

**ABSTRACT**

**THE ROLE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM IN TMDL IMPLEMENTATION**

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Land grant universities (i.e., the University of Alaska, Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Idaho, and the Northwest Indian College), Water Research Institutes and US Environmental Protection Agency (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 US Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension System (CSREES). This partnership is emphasizing technology transfer of research-based scientific information that will enhance total maximum daily load (TMDL) development and implementation at the watershed level. The goal of the regional 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 water quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated regional water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs. This project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts, assessing 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.