

Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project



The Project promotes regional collaboration, enhances delivery of successful programs and encourages multi-state efforts to protect and restore water resources. Ultimately, the project improves public access to the research, extension and education resources available through the Land Grant University System in the Southern Region and nationwide. The primary goals of the Project are:

Facilitate Delivery of Land Grant University Resources

Delivery of high-quality programming on water quality issues is the backbone of the Project. Last year, the Project produced 337 popular articles, 67 fact sheets, 39 refereed journal articles, 20 proceedings & abstracts, 23 training manuals, 2 book chapters, 19 websites and 10 videos as new educational tools. More than 2,000 educational programs were delivered directly to an estimated 83,000 clientele. A sampling follows:



Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans are important tools for protecting water resources from NPS nutrient pollution. Programs offered by the **Southern Region States teach elements of nutrient management planning** to NRCS staff and members of approved third party organizations so they can write certified CNMPS.

"Stream Restoration Training and Demonstration in the Southeastern USA" has resulted in changes in state and federal stream mitigation policies so that a more effective natural channel design approach is emphasized. Over 1200 professionals have participated in 30 workshops in 8 southern region states.



The web-based **Drinking Water and Human Health FAQ database** provides answers to more than 2,400 questions on numerous water quality-related topics. Extension agents can immediately direct clients to science-based answers to drinking water quality questions. Available through a link on the regional website (www.aces.edu/waterquality/faq/faq.htm)



Promote Regional Information Sharing and Resource Exchange

The Project targets integration of multi-state research, education and extension activities in watershed management and protection and pollution prevention.

A regional water quality web site brings together the collective water quality research, education and extension resources for Land Grant Universities in 13 states and provides specific links to the National Water Quality Program web site and water quality databases hosted by other agencies.

srwqis.tamu.edu



Flexible and interactive GIS data and tools provide overlapping data layers such as watersheds, rivers and streams, land use/land cover, soils, major and minor aquifers, elevation and population centers.



The Southern Region hosts a region-wide, biennial water quality training conference that provides direct access to successful programs and resources which can be employed throughout the Region.

The Project has enabled research-based courses on comprehensive nutrient management plan development, stream restoration techniques, and runoff education to be offered throughout the Region.



Develop and Maintain Partnerships



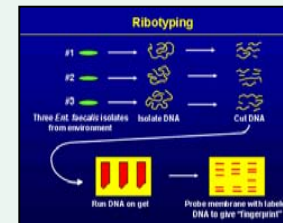
Significant effort is directed toward enhancing coordination with other federal and state water resource management agencies such as USEPA, USGS, and USDA agencies - ARS, NRCS and CSREES. For example:

- 406-funded Extension (CSREES)/EPA Liaisons are currently or will be located in EPA Region IV and VI headquarters to facilitate information and resource sharing. Region IV EPA and CSREES are cooperating on the Children's Environmental Health Partnership through the Region IV Liaison.

- 406 funding supports collaborative, interagency programs such as the Nutrient Management Website (nmp.tamu.edu/) offered by Texas Cooperative Extension in collaboration with NRCS.



EPA Region 4 is working with USDA-CSREES and states in Region 4 to increase awareness of concerns associated with environmental health hazards faced by children.



- Collaborative research in Georgia is using a new tool called ribotyping to link fecal coliform bacteria to their hosts. An expanding library of over 5,000 RNA "fingerprints" will enable water resource managers to identify host origins and target resources for management.

