



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Fall 2010
PNWWATER 192

Pacific Northwest

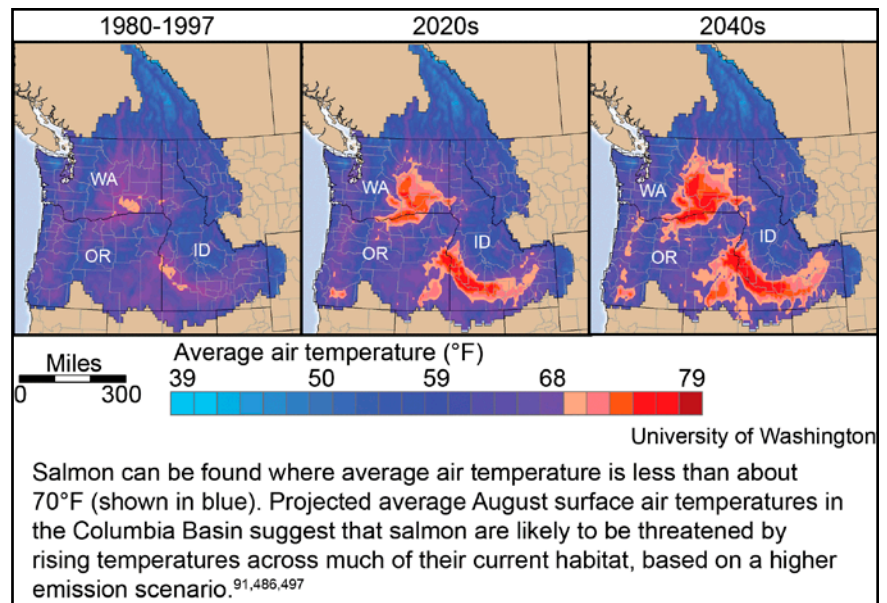
Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Water Management:

PNW Climate Change Website

Recent scientific studies continue to increasingly support the notion that climate change is occurring across the globe. Climate change is and has been a natural process; however, scientists believe that humans are accelerating this change by adding carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels. Based on scientific data and modeling the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Resources Team plans to educate citizens in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington about the effects of climate change on our water resources. Rather than concentrating on a net increase or decrease in annual precipitation patterns, we feel that the change in how fast the mountain snow pack melts in the spring will have a significant impact on many of our industries. We feel that climate change could have an important impact on many aspects of our water resources over the next five to ten years.



There is a lot of information available on climate change on the Internet. Consequently, it can be overwhelming to try to find reliable fact-based information on this topic. In an effort to consolidate information on climate change for the Pacific Northwest (PNW), we have established a website to do this. This website is designed to be a portal to the most relevant information on climate change for the PNW and will enable the public to access many scientifically credible web-based resources about climate change in our region.

Check out our new PNW Water and Climate Change Website:

<http://www.pnwwaterweb.com/climatechange.htm>

The website is structured so that people seeking information on the region, just one state, or a specific topic area can easily find the information they seek. The site begins with a regional page that has an announcements link for regional updates. People can subscribe to a RSS (really simple syndication) feed, which delivers frequently updated website content.

There are also site pages on four topic areas that are especially pertinent to the Pacific Northwest: Home and Community, Farming and Ranching, Forest and Habitat, and Coastal and Streams. Each of these pages has basic information on climate actions or adaptations and links to further resources on the topic.

The resources page has subpages for announcements, a calendar, and a library. The announcements page has updates that would be of interest to the Pacific Northwest and also a RSS feed to it that is easily followed. The calendar page is a



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<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/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact Charlotte Clausing:
360-392-4319

cclausing@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

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

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

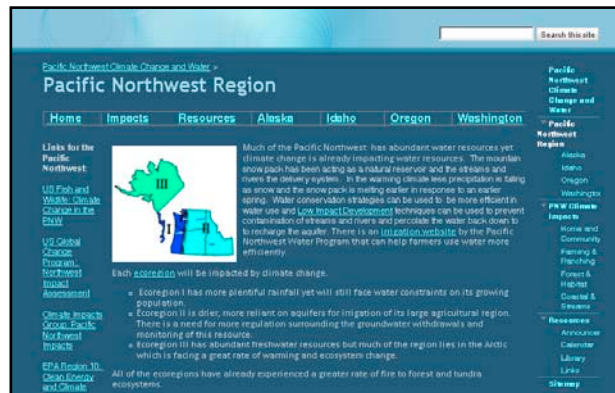
The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated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

Google calendar of climate related events for the region. The library page had a variety of downloadable climate related documents on a variety of topics. There is a navigation bar on the side so people can easily navigate around the website.

Each state also has its own page. The state pages have their own RSS feed so that if an individual is only interested in what is going on in Oregon they will only get that information. This will help people keep abreast of the information pertinent to them without getting overwhelmed by the huge volume of information available. There is a map of the state showing a climate scenario from a variety of sources. For instance, the map on the Oregon page is from the Climate Wizard website and shows the projected temperature increase by the end of the century. There are useful links and/or reports for each state. Website users can also subscribe to the page and receive updates when there is new information posted on the webpage.



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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