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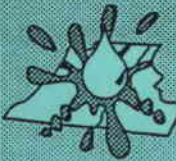
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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H2O NEWS

LINKING OREGON'S WATER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



2ND ANNUAL PACIFIC NW WATER ISSUES CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Pacific Northwest Water Issues Conference will be held October 7-8, 1996 at the Red Lion Columbia River in Portland, Oregon. The Second Annual Conference is once again sponsored by three Pacific Northwest Water Resources Research Institute in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

A Call for Papers will be sent out shortly providing break-outs session topics and entry details and deadlines.

GOVERNOR KITZHABER PROCLAIMS GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK

Governor Kitzhaber has proclaimed April 8-14, 1996, as Groundwater Awareness Week, to draw attention to State's goal of preventing groundwater contamination. Over 70% of all Oregonians are at least partially dependent on groundwater for their drinking water, and in many rural homes and communities groundwater is the only drinking water source. Groundwater Awareness Week is a collaborative effort of several agencies that work on groundwater protection.

See *Groundwater Connections* inside for further information on Groundwater Awareness Week activities and how to order your Groundwater Action Pack.



USGS ALTERS STRUCTURE OF WATER INSTITUTES

This year will bring substantial changes in which research grants will be supported under Water Resources Research Act. The changes were instituted by the USGS in a effort to develop a more competitive process and to allow larger projects. Under the new rules, research funds will be pooled into four national regional competitions. The Western region will include the 13 western states (Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma). The process will require faculty in the western states to submit proposals to a regional selection committee managed through the Wyoming Water Resources Center. The total research funds for the Western region is about \$800,000. The proposal guidelines are:

- no state will be guaranteed funding. Projects will be supported based upon ranking within the Western region;
- projects will be funded at the level of up to \$350k for one to three years (smaller projects are encouraged);
- cross-state and cross-region projects can be proposed;
- a 2:1 non-federal match will still be required;

- projects are encouraged to be directed toward a list of regional needs (contact OWRRI);
- projects funded to Oregon faculty will be managed through the OWRRI program;
- project start dates must be between September 1, 1996 to September 31, 1996; and
- proposals are due to OWRRI by May 21, 1996 and will be submitted to the Wyoming Institute by OWRRI.

Contact OWRRI for a proposal package for this regional competition or a request for applications will be available on the Wyoming Water Resources Center World Wide Web site (<http://www.wwrc.uwyo.edu/>) under the topic *New Water Center News*. A proposal solicitation for the typical OWRRI research projects under Section 104b of the Water Resources Research Act will not be conducted for 1996-97.

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SHOW YOU CARE - BE GROUNDWATER AWARE!

Groundwater Awareness Week, April 8-14, 1996

Governor Kitzhaber has declared April 8-14, 1996, as Oregon Groundwater Awareness Week to highlight the important role this crucial natural resource plays in the lives of all Oregonians. Over 70% of all Oregonians are at least partially dependent on groundwater and in many rural communities groundwater is the only drinking water source. The recent floods caused some communities to resort to backup groundwater supplies, and forced some private well owners to treat their water. The floods of 1996 brought to light our dependence on groundwater, and how vulnerable our water supplies are to contamination.

Natural disasters can't be controlled, but as Dennis Nelson of the Oregon Health Division, points out, "It's important for all of us to understand how our daily activities can affect drinking water quality... whatever we're doing at or below the surface has the potential of impacting groundwater quality." Nelson assists communities in developing wellhead and drinking water protection programs and strongly supports citizen education efforts.

"Contaminated groundwater is difficult, costly, and sometimes impossible to clean up," says Loretta Brenner, coordinator, Groundwater Community Involvement Program, OWRRI. "Prevention of contamination must be a key goal in groundwater protection," adds Brenner. The Community Involvement Program assists agencies, public water supplies, and individuals in groundwater education.

"Oregon's Voluntary Wellhead Protection Program is a great way for communities to learn more about their own water resources and prevent contamination," says Sheree Stewart, of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. "Wellhead protection benefits everyone in the community and is a highly cost effective way to ensure a safe, clean drinking water supply for the future," she adds.

