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Public Attitudes and Actions Taken toward Water Resource Issues in the Pacific Northwest in the Last Five Years

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Abstract Text:

A 50-question survey was completed by 1,012 residents of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in early 2007 about public attitudes, aptitudes and actions taken toward water resource issues in the Pacific Northwest. This statistically designed survey, is identical to a survey instrument used in 2002. The 2002 survey established base line data. The answers collected in 2007 will be used to measure change over the last five years. Based on survey results the following water quantity changes have been made by the public in the region in the last five years: (1) almost 60% of respondents have installed a water saving device in their home; (2) 42.9% changed how they have used water in the house; (3) 49% changed their yard watering patterns; (4) 30% changed how they washed their vehicle; and (5) only 17.5% indicated that they have not instituted any water saving actions. Based on survey results the following water quality actions have been taken by the public in the region in the last five years: (1) 46.1% have changed the way they dispose of household chemicals; (2) 31% have changed their usage of pesticides and fertilizers in their yards; (3) 29.1% have changed their disposal methods for motor oil and other vehicle fluids; and (4) only 26.2% of survey respondents have taken no action to address water quality concerns. The 2007 survey results show that citizens are willing to voluntarily address important water quality and water quantity issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Impact Statement:

This study has documented changes private citizens have made over the last five in how they address both water quantity and water quality issues of concern. The study shows that the majority of citizens have made personal changes in how they use water in and around their homes. In addition, more than 50% of residents have acted to protect water quality. This study documents actual outcomes of the Region 10 water resources project.