



Title: Protecting and Improving Washington State's Waters: The WSU Water Quality Management Team

Name: Robert Simmons

Email: simmons@wsu.edu

Organization: Washington State University

State: WA **Region:** Pacific Northwest

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: Nonpoint source pollution, groundwater contamination, and stormwater management are important continuing problems affecting water in Washington. The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) reports that bacteria, suspended solids, low dissolved oxygen, high temperature, nutrients, and pesticides are the primary nonpoint source contamination issues (WA Ecology 2003). Major sources listed are runoff from livestock production operations, irrigated and non-irrigated crop production, urban runoff, construction, and forest practices.

Objectives: The WSU - Cooperative Extension Water Quality Management Team is a committee of Extension Faculty and Staff that support Cooperative Extension water quality programs statewide. The team's mission is to guide water quality program direction, set priorities, enhance collaboration and coordination among WSU programs and provide faculty/staff training opportunities.

Methods: Field demonstrations, field days, mass media (such as newspapers, newsletters, radio, and TV programs), workshops/meetings, volunteer training, staff development programs have been held on agricultural, forestry and residential nonpoint sources of pollution and solutions. Products developed include over 200 water resource related educational bulletins, videos, Domestic Water Use and Salmon resource binders for county offices, curricula for K-12 youths, a water resource specific website, email listservs, as well as 6 Watershed Steward Volunteer programs.

Partnerships: Commodity and producer groups, local governments, other colleges, watershed councils, non-profit groups, conservation and irrigation districts, WA Depts. of Health, Ag., Nat. Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Action Team, Cons. Commission, NRCS, EPA, USFS, & USBLM.

Research: WSU Extension outreach programs continually bring research-based information to our clientele and identify research needs for the university. Annual WSU Water Resource meetings are specifically designed to increase integration between teaching, research and community outreach.

Resources: The WSU Extension Outreach programs, through partnerships with a range of natural resource agencies and organizations at all levels, as well as through extensive use of volunteers leverage a substantial amount of resources. The dollar figures far exceed the resources committed through WSU.

Results: WSU Extension has utilized numerous methods to protect and improve Washington's water resources. Extension provided technical expertise and educational programs in pollution prevention to reduce water resource degradation from contaminants stemming from a range of land uses, from agriculture to households. Subsequently 17,300 Washington residents now have a greater understanding of the interdependence of water resources, human health, and the ecology of their region. 4,900 program participants made changes in practices that will protect water resources and aquatic life.



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