication number, EPA 842-B-01-003.

Septic Systems: **Management Tools for Health Officials**

Stressing the importance of proper septic tank management to prevent pollution from entering the nation's rivers, lakes, coasts and groundwater, EPA is providing about 4,000 city and county public health officials with materials to continue efforts to educate citizens about proper septic system management. Failing and improperly managed septic systems are a significant source of water pollution, potentially causing contamination of drinking water wells or restricting shellfish harvest. Septic systems serve about 25 percent of U.S. households, and one in every three new homes built today uses these systems.

As part of EPA's year-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the Agency has developed a CD-based kit that communities can use to reach out to citizens. Using the CD, communities can inexpensively produce customized versions of brochures, utility bill inserts, and other useful information. Each document contains space where communities can add local information, so citizens will know how to get more information. To download these materials visit the website at www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater.

Septic System Repair and Replacement: **Local Loan Programs in Washington State**

In Washington state nearly 100,000 on-site sewer systems (septic systems) release inadequately treated sewage and wastewater to the surface and ground waters of the state. These releases can threaten public health and harm fish and shellfish habitat. One way that the Washington Department of Ecology is addressing this problem is to provide low interest loans from the **Washington Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund** to local governments.

The Revolving Fund has been making these loans to county health districts which have used these funds to establish local loan programs for homeowners and small businesses. The owner of the septic system can apply for a low interest loan from these local loan programs to finance the repair or replacement of the failed septic system. These loans significantly reduce the cost to the property owner of repairing or

replacing the failing on-site sewer system. Washington has already made about \$6 million in loans.

County health districts or other local governments can compete for these loans as part of the Department of Ecology's annual "solicitation" cycle for water quality financial assistance. The application period is closed for State Fiscal Year 2004, but will open next winter for State Fiscal Year 2005. Application details are available at Ecology's water quality funding web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding>.

Several counties that have received this assistance from this Washington Revolving Fund maintain local funds that continue to offer financial assistance to homeowners and small businesses that need to repair or replace failing on-site sewer systems. Contacts are listed below:

County	Agency	Phone
Skagit	Skagit County Permit and Planning	(360) 336-9410
Thurston	Thurston County Public Health Department	(360) 786-5490
Island	Island County Health Department	(360) 679-7350
San Juan	San Juan County Health & Community Services	(360) 378-4474
Jefferson	Jefferson County Health & Human Services	(360) 385-9444
Kitsap	Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District	(360) 337-5285
Klickitat	Klickitat County	(509) 773-4565

Directory of Watershed Resources Offered

The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Boise State University is pleased to present the **Directory of Watershed Resources**. This on-line searchable database for watershed restoration funding can be found at <http://sspa.boisestate.edu>. The database includes information on federal, state (Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska), private, and other funding sources and assistance. Users can query the information in a variety of ways including agency sponsor, keyword, or by a detailed search. At the end of a query, a list of matching programs will be displayed. When a specific program is selected, detailed information on that program will be displayed and can be printed.

The database is a result of a collaborative effort with many organizations, including EPA. A CD-ROM version of the directory is available upon request. Contact Amy Williams toll-free at 866/627-9847 for a free copy.

EPA Updates Water Quality Database

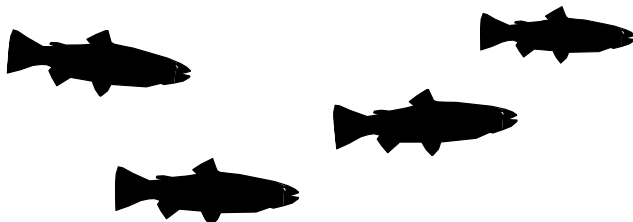
EPA invites you to visit the fourth release of its on-line **National Water Quality Standards Database**. The database is designed to improve public access to information about how waters are being protected, and help the public understand how action in their watershed can help or harm those waters. The database offers a single point of access to EPA and state water quality standards information. The site provides access to several reports about designated uses, waterbody names, state numeric water quality criteria, and EPA recommended numeric water quality criteria. Users can compare water quality standards information across the nation using standard reports. When fully completed, the database will include maps and tables for surface water bodies across the nation. You can visit the database at: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/wqs> or download a fact sheet at <http://www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase/demo/docs/wqsrep.pdf>.

