



Title: Fifteen Years of the Land Grant/EPA Partnership

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Organization: University of Idaho

State: Multi-State

Region: Pacific Northwest

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Water Policy and Economics

Situation: In the late 1980s, Land Grant Universities and Region 10 EPA acted upon their belief that when agencies work together to help communities solve environmental problems, better decisions result. They knew Extension faculty could help inform EPA staff of local needs, issues and characteristics and tailor information and programs to state agencies, agricultural producers and the general public. Utilizing a liaison, Extension and EPA formed a partnership that thrives to this day.

Objectives: The Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Program works to improve water quality management through education and extension programming that emerges from a research base. The Program achieves its goal by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assessing program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs.

Methods: The target audience has been reached through research-based conferences and products: "Taking Care of Streams" by PNW Extension; "PNW Water Quality and Monitoring Program" by Mahler, Miner, Simmons, Laughlin; "Pacific Northwest Water Issues Public Survey" by Mahler; "Living on the Edge and Funding Watershed Restoration in the PNW: Satellite Conferences by Simmons and Seago.

Partnerships: Partners are Land Grant Universities, State Water Research Institutes, the Northwest Indian College and EPA Region 10, state Agricultural and Environmental agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, USGS, universities and USDA agencies.

Research: Water Research Institutes and EPA research lab are full partners. Biennial R & E conference involves agencies, Extension and researchers as presenters and participants. Publications and web pages provide contacts from Extension and Research. Outreach utilizes research by Land Grants, other universities, and EPA.

Resources: For 15 years of partnership, EPA has contributed salary and administrative support for the Liaison and financial support for projects or mini-grants. State agencies have contributed dollars for projects such as the biennial R & E conference.

Results: Outputs: a series of Riparian Bulletins for landowners, a Water Quality Monitoring Curriculum for educators, a satellite program for watershed groups, The Columbia Plateau Agriculture Initiative, Water Issues Survey in Region 10, meetings to provide outreach on regulations about CAFOs. Outcomes: better-informed decision-makers, more voluntary compliance with regulations, and better coordination of agency and education efforts.



The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.

