

There are a multitude of water conservation resources available on the web, but often the best place to start is with your local utility's web page or brochure. Some of the most commonly provided services from local utilities, for both business and residential customers, include the following:

- Rebate programs which encourage customers to upgrade, replace and build with water wise fixtures and appliances.
- Education programs and resources for all ages ranging from ideas for classroom discussion, to pamphlets, to field trips.
- Business programs such as financial incentives, rebates and recommendations.
- Landscaping programs which provide tips on water efficient landscaping practices
- Financial incentives such as rate structures.
- Water Reuse programs which allow highly treated wastewater to be used to meet many non-drinking water purposes.



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The Forum publishes WaterLink to keep you informed of our activities in the arena of water supply planning, environmental stewardship and legislative activities.

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WaterLink

Your Link to Central Puget Sound Water Supply News

Spring
2004

INSIDE:

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It's almost that time of year again – summer in the Puget Sound, the rains cease and we forget about the mildew and mold. For water suppliers it signals a period when water use soars, precipitation decreases and conservation benefits are most visible. In this issue of Waterlink we focus on organizations working to promote and provide support in conservation, and activities the Forum is undertaking to improve water supply management.

A Step Toward Increasing Efficient Water Use

Introducing the Partnership for Water Conservation

After more than three years of planning, the long-anticipated public-private partnership between water suppliers, environmental groups and business is finally a reality! The Partnership for Water Conservation is now a formal non-profit corporation that will bring representatives from the public and private sectors together to increase efficient water use in the Central Puget Sound region. The Partnership brings together persons with diverse perspectives and will serve as a round-table for these people to determine how best to foster a conservation ethic in a populous and growing area.

Beginning in June of 2002, more than twenty people, including representatives from Environmental Groups, Public Interest Groups, Local Governments, Utilities, Business, and Industries gathered out of concern for sustainable water supplies in the Central Puget Sound Region. This group perceived a critical need for an organization that could increase water efficiency in this region by providing an opportunity for sharing diverse perspectives about water conservation, developing best practices for the region, and offering technical expertise and assistance with conservation programs and services. These individuals met over the course of a year and developed recommendations for the Partnership's mission and structure. These recommendations are the foundation of this newly formed non-profit organization.

The Partnership will have a 15-member Board of Directors from three distinct and diverse communities:

- 5 from the conservation community

- 5 from the water supplier and government community
- 5 from the business community

A Technical Advisory Group consisting of experts in water-use efficiency will be convened to guide the Board of Directors in developing recommended practices and regional programs that reflect the diverse needs and perspectives of the region.

Potential business activities for the Partnership

regional programs	advocacy	education	contract services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical support in conservation program development - Development of best management practices - Evaluation of innovative conservation ideas - Coordination of messages and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop positions on key issues - Develop and foster a conservation ethic to influence users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solutions, methods, and research for increasing efficient water use - Maintain active clearinghouse of information for stakeholders - Provide access to expert resources, training or workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform audit functions - Develop and implement public awareness and education programs - Manage rebate programs - Assist with implementation of conservation measures

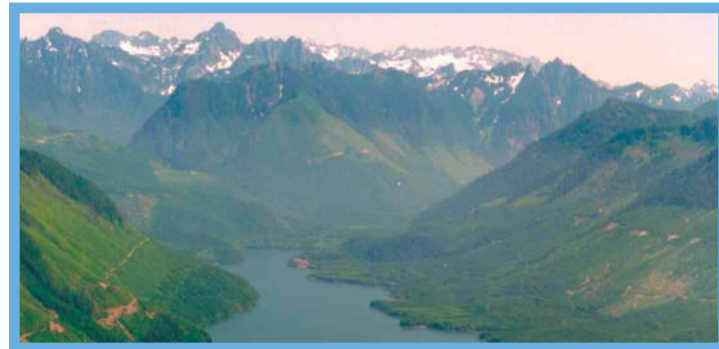
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Conservation is one of the most cost-effective forms of resource management – which means it costs less to conserve than to build a new supply source. Therefore, in addition to saving valuable resources, conservation saves money.



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The Partnership stands apart from existing conservation groups, partnerships and coalitions because of the diverse perspectives represented on the Board and in its membership base, its paid staff, and its status as a non-profit organization. The Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers' Forum has been unanimously supportive of the Partnership to date, providing funding to support organizational efforts, development of bylaws, and membership recruitment.

To date, the Partnership has established an interim Board of Directors that has filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Washington, approved operating Bylaws, and developed a Prospectus. The interim Board approved a dues structure and will be recruiting the Board of Directors and members in the next six months. The Board plans to hire an Executive Director by July of 2004 and begin developing a work plan. The Partnership anticipates providing technical services in 2005.

Dues-paying members will be able to serve on the Board, as well as elect Board members from within each of three caucuses: conservation, water supplier/government, and business. Adoption of policy perspectives and approval of advocacy will require a majority vote from Board members within each of the three caucuses.