Toll-Free Assistance for Watershed Funding

The Environmental Finance Center now offers a toll-free telephone number to call if you want one-on-one technical service assistance when searching for watershed funding within Region 10. The line has been established to provide information on financing tools, resources, contact information and other resources. The toll-free number is **866/627-9847**.

Assistance for Small Drinking Water Systems

Folks involved in small drinking water systems may be interested in this new booklet: **Sources of Technical and Financial Assistance for Small Drinking Water Systems**. To access the booklet online, go to <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm>. Hard copies can be obtained from the Office of Water Resources Center or by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Reference Document Number EPA 816-K-02-005. For more information, contact Andrew Bielanski at 202/564-3824.



Western Research Center Offers Support

The **Western Region Hazardous Substance Research Center** is one of five university-based hazardous substance research centers in the United States. The Center provides support to communities through two outreach programs: Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC) and Technical Assistance for Brownfields Communities (TAB). Visit their websites at <http://tosc.orst.edu> or <http://tosc.orst.edu/TAB/> to learn more about how these programs can assist communities which are affected by hazardous substance contamination or interested in redeveloping brownfields. The Center's research focuses on cleanup methods for contaminated groundwater -- learn more through their research briefs and on-line publications database at: <http://wrhsrc.orst.edu>. You can reach the Center by phone at 800-653-6110 or 541/737-2751.

Volunteer Monitor Newsletter On-Line

Volunteer watershed monitors may want to get their hands on the latest issue of the **Volunteer Monitoring Newsletter**. The winter 2003 issue is now available on-line. The *Volunteer Monitor Newsletter* facilitates the exchange of ideas, monitoring methods, and practical advice among volunteer environmental monitoring groups across the nation.

This issue includes articles on college-community partnerships, a LAKEWATCH program, partnerships between co-operative extension programs and volunteers, linking citizens to scientists, and more. For a hard copy, send an e-mail request to Alice Mayo at mayio.alice@epa.gov, or download at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer/>.

Fish Tissue Survey: Early Results Are In

The first results from the **National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue** are now in. These first-year results are just a quarter of the final national fish tissue data set, and they cannot be used for making general conclusions. Given that caveat, for game fish, the preliminary data show so far that dioxins and furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury were in all of the first-year sampling sites. DDT was detected at 80% of the sites. Several target chemicals were not found in the first-year fish samples (toxaphene, organophosphate pesticides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and some semi-volatile organics).

This 4-year study is EPA's largest survey of freshwater fish contamination. It is also the only national fish monitoring effort EPA has done for more than a decade. Due to be published in 2005, the study is unique because it is based on a statistical sampling design, and it includes the most chemicals ever studied in fish. Agencies in 47 states, four tribes and two other federal agencies are collecting fish from 500 U.S. lakes and reservoirs. The results that are available now cover samples from 370 lakes and reservoirs. EPA will finish sampling and analysis in 2004. Learn more about the fish study online at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishstudy/>.



Stormwater CD Helps Communities Meet New Rules

As part of the ongoing celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, EPA has released a CD-based outreach kit to help communities implement the new requirements of the Phase II **NPDES stormwater regulations**. The kit includes a wide variety of materials for homeowners, construction site operators, children and businesses. Local officials can use the Stormwater Month CD to customize these materials with their agency's name, address and phone number so that citizens will know where to turn for more information. Materials are available on-line at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm>.

EPA Region 10 Helps Shuttle Columbia Recovery Effort

EPA's Regional **Dive Team** spent 10 weeks helping with the in-water recovery of parts of the **Columbia Space Shuttle**, which disintegrated upon re-entry February 1, 2003. Also involved under the overall direction of the U.S. Navy were divers from EPA's Environmental Response Team, EPA Region 3, and Texas police search and recovery teams.



EPA diver Sean Sheldrake prepares to enter water and test surface-to-diver communication.

Divers worked near Jasper, Texas, searching underwater in areas suspected of having shuttle debris as shown by sonar. EPA divers have special expertise needed for the many hazardous materials that could be encountered and for the low-visibility, high entanglement diving environment. Divers worked on tether, in constant communication with the surface. Divers searched the bottom in low or zero visibility conditions by sweeping the bottom with legs and arms to locate any suspicious objects. The reservoir contains a submerged forest, so divers had to beware of the constant threat of entanglement with trees, logs and stumps.

