



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Coordination Program

Region 10 Watershed Issues Satellite Conferences

Abstract: The 2002 PNW Water Issues Public Survey revealed a majority of people felt they learned best from newspapers and television, not workshops. Integrating this opinion into the Program's mission, live educational satellite broadcasts became a component of the annual workplan. Participant evaluations at the first two satellite workshops suggested topics for succeeding programs; increasing community involvement in watershed restoration moved from a close second at the first program to the leading topic at the second workshop. Watershed restoration as a community activity requires involvement over extended periods and work groups seek volunteers and increased public support.

Objectives:

The objectives of the program are to assist in building watershed groups' capacity and to increase community awareness of watershed stewardship. 2004's Watershed Issues workshop was developed as a forum for groups across the northwest to share successful techniques and experiences in increasing and sustaining community involvement.

Methods:

Three watershed groups were selected from a set of criteria: Longevity of organization; geographical and economic diversity; and, at least one group with Tribal leadership. A camera crew from WSU College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences visited the chosen groups to develop video case studies to air on the two and one-hour program. On the broadcast, group Directors and two Extension organization specialists joined, electronically, in a discussion of methods available for community recruitment and retention with participants across the region.

Partnerships:

The five Northwest Land Grant institutions, PNW Watershed Councils, Boards and Planning Units, and agency partners shared knowledge and meeting spaces across the region.

Resources:

Technical people, coordinator to develop and market the program, volunteer interviewees and facilitators.

Integration of Research, Teaching, and Extension:

The two Extension specialists from Oregon and Washington have researched group process, written manuals, and held seminars for practitioners forming watershed groups.

Results:

This workshop airs in November and the results will be reported on the poster.

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