

WaterTalk Newsletter

May 2001

In This Issue

EPA Promotes Energy Conservation, Optimizes Environmental Results
Easy Ways to Lower Your Power Bill and Protect the Environment
Help Shape Summer Watershed Workshops
What's With EPA's 1-800 Number?
Comment on Proposal for Animal Feeding Operations
Wetlands Protection Rule Moves Forward
EPA to Evaluate Arsenic in Drinking Water Standard
Ground Water Quality: Reminder On Rules for Vehicle Maintenance Shops
Watershed Grants: Almost Time to Apply
Irrigation Changes to Benefit Yakima River
"Revolving" Funds for Wetlands
Alaska Teens Win President Award For River Project
Locate Environmental Ed Funding!
Salmon Information Center
Check Industry Environmental Records On-Line
Funds for Puget Sound Projects
Source Water Awareness Tool Kit Online
Booklet Discusses Rural Wastewater Options
Free Newsletter on Wastewater Issues
Video Demonstrates Streamside Planting Techniques
O&M Project Helps Rural Alaska
Egg Farm Gets Pollution Prevention Award
Model Stewardship Program Celebrates Ten Active Years
Alaskan Environmental Planning Process Goes Global
Beneficial Landscaping: English Ivy, a Runaway Ornamental
Calendar

EPA NEWS

EPA Promotes Energy Conservation, Optimizes Environmental Results

Deborah Leblang, EPA

In the midst of all the media coverage about lack of juice in the Northwest, you've probably been thinking about what you can do to conserve energy and lower your electricity bills. As the energy crisis intensifies, I've found myself pondering questions I wish I'd been asking for the last few decades, rather than months. At what temperature should I set the thermostat while I'm at work? When can I make it to the hardware store to buy compact fluorescent light bulbs? And, can I figure out what I want to eat *before* I open the refrigerator door?

Fortunately, at EPA, questions – and answers – to the global power problem have been on the radar screen for quite some time. EPA plays an important role in contributing to energy solutions and optimizing environmental results. Through many of our programs, we work to educate

businesses and communities, lessen environmental impacts, and promote sustainable solutions to energy needs.

EPA's ENERGY STAR Program is a good example of how EPA is partnering with business and industry to promote energy efficiency, reduce pollution, and save money for consumers, organizations, and businesses. Established in 1992, ENERGY STAR is a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products in order to reduce the environmental impacts of energy production. If you've purchased or used a computer, dishwasher, air conditioner, or other product with the ENERGY STAR label, you, most likely, have saved money on energy bills, and helped protect the environment at the same time. By using ENERGY STAR labeled products, the average household can save more than \$400 a year on energy bills.

If all consumers, businesses, and organizations in the United States made their product choices and building improvement decisions with ENERGY STAR, over the next decade, the national annual energy bill would be reduced by about \$200 billion. With that would come a sizable contribution to reducing air pollution and protecting the earth's climate for future generations. To learn more about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov.

In addition to ENERGY STAR, EPA works to identify opportunities for optimizing environmental results in all EPA programs as we face the environmental challenges and opportunities presented by the current power situation. And even after the energy crisis has abated, EPA will remain a consistent and supportive player in regional energy planning and evaluation, and will continue to identify mitigation opportunities, and promote sustainable solutions.

Easy Ways to Lower Your Power Bill and Protect the Environment

You may be well-aware of ways to save energy; however, if you would like a refresher, read on...

- When buying products, look for the ENERGY STAR label
- Keep your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower during the day, 55 degrees at night
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Set your dishwasher to air dry
- Turn off your computer when not in use
- Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms
- Take short showers
- Close fireplace dampers
- Unplug all appliances that are not in use
- Turn off unused lights and install compact fluorescent bulbs
- Keep pools and hot tubs covered and the heat off or on low

Help Shape Summer Watershed Workshops

EPA and other agencies held a series of roundtable meetings last fall on watershed protection and restoration. At these sessions, many participants requested agency help in:

- consensus building
- identifying sources of watershed funding
- addressing technical issues

As one of many follow-up actions, EPA Region 10 is putting together workshops this summer on facilitative leadership and accessing environmental information for watershed decision making. We are trying to find out where these services would be most needed, and would like your help. If you would be interested in attending workshops on one of these topics, please send a note to us, and list the following:

- Your name
- Your organization, address, telephone and e-mail
- The topic(s) you would be interested in
- The city where you would suggest the workshop be given

EPA and federal and state agencies also provide meeting facilitation and facilitation consultation to watershed groups. If you are involved in a watershed where this help is needed, let us know that as well.