Sean Sheldrake, one of the eight EPA Region 10 divers who participated, said, "The recovery effort was very challenging in terms of the conditions. It was also humbling to think about why we were there the entire time we were diving."

The effort was the longest sustained EPA dive project since the Region 10 program began over 30 years ago. For more information, contact Sean Sheldrake, EPA, at 206/553-1220 or 1-800-424-4372. Or, learn more at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OEA.NSF/webpage/Dive+Team>.

Want to learn more about what's going on in the Duwamish Waterway?

The Lower Duwamish Waterway has served as Seattle's major industrial corridor since the early 1900s. In 2001, EPA added the site to its list of most contaminated hazardous waste sites. Now EPA is working with the Washington Department of Ecology and others to address the site.

Three draft reports about the contamination study at the Lower Duwamish Waterway site are now available. The reports, which are being revised to respond to comments from the public and environmental agencies, focus on:

- Risks to people and wildlife.
- Areas with the highest levels of sediment contamination that should be cleaned up before the entire waterway study is completed.
- Additional studies needed to further evaluate risks to people and wildlife and decide what other cleanup is needed.

A Community Involvement Plan and a Hispanic Community Involvement Supplement are also available. Ecology and EPA developed them to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sediments at the site.

For more information, visit EPA's web site: www.epa.gov/r10earth. Click on Index, then "L," and then "Lower Duwamish Waterway Site."

Or, contact Cindy Colgate Schuster at schuster.cindy@epa.gov or 206/553-1815.

EPA Honors Clean Water Partners

EPA recently honored local water pollution control agencies from across the United States with the **Clean Water Partners for the 21st Century Award**. As part of the celebration of the Year of Clean Water, EPA recognized extraordinary actions taken by local governments to protect watersheds beyond the requirements of the Clean Water Act – actions such as protecting and restoring rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands, and initiating innovative local pollution prevention programs.

In Region 10, EPA congratulates Clean Water Partner **Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District** in Sandpoint, Idaho. This rural agency has undertaken a land application project of effluent discharges to Lake Pend O'Reille to benefit the water quality of the lake. The goal of this project is to remove the discharge from the lake and apply the water to a tree farm through a storage lagoon and irrigation system.

EPA received about 200 applications from across the U.S.; 79 were chosen as Clean Water Partners. The award opportunity was announced in the Federal Register in April 2002. Each applicant completed a compliance screen and demonstrated a good compliance record. For more information, log on to EPA's Office of Water Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ow>.

Mix of Leaders to Identify Northwest Air Priorities



An unusual mix of leaders from an array of organizations have announced a groundbreaking effort to set regional air quality priorities. Called the **Northwest Collaborative Air Priorities Project** (NW CAPP), the project will bring scores of individuals and organizations together from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Canada.

The NW CAPP Leadership Team, a group of 19 people representing diverse interests, will host a **Northwest Air Summit** on June 3, 4 and 5. The Air Summit is expected to attract people from health and public interest organizations, governments, tribes, agriculture and industry. Through an inclusive process, the summit participants will help identify priorities and create action plans to address the collective needs of the people in the region over the next 5–10 years.

"This is a remarkable effort," said Barbara McAllister of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Typically, action to resolve clean air concerns is done through government regulation or court cases. Those approaches don't always include a wide variety of interests. NW CAPP rises above the government-in-charge model and brings us all together for one purpose: to focus our attention on the best way to ensure clean air."



More information about the Northwest Collaborative Air Priorities Project can be found at the website www.epa.gov/region10/nwcapp.

Beneficial Landscaping:

This Year, Have a Salmon Friendly Yard



If you care about salmon (and even if you don't!), it's time to ***Just Say No!*** to lawn and garden chemicals, particularly the ones that are designed to kill. Recent studies by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and other researchers have found that toxic stormwater runoff – full of oil, grease, anti-freeze, pesticides and other pollutants – is killing the salmon returning to spawn before they are able to do so (*see Seattle Post-Intelligencer story, 2/6/03*).

This "pre-spawn mortality" occurs in spite of restored habitat conditions and is apparently caused mainly by pesticides that landowners apply to urban and suburban lawns. "Pesticides are designed to kill, and they do it very efficiently," said a fisheries biologist commenting on the study results, which found for Longfellow Creek in West Seattle an 88% pre-spawn fish kill.