Groundwater Awareness Week is a collaborative effort of several agencies that work on groundwater protection. They encourage you to promote groundwater education efforts not only during awareness week, but throughout the year. For more information or assistance contact the Groundwater Awareness Team:

- ◆ Loretta Brenner, Groundwater Community Involvement Program, OWRRI, (541) 737-5736;
- ◆ Julie Magers, Children's Groundwater Festival, Portland State University, (503) 725-8288;

- ◆ Dennis Nelson, Oregon Health Division, (503) 731-4010;
- ◆ Tom Pattee, Oregon Association of Water Utilities, (503) 873-8353;
- ◆ Amy Patton, Oregon DEQ, (503) 229-5878; and
- ◆ Sheree Stewart, Oregon DEQ, (503) 229-5413.

GROUNDWATER FESTIVALS HIGHLIGHT AWARENESS WEEK

This year the Oregon Children's Groundwater Festival and the Oregon Groundwater Community Involvement Program have joined forces to sponsor the Oregon Children's and Community Groundwater Festival. The Festival will be held on April 12, 1996 at Western Oregon State College, in Monmouth. The free festival will host over 1,000 middle school students and their teachers during the day, and will be open to the public from 4-8 PM. The Festival will feature displays, hands-on activities, demonstrations, and mini-workshops, all geared to bring the wonderful world of water resources to life in a fun and festive atmosphere. Free well water testing for nitrates, entries from a student poster competition, food, entertainment, and door prizes are all part of the fanfare. Numerous local, state, federal, and private agencies donate their resources to make the Festival a tremendous learning experience for everyone who participates. The Festival is supported by OWRRI, WOSC, Portland State University, Oregon DEQ, and the US EPA. Call the GCIP/OWRRI at (541) 737-5736 for more information or get on the mailing list for next year's program.

GROUNDWATER ACTION PACK AVAILABLE

The pack features the Governor's Proclamation; Groundwater Information Sheets targeted to citizens, farmers, businesses, educators, and public water suppliers; "The Groundwater Guide;" and other reproducible materials to help build community groundwater awareness.

Call (541) 737-5736 to request your pack today!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

APRIL

19 **10th Int'l Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop**
Corvallis, OR

Salmonid Habitat: Operational Solutions to Problems in Forested Streams. For further information call Conference Assistant, College of Forestry (541) 737-2329.

26-27 **Putting Our Communities Back on Their Feet**
San Francisco, CA

Creating Communities Environmental, Economical, and Socially Healthy and Livable. For further information call Center for Livable Communities (916) 448-1198.

MAY

7-8 **Protecting Local Groundwater Resources in Oregon**
Portland, OR

World Forestry Center. For further information call Environmental Law Education Center (503) 282-5220.

9-10 **Northwest Water Law and Policy Project's Annual Water Conference**
Portland, OR

NW's Water Resources: Federal, Tribal, State Local Control. For further information call Dorothy Johnson, NW School of Law (503) 768-6784.

JUNE

8-12 **Watershed '96 - Moving Ahead Together**
Baltimore, MD

For further information call WEF, (703) 684-2414.

9-14 **Society of Wetland Scientists: From Small Streams to Big Rivers**
Kansas City, MO

For further information call T.J. Taylor, (913) 551-7226.

JULY

10-12 **Green '96 - Educating for Sustainable Watersheds**
Ann Arbor, MI

For further information call Green International Office, (313) 761-8142.

14-17 **AWRA Annual Summer Symposium "Watershed Restoration Mgmt: Physical, Chemical, & Biological Considerations"**
Syracuse, NY

For further information call American Water Resources Association, (703) 904-1225.



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**Wetlands
Best Management Practices
and Riparian Zones**

VOMOCIL WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

The 1995 Water Quality Proceedings are now available from the OSU Extension Water Quality Coordinator office at Oregon State University, attention Ron Miner (541-737-6295). The conference focused on wetlands, best management practices and the impact of riparian zone health on water quality. The document includes twelve of the presentations plus a list of conference participants. Price is \$10 per copy.

The next Vomocil Water Quality Conference will be held November 13 at Corvallis, Oregon.

H₂O NEWS

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For additional copies or for further information regarding the Oregon Water Resources Research Institute program, please call or write:

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