E-mail this information to: tetta.david@epa.gov, or mail to: David Tetta, EPA Region 10, ECO-086, 1200 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101.

What's With EPA's 1-800 Number?

EPA Region 10 maintains a toll-free 1-800 number. This service makes it easier for people outside the local area to reach us. Anyone calling from within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington (except within the 206 area code) can call **1-800-424-4EPA** to reach any EPA employee in the Seattle office—just tell the receptionist who you're calling or what extension you want to reach. When calling from within the 206 area code, simply call 206/553-1200 to reach the receptionist. The 1-800 number does not work to reach EPA staff located outside the Seattle office, nor does it work from outside the region's four states. Questions? Call the number. 1-800-424-4EPA (1-800-424-4372)

Comment on Proposal for Animal Feeding Operations

In March, EPA Administrator Whitman announced an extension of the public comment period on a proposal to reduce water pollution from large animal feedlot operations. The 75-day extension will allow the public to comment through July 30. EPA proposed new water pollution permitting controls in January that would apply to large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), typically defined as having 1,000 cattle or comparable "animal units" of other livestock. EPA's proposal includes revisions to the definition of a CAFO, limits to land application of animal waste, and new technology requirements and discharge limits. For details, visit www.epa.gov/owm/afo.htm.

Wetlands Protection Rule Moves Forward

In April 2001, EPA moved forward with a final regulation to strengthen wetlands protection. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers estimate that since a 1998 court decision found that the Clean Water Act does not regulate "incidental fallback" (excavated material that falls back to substantially the same place as the initial removal), at least 20,000 wetland acres have been degraded or destroyed. Also, an estimated 150 miles of streams have been channelized without environmental review or mitigation. Called the "Tulloch Rule," the regulation will help stem the loss of the Nation's wetlands by clarifying the types of activities that are likely to result in a discharge of dredged material regulated under the Clean Water Act. To view the rule and fact sheet, go to: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/dredgedmat/dredmat.html.

EPA to Evaluate Arsenic in Drinking Water Standard

EPA established a process in April for setting a new standard for arsenic in drinking water. The National Academy of Sciences will perform an expedited review of EPA's risk analysis for arsenic, and will review new studies on the health risks of arsenic ingestion. EPA will convene a subgroup of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council to assess the economic issues associated with the standard. In order to allow time for these reviews, EPA has proposed to extend the effective date for a new arsenic standard an additional 9 months, until February 22, 2002. The compliance date for the new standard will remain 2006. For more information on the proposal, go to www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.html.

Ground Water Quality:

Reminder On Rules for Vehicle Maintenance Shops

Federal regulations adopted in 2000 ban the new construction of motor vehicle waste disposal wells. These tend to be drywells or septic systems which receive waste fluids from vehicle maintenance area floor drains or shop sinks. Motor vehicle waste disposal wells have been found at both private and public facilities which service cars, trucks, buses, aircraft, construction machinery, etc. They and other injection wells are regulated by the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, developed under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, state agencies run the UIC programs. EPA runs the UIC program in Indian Country and throughout Alaska.

Motor vehicle waste disposal wells can pose a serious threat to ground water. Common contaminants include used solvents, detergents, lubricating fluids, and spilled oil or gasoline. This type of shallow injection well is an unnecessary environmental liability for owners/operators. In fact, most identified motor vehicle waste disposal wells require closure since they fail to meet the ground water protection provisions of the UIC regulations which have been in effect for almost 20 years.

The UIC programs in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington either explicitly ban existing motor vehicle waste disposal wells or are updating their regulations to do so soon. EPA is planning to apply

phase-out provisions of the new Federal UIC regulations throughout Alaska, and is consulting with Region 10 Tribes about whether or not to take the same approach in Indian Country.

For more information about injection wells and how they're regulated, check out Region 10's UIC program website at www.epa.gov/region10/uic.htm. The website provides a list of EPA and state contacts, hot-links to state programs, information about types of shallow injection wells, and more.

