

EPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative: Protecting Our High Quality Waters and Watersheds



October 13, 2010

Two-hour audio Web broadcast

Eastern: 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.

Central: 12:00p.m.-2:00p.m.

Mountain: 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Pacific: 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

A Watershed Academy Webcast

Join us for this exciting Webcast on the new Healthy Watersheds Initiative. While most EPA water quality programs have focused on restoring impaired waters, the new Healthy Watersheds Initiative encourages states, local governments, watershed organizations and others to protect and maintain healthy waterbodies as well. Healthy watersheds provide our communities with drinking water, recreational opportunities, environmental benefits and services, including clean water for healthy aquatic ecosystems, habitat for fish and wildlife, and better resilience against storms and floods, climate change and future land use changes. Protecting healthy watersheds will result in considerable savings over time if the need for costly restoration can be avoided in watersheds that would otherwise become impaired by cumulative impacts of multiple stressors. Join us for this Webcast to learn what tools EPA is developing to help promote Healthy Watersheds and to hear about what several states are doing to protect their healthy watersheds. Participants are encouraged to download presentations prior to the Webcast at www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts.



Instructors:



Laura Gabanski, Healthy Watersheds Initiative Lead, U.S. EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, has almost 30 years experience in environmental science and management and holds degrees in biology and oceanography. She has worked in consulting and for various federal agencies on coastal and marine management, water quality monitoring, and ecological assessment. Laura initiated and is building the Healthy Watersheds Initiative whose goal is to identify and protect healthy waters and watersheds based on a holistic, systems approach. Outside of work, Laura enjoys outdoor pursuits such as ski mountaineering and bicycle racing.

Rick Hill, Planning and Policy Manager, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has more than 25 years of environmental planning and resource management experience. For the last 15 years, he has worked on water quality issues at the Virginia DCR. He has also worked on environmental policy development and land use management at the state and local government level. During his tenure at DCR, Rick has been at the forefront in conserving water resources in Virginia. He led development of a Healthy Waters Initiative that has established conservation of ecologically healthy waters as a priority for the Commonwealth. In addition, Rick has led numerous Chesapeake Bay conservation and restoration efforts in Virginia. He is currently coordinating implementation planning for the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.



Stephen Stanley, Project Manager, Puget Sound Characterization Project, Washington Department of Ecology SEA Program, has degrees in aquatic biology and environmental studies from University of California - Santa Barbara and has more than 30 years experience in wetland and watershed assessment, management and regulation. He has worked in Washington State as both a consultant, educator, and regulator, conducting and reviewing wetland delineations and assessments, developing wetland enhancement and restoration plans. At the Washington Department of Ecology, he is leading an effort to characterize Puget Sound watersheds and present that information in a web-based format that promotes watershed-based planning and permitting.

The Watershed Academy

The Watershed Academy is a focal point in EPA's Office of Water for providing training and information on implementing watershed approaches. The Academy sponsors live classroom training and online distance learning modules through the Watershed Academy Web at www.epa.gov/watertrain. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watershedacademy.

Registration

You must register in advance to attend this Webcast. Register at the Watershed Academy Webcast Web site at: www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts. Note: Your computer must have the capability of playing sound in order to attend this Webcast. To view archived Webcasts, go to www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts.

Questions? Please contact Amber Marriott at amber.marriott@tetrattech.com

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