For more information or for a copy of the Prospectus please contact Holly Kean, Contract Consultant at (206) 217-9762.

Please visit the Forum web site for more information on these articles and the Forum

www.cityofseattle.net/forum/

Increasing Conservation Awareness

Water Conservation Coalition

Mariners fans will want to listen for water conservation ads in July and August. That's when members of the Water Conservation Coalition have bought pre- and post-game radio time with KOMO-AM, in addition to KING-FM and KPLZ-FM. This is the second year that the Coalition has offered a regional radio campaign that features the theme "Water-Use It Wisely," an award-winning media campaign. This program illustrates the commitment of utilities throughout the Puget Sound region to an annual, and fundamental water conservation message that targets the water users who influence peak use the most.

In its 13th year of operation, the Coalition serves over 70 water purveyors from Birch Bay to Chehalis and the Olympic Peninsula with professional development opportunities and annual media campaigns. Coalition media campaigns typically provide radio, plus regionally tailored brochures, theater ads, bus boards, newspaper ads, and more that member utilities can purchase to ramp up their local conservation programs. The Coalition also hosts landscape industry, business community and national consultants for its professional development trainings which, with discounted conservation media tools, are the preferred benefits of its members.

With the advent of the Partnership for Water Conservation, there will likely be some form of collaboration with the Coalition. For more information about the Coalition and the award-winning benefits that playing this game can provide, contact Janet Sailer, Chair at 425-392-4931 or by email at Janet@sammplat.wa.org. For more information about the Water-Use It Wisely campaign and a history of Coalition successes check out the Coalition's website at: www.bewatersmart.net. Water-Use It Wisely.



Forum Research

Improving Streamflow Forecasts for Enhanced Fish Flow Management

The Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers' Forum is engaged in developing water supply plans and operating policies that support sustainable management and growth. A key element of this activity is the process of managing existing reservoirs and streamflows as effectively as possible to benefit both municipal water users and the aquatic species found in the region's rivers. To this end, the Forum has contracted with a research team at the University of Washington to develop improved streamflow forecasts which may augment water resource managers existing understanding of how reservoir flow releases can improve salmon egg survival.

The major rivers that supply water in the Puget Sound region are: the Green (Tacoma), the Cedar (Seattle), the Tolt (Seattle), and the Sultan (Everett). The facilities on these rivers refill with runoff from spring snow melt and then provide water throughout the summer and fall season. Portions of this stored water are released from the late spring to the early fall specifically to provide maintenance flows for valuable fish habitat. Because reservoirs in this region typically begin to draft prior to the first of June and may not completely refill until as late as November or December, efficient use of the available water is extremely important. Seasonal demand, available storage, current and future habitat needs and future climatic events are all accounted for when utility managers estimate current reservoir releases and future availability. Additional information about flow requirements needed during fish egg incubation should augment water resource managers existing knowledge and help ensure released water levels will cover eggs during the critical incubation period.

A major impediment to confidently managing these resources is the inability to accurately predict future streamflows, especially over a one to six month time frame. Improved accuracy in forecasting streamflow will enable water managers to better estimate:

- The length of the drawdown period in the reservoir,
- The quantity of natural streamflows that will be available to augment the release of stored water,
- The volume needed in reservoirs for protection against flood events, and
- The necessary volume of water to release during the most vulnerable period of egg deposition and fry emergence to prevent scouring or dewatering of eggs.

In recent years, the tools used for forecasting streamflow have changed dramatically due to increased knowledge of global climate systems (such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and the El Niño/Southern Oscillation) and technological advances in modeling. The UW research team brings together a group of individuals who specialize in complex resource management issues such as this.

The UW research team will make use of several new or refined models to complete their work, these include:

- The National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center Global Circulation Models (GCMs) which forecast anomalies of precipitation and temperature for up to thirteen months into the future,
- The NWS refined Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) procedures which enable long-range probabilistic forecasts of streamflow using the current soil moisture, river, and reservoir conditions with historical meteorological data, and
- The Distributed Hydrology Soil and Vegetation Model (DHSVM), a distributed watershed model (meaning the hydrologic computation occurs in multiple cells or polygons which cover the watershed) which estimates short-term and long-term streamflow from climatological events.

The University of Washington research team, lead by Dr. Richard Palmer and Dr. James Anderson, plans to use these models to develop improved 6-month streamflow forecasts and then use those forecasts to predict and improve fish egg survival. The respective water resource managers of the Sultan, Tolt, Cedar, and Green Rivers may also use the streamflow forecasts in existing reservoir routing models to predict the quantity of water available for instream and out-of-stream uses on these systems. Work began on this project in March 2004 and it's anticipated that forecast results will be available in September of this year. The results of this research will provide additional guidance for effectively managing the region's rivers for the benefit of human needs and fish production.

