



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### [USDA CSREES Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Program: Focus on Partners Northwest Indian College](#)

This poster describes the Northwest Indian College Water Quality program and associated research facilities. The poster presents fecal coliform monitoring efforts in the Nooksack River watershed in Whatcom County Washington over the last six years. The emphasis of the poster is the development of a watershed wide monitoring plan, point and nonpoint source identification, and fecal coliform transportation dynamics that has resulted in the first successful TMDL for Bacteria in EPA Region 10.

The problem is chronic and mostly a problem of adjacent regulatory standards. It takes a fecal coliform count of over 200 to violate Class A water quality standards at the mouth of the Nooksack River. It only takes a fecal coliform count of 44 to violate Shellfish growing water standards three miles downstream.

The current fecal coliform standard was designed to be an indicator of human health risk from human viruses coming from human sewage. Cows don't get human viruses. So, in this case, we have an indicator of human health risk being applied to a non-human source.

This poster will be of special interest to those curious about the role a Federally recognized Treaty Tribe can play in focusing attention and resources on water quality issues.

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