



Title: Coordinated Agricultural Water Quality Programming For EPA Region VIII

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Organization: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

State: CO

Region: Northern Plains and Mountains

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The Northern Plains and Mountains Region is defined by six states - Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and North and South Dakota (coincident with EPA Region 8). There are a number of common water quality issues due to climatic and geographic similarities across the region. In 2000 funding was provided by USDA-CSREES to form a regional partnership among the six Land Grant Universities in the region in order to collaboratively address these water quality issues.

Objectives: 1) Create linkages within the Land Grant Universities between research, education and outreach in order to comprehensively address water quality issues. 2) Create partnerships with other public and private agencies, organizations and stakeholder groups in order to address common water quality program goals. 3) Leverage resources among partners and through other funding sources in order to expand the extent of the program.

Methods: Create a water quality team for the region that is in regular contact and communication in order to share resources and collaborate on programming. Market the program throughout the region using a website and fact sheets. Conduct appropriate research, education and outreach across the region to address water quality issues. Maintain linkages to other partners in the states.

Partnerships: State: NPS/Watershed Councils, Depts of Ag, Env. Qual, Educ, and Commerce, Found for Water Educ, Assoc of Cons Dists, Groundwater Task Force, Commodity Groups, Irrig/Soil/Water Cons Dists. Federal: EPA, NRCS, USFS, BLM, USGS, USFWS, BOR, DOE

Research: Developing web-based water training courses; integrating water quality education into undergraduate and graduate teaching; research and education on coal bed methane development and related water quality issues; developing mapping tools to assess aquifer sensitivity, land use and water quality, and impervious area development; research on remote sensing; developing monitoring protocols and water quality standards; research on wetland plants for use in phytoremediation.

Resources: Through responding to requests for proposals and other collaborative arrangements, the project leveraged \$4.09M of additional resources.

Results: A greater degree of collaboration and communication among the states; further development of partnerships with state and federal agencies and local stakeholders; increased leveraging of program funds through contacts with other funding agencies addressing water quality issues. Partnerships have begun at the campus level to engage more faculty as resources for the regional programs. Program is marketed through information fact sheets mailed to 700 key influentials within the region.



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