



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2005
PNWWATER 072

Water Quality and Pesticide Symposium

In late August experts in water quality and pesticides met in Portland, OR at the Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West Symposium. The event was hosted by the Western IPM Center and brought together a diverse group of over 80 people concerned about pesticide use and water quality. The two-day event covered the themes of water quality, endangered species, and reduce-risk integrated pest management (IPM).

One of the main objectives of IPM is to decrease the use of pesticides in the environment. Pesticides are toxic and may enter streams, lakes, or the environment either directly or indirectly. This symposium was designed to help address issues from the broad perspectives of research, extension and outreach, best management practices (BMPs), endangered species, invasive species, and urban pesticide use.

One of the unique facets of this symposium was the use of the panels of experts tied with immediate break out sessions where the participants could discuss with the speakers the issues brought up at the session. Some of the issues addressed were:



Ronda Hirynck, Gene Foster, Annie Joseph, Dusty Eddy, Bob Mahler, and Wayne Newbill (l to r) sit on the panel.

- ◆ Why are we finding pesticides in our waters and what can we do about it?
- ◆ If you detect pesticides in the stream, is it a problem?
- ◆ What is the highest water quality priority in your local area?
- ◆ What do water quality data mean to landowners, the public, the agencies, and the press?
- ◆ What would get solutions more widely adopted that keep pesticides out of water in both agricultural and urban settings?
- ◆ What long-term processes can we develop to address resource problems while minimizing impacts to communities throughout the Klamath Basin?
- ◆ How can the regulatory, environmental, and agricultural communities work together more effectively to solve difficult environmental resource issues?
- ◆ What needs to be done to make progress on invasive species issues while still protecting endangered and threatened species habitat?
- ◆ How can government encourage incentives to the private sector to adopt IPM practices that minimize adverse impacts on water quality?



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
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<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.htm>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension

Contact Bob Simmons:
360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

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Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute

<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)

<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center

<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10

The Pacific Northwest

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory

<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

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The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

- ◆ How do we make alternatives to pesticides economically viable to the producer?
- ◆ Are public policy changes needed to look at risk to aquatic organisms in a different way, and if so, what kind?

A summary of the discussions from these breakout sessions and information on the symposium will be available at the Western IPM Center's website at www.wripmc.org.



Dan Kent, Frank Zalom, and Jonathan Kaplan (l to r) sit on the panel.

National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource Extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

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