

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA & Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Stormwater Management Directory

Non-point source pollution (NPS) has a more significant negative effect on water quality than point source pollution. Non-point source pollutants include contaminants that enter waterways from streets, parking lots, roof gutters, agricultural fields, and intensively managed forest lands. It is much easier to identify point sources of pollution through monitoring and to correct associated potential problems than to successfully reduce impacts from non-point sources.

In our region land-use changes brought about by fast population growth often result in polluted waterways that put fish and wildlife in peril and reduce the quality of life of citizens living in these highly-impacted areas. The Land Grant Institutions in our region have researchers who develop strategies to mitigate water quality problems associated with fast growth. Specifically, some of these investigations deal with minimizing automobile-caused pollution, sediment runoff from construction sites and developments, pet wastes, and other practices found in urbanizing areas that degrade water quality.

Traditionally, stormwater has been rapidly removed from urban areas by funneling water into pipes which empty into the nearest waterway or holding pond within a fenced-off area. This water is laden with pollutants that degrade the quality of our rivers. Even if held in a holding pond, the stormwater runoff is a problem as it may attract mosquitoes.

As communities expand, the percentage of land that can absorb water from rainfall events decrease, resulting in an increase in stormwater runoff. In an ideal world, communities should have very few impervious surfaces; however, it is common for up to 70 percent of the land area in urban communities to be impervious to rainfall resulting in high amounts of water runoff.

Low Impact Development is a construction technique that lessens the footprint of buildings and parking lots, leaving trees to absorb and slow rainwater, and the installation of swales or other catchment methods to divert and distribute runoff before it flows into storm drains and streams. Using distributive methods such as these replace the need for engineered infrastructure, eliminating the 'end of the pipe' damage. For an example, consider a community consisting of smaller house lots designed for ease of maintenance, leaving greenbelt community spaces.

Many jurisdictions place a percentage limit on impervious surfaces allowed within a development. A large box store zoning ordinance may specify distributive methods for the parking lot and roof areas. Swales fed by cut curbs and planted with vegetation that will absorb the water, filtering out pollutants and slowing runoff before leaving the property all become part of the planning process. Shopping malls with acres of parking lot can manage stormwater runoff by choosing to construct wetlands between parking lots to filter runoff.

Established, older buildings in cities have a different set of problems with stormwater. There is no readily available land to develop for runoff management. Some cities are experimenting with eco or green roofs. Green roof installations reportedly capture up to 60 percent of rain events and slow the velocity of Large parking areas impervious to rainfall, resulting in water the remaining 40 percent.



runoff.



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service Contact Fred Sorensen: 907-786-6311 <u>http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/</u> University Publications: <u>http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/</u>

<u>Idaho</u>

University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025 <u>http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html</u> University Publications: http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.htm

<u>Oregon</u>

Oregon State University Extension Service Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316 <u>http://extension.oregonstate.edu/</u> University Publications: <u>http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/</u>

<u>Washington</u>

Washington State University WSU Extension Contact Bob Simmons: 360-427-9670 ext. 690 <u>http://wawater.wsu.edu/</u> University Publications: <u>http://pubs.wsu.edu/</u>

Northwest Indian College Contact Charlotte Clausing: 360-392-4319 <u>cclausing@nwic.edu</u> or <u>http://www.nwic.edu/</u>

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/

For more information contact Jan Seago at 206-553-0038 or seago.jan@epa.gov Homeowners have many techniques available to treat or intercept stormwater on their property. Disconnecting downspouts and constructing rain gardens to catch, slow, and filter rainwater is a popular method. Removing sidewalks and replacing with permeable paths of asphalt or small gravel will allow the rainwater to soak into the soil. Eliminating much of the lawn surrounding a home and replacing it with native trees and shrubs, and using permeable asphalt or pavers for the driveways can slow or reduce runoff.

Pacific Northwest Land Grant Institution scientists and faculty investigate stormwater management issues, Best Management Practice effectiveness, and collaborate with local governments to install water-wise gardens and Low Impact Development pilot projects to transform stormwater from a problem to a resource.

Resources:

Oregon State University

Sam Chan <u>chan.sam@oregonstate.edu</u> – 503-655-8631 Frank Burris <u>burris.frank@oregonstate.edu</u> – 541-247-6672 Emily Cosci <u>emily.cosci@oregonstate.edu</u> – 503-373-3754 Derek Godwin <u>derek.godwin@oregonstate.edu</u> – 503-566-2909 Tara Nierenberg <u>nierenberg.tara@oregonstate.edu</u> – 541-737-8715 VTP29 After the Rain: Urban Runoff VTP21 We All Live Downstream

Washington State University

Michael Barber meb@wsu.edu – 509-335-5531 Curtis Hinman chinman@wsu.edu – 253-798-3257 Barry Moore bcmoore@wsu.edu - 509-335-4006 William F. Schillinger schillw@wsu.edu – 509-235-1933 Robert C. Simmons simmons@wsu.edu – 360-427-9670 x 396 DVD0126 Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective Hinman, Curtis. et al. Low Impact Development: Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound, available: http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/LID/lid_cd/LID_resources.htm

University of Idaho

Bob Mahler <u>bmahler@uidaho.edu</u> – 208-885-7025 **Jan Seago** <u>seago.jan@epa.gov</u> – 206-553-0038 **#39** *Ag Knowledge UI Helps Northwest Growers Farm Without Plows*

University of Alaska – Fairbanks

Fred Sorensen dffes@uaa.alaska.edu - 907-786-6311

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

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2008-51130-04734.