



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

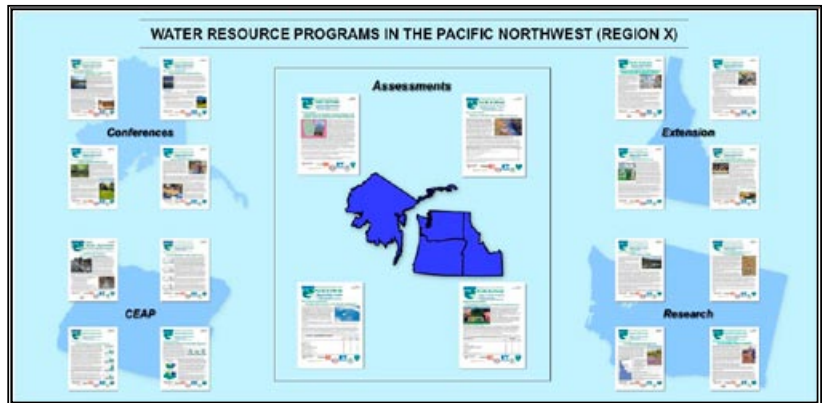
Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Winter 2008
PNWWATER 127

2008 National Water Conference

Approximately 500 scientists and professionals attended the 2008 National Water Conference held in Reno, Nevada (February 3-6, 2008). This conference included 200 oral presentations, 120 poster presentations and nine major symposia. Our region's poster is pictured on the right. Symposia topics included: (1) Using Social Indicators for NPS Planning and Evaluation, (2) Agricultural Water Conservation, (3) Coordinated Management of Water Quality Protection and Food Safety Practices in Cool Season Vegetable Production, (4) *E. coli* Monitoring in Streams Using Bacteria Test Kits, (5) Balancing Agriculture, Water Use, Human Resources, and Energy Production for a Sustainable Future, (6) Regional Water Program Impacts, (7) Volunteer Monitoring, (8) Source Water Protection, and (9) Improving Water Quality Through Integrated Pest Management.



As part of our region's national citizenship efforts we organized and solicited nominations for the national water resource awards. The 2008 national award categories were: (1) Water Resources Team, (2) Outstanding Extension Program, (3) Water Resources - Outstanding Partner, and (4) Water Resources – Outstanding Career Award. Awards were also presented to the three outstanding graduate student posters. The award winners are pictured below.

2008 National Water Awards



Outstanding Extension Program: Building E. coli Monitoring Capacity. Pictured Jerry Iles (Ohio State University), Barb Liukkonen (University of Minnesota), Colien Hefferan (CSREES Administrator), Lois Wolfson (Michigan State University), and Kris Stepenuck (University of Wisconsin). (Not pictured: Eric O'Brien, Iowa Department of Natural Resources).



Career Award: Dr. Mike O'Neill (USDA-CSREES) presenting award to Jerry LeMunyon (USDA-NRCS).



Partnership Award: Dr. Mike O'Neill (USDA-CSREES) presenting award to Thomas Davenport (EPA Region V).



Outstanding Integrated Program: NEMO. Pictured: Dr. Mike O'Neill (USDA-CSREES) presenting award to David Dickson (University of Connecticut). (Not pictured: Chester Arnold, John Rozum, and C. James Gibbons – all from University of Connecticut).



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/index.html>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.html>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension
Contact Bob Simmons:
360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact: Michael Cochrane:
360-392-4299

mcochrane@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute
<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)
<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center
<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10
The Pacific Northwest
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory
<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

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The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System (CSREES).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

The second annual Water Resources Team Award was presented to NEMO, National Education for Municipal Officials. This team consisting of David W. Dickson, Chester L. Arnold, John S. Rozum, and C. James Gibbons is based at the University of Connecticut. This team has established an outstanding program that has had a significant impact on the protection of water resources in urban areas across the country. This program has spawned NEMO projects in at least 32 different states.

The first annual Outstanding Extension Program was presented to staff working in the Great Lakes Region. Their project on building the capacity of volunteer groups to monitor for *E. coli* increased the knowledge, awareness, and skills of people in a six-state area. Leaders of this team effort included: Kris Stepenuck (University of Wisconsin), Barb Liukkonen (University of Minnesota), Lois Wolfson (Michigan State University), Jerry Iles (Ohio State University), and Eric O'Brien (Iowa Department of Natural Resources).

Jerry LeMunyon (USDA-NRCS) received the Career Award for his work on the Phosphorus Index. His work has had a significant impact on how agriculture addresses the use and disposal of animal wastes and other organic fertilizer materials.

The Partnership Award was presented to Thomas Davenport (EPA Region V). Tom has been an outstanding partner to our land grant institutions. Because of this partnership, significantly positive water resource advancements have been made over the last 20 years.

Fourteen graduate students competed in our annual poster competition at the National Meeting. Denise Weinkauff from Purdue University received first place for her poster titled "Factors Affecting Farmer Acceptability of Agricultural Best Management Practices." "Upper Sugar Creek Watershed, Ohio: A Model Watershed Study of Pathogen Origin, Fate and Transport" by Natsuko Merrick of The Ohio State University placed second. Arvind Mohanram placed third for the poster titled "Transport of *Cryptosporidium parvum* Oocysts Through Variably Charged Soils."

National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

CSREES is the Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is the federal partner in this water quality program.