"Perfect" weed and insect free lawns and gardens that are achieved through chemicals may not be fish, wildlife, or even people friendly – particularly for young children. Why not kick the habit and help save the salmon?

For more information on Beneficial Landscaping, contact Elaine Somers, EPA, at 206/553-2966 or 1-800-424-4372, or visit the website at www.epa.gov/r10earth/bl.htm.

WaterTalk Readers, We Hear You

Thanks to everyone who responded to February's **reader survey!** We learned that most of our readers really like ***WaterTalk***, and share it with others. We appreciate your ideas for improvement. You will be seeing some changes in the next few issues.

Also, congratulations to the five randomly selected winners who received an EPA baseball hat! The winners were from Boise, ID; Mackay, ID; Milwaukie, OR; Pendleton, OR and Olympia, WA.

If you haven't already turned in your survey, it's not too late. Or, if you prefer, just drop a line to Editor Andrea Lindsay at lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

Community-Based Environmental Protection News On-Line

The latest issue of ***Community-Based Environmental Protection News*** is now on-line. This electronic bulletin, produced by EPA, offers a range of information to support local efforts to protect the environment. It covers news, resources, event information, links, and other topics. To view the bulletin, visit the web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/news.htm>.

Mailing List Reminder

For mailing list changes, call Andrea Lindsay at 206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4372 x1896, or e-mail lindsay.andrea@epa.gov. Or cut out the form on the next page and mail or fax. *WaterTalk* is also available on-line at www.epa.gov/r10earth; click in "Index" then click on "W" for *WaterTalk* Newsletters.

MAILING LIST UPDATE

(check all that apply):

NOTE: There is no need to contact us if the address on your mailing label is correct and you do not wish to make changes.

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- Please add me to the mailing list for future WaterTalk newsletters.
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Address: _____

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COMMENTS: _____

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1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128



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MAILING LIST UPDATE

If you have address changes or comments,
please complete the form on the reverse side, and

fold and mail to EPA

or

fax to 206-553-2955

or

e-mail the information to lindsay.andrea@epa.gov

May

American Wetlands Month, Save Our Streams Program, 1-800-284-4952, www.iwla.org/sos/awm.

20: Watershed Funding Workshop, Pacific City, Oregon. Environmental Finance Center, 208/426-4990, <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc>.

22: Watershed Funding Workshop, Eugene, Oregon. Environmental Finance Center, 208/426-4990, <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc>.

28-29: Instream Flow Science and Management in Western Washington: Developing a Comprehensive, Ecosystem-Based Approach, University of Washington. Celia Gordon, Sustainable Fisheries Foundation, 360/862-1255, www.stewardandassociates.com/Instream/

29-31: The Sustainability Forum, Portland, Oregon. www.sustainablenorthwest.org, 503/221-6911.

June

5: Water Trading and Marketing, Portland, Oregon, The Seminar Group, www.theseminargroup.net/htmls/seminars/03wamor/index.htm

6: Regional Hydropower Relicensing, Seattle, Washington. The Seminar Group, www.theseminargroup.net/htmls/seminars/03hydwa/index.htm

6-Aug 15: Pierce County Watershed Steward Program, Washington. Curtis Hinman, WSU Cooperative Extension, 253/798-3257.

15-18: International Precision Forestry Symposium, University of Washington. www.cfr.washington.edu/outreach/prefor/, 206/543-6450.

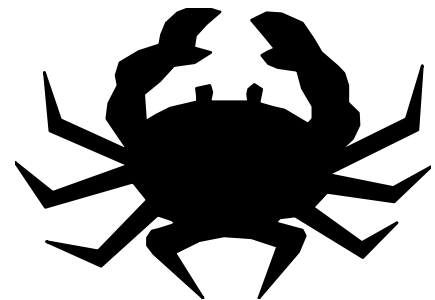
20-23: Sustainable Living in a Global World, Seattle, Washington. <http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/conference/>

July

15: Deadline to contribute to the August issue of *WaterTalk*. Andrea Lindsay, Editor, 206/553-1896, 1-800-424-4372 x1896, lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

22-23: National Forum on Water Quality Trading, EPA, Chicago, Illinois. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/conferences.html>

26-30: Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference, Spokane, Washington. www.swcs.org/, 515/289-2331.





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, or 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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