



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Reaching Beyond Region X

The Region X Water Quality Program produces annual satellite conferences on watershed issues that are relevant to the Pacific Northwest. In 2005 US EPA asked that we produce a satellite workshop on an issue of significance to the entire nation.

Traditionally, the annual workshop topics rely on evaluation form remarks collected from the participants. The most requested topic in 2004 was stormwater management as the Phase II Non-Point Source requirements are an issue of importance to a vast number of growing communities in the Northwest. This topic appeared to be an appropriate theme for a national program.

Continuing the emphasis on watershed management, three diverse areas were chosen as case studies. The Watauga River watershed is rural, though growing quickly due to second home building and is managing the increased stormwater using stream and wetland restoration, as well as enacting Low Impact Development strategies in zoning codes.

The Chagrin River Watershed is just east of Cleveland Ohio and is growing quickly as people move away from the center city to enjoy the relative quiet of suburbia. The problems developing from suburban growth is flashy streams and increased siltation downstream. The villages and townships share their strategies for stemming the sprawl and managing stormwater's damage to the watershed.

Portland Oregon, a city of steep hills and a large population presents a different set of problems in stormwater management. The City, businesses, and residents share their experiences of stemming the flow of stormwater to the Willamette River in an effort to stop the negative impact to the native fishery and maintain good water quality.

The satellite program was viewed in over 150 sites from Fairbanks, Alaska to St. Croix, USVI, and the Islands of Hawaii to upper New York State, with many states offering multiple viewing sites.

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