AK UIC program: Jonathan Williams, 206/553-1369, williams.jonathan@epa.gov
ID, OR, WA UIC programs: Calvin Terada, 206/553-4141, terada.calvin@epa.gov
Tribal UIC program: Jeff KenKnight, 206/553-0226, kenknight.jeff@epa.gov

TOOLS

Watershed Grants: Almost Time to Apply

It's almost time to apply for **Watershed Assistance Grants!** EPA's Watershed Assistance Grants Program, run by River Network, provides small grants to local watershed partnerships to support their organizational development and long-term effectiveness. Information on the 2001 application process, including eligibility and selection criteria will be made available sometime in May on River Network's Website at: www.rivernetwork.org. Be sure to use the "self-screening process" which will be available then to assure that you are eligible to receive a grant and that the activities you propose meet the criteria.

Irrigation Changes to Benefit Yakima River

Yakima River is soon to benefit from one of the largest nonpoint source loans to date in the country, under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. The Washington Department of Ecology awarded the loan this year to the Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control. The Board will use the \$10 million loan to provide smaller individual loans to farmers in the Yakima basin who are willing to switch crop production from flood irrigation to drip irrigation. This irrigation conversion will mean big decreases in the amount of water used on a per acre basis, leaving more water in the river for fish and other uses. Drip irrigation also is important because it significantly reduces runoff. It will improve water quality below Parker Reach of the Yakima River by reducing the amount of turbidity, nutrients, pesticides, and bacteria from sediment loads, and it will enhance fish and wildlife habitat. For more information about the Revolving Loan program, or this irrigation project, contact Michelle Tucker, EPA, at 206/553-1414 or 1-800-424-4372, or e-mail tucker.michelle@epa.gov.

"Revolving" Funds for Wetlands

Seeking funds to support wetlands work? The Clean Water State Revolving Fund may be able to help. A new EPA brochure, **Protecting Wetlands with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund**,

is now available. This tri-fold one-pager explains what State Revolving Funds are all about and tells how wetland protection and enhancement projects can pursue financial support under this program. Contacts for more information are included. For a copy, call EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4372.

Alaska Teens Win President Award For River Project

Former Soldotna High School Seniors Eric Soderquist, Mike Penland, and Paul Kim, have earned EPA's **President's Environmental Youth Award** (PEYA) for their Soldotna Creek Park Project. The students and their sponsor received their award directly from President Bush and EPA Administrator Whitman in Washington, D.C. at a national ceremony in April.

The project helped restore stream banks near the confluence of Soldotna Creek and the Kenai river in Alaska. It also provided increased river access for local fisherfolk. By building a river access stairway and a fishing platform, the student team helped divert foot traffic away from the fragile banks. They also created bench seating alcoves, re-vegetated 80 feet of riverbank, and planted willows along the shore. The team did all the planning, fund raising, permit-applying and provided all the "human horsepower" for the project.

The PEYA program is aimed at encouraging individuals, school classes, summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness and positive community involvement. Youth of any age from kindergarten through high school can enter as individuals, or as a group. Award applications are accepted year-round, with a deadline of July 31 for national consideration. For details, contact Sally Hanft, EPA, 206/553-1207 or 1-800-424-4372 x1207, or email hanft.sally@epa.gov.

Locate Environmental Ed Funding!

A new booklet produced by EPA Region 10 is now available called **Environmental Education Funding Sources for the Pacific Northwest**. The 34-page resource itemizes various funding mechanisms throughout the Northwest, offering eligibility information and contacts. For a free copy, call EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4372.

Salmon Information Center: Folks interested in salmon issues might want to check out this resource. You can get information about salmon-related volunteer events and celebrations, learn about salmon, find helpful resources, and more. The center is especially (but not exclusively) for residents in Snohomish, Pierce, and King County, Washington. The Salmon Information Center can be accessed on the Internet at www.salmoninfo.org or by phone at 1-877-SALMON-9.

Check Industry Environmental Records On-Line

As part of EPA's efforts to expand public access to environmental information, Region 10 recently

launched **Environmental Compliance (EC) On-Line**. EC-On-Line is a pilot Internet site that provides comprehensive information on the environmental performance of thousands of regulated facilities in the Northwest.

For the first time, in one place, the new database presents information that facilities must provide under a number of federal environmental statutes. The public can view reports detailing inspections, enforcement actions, facility compliance status, and reported releases of chemicals into the environment. Demographic data about communities near the facilities are also included.

The online service has multiple uses. Facilities can monitor their own regulatory performance. Environmental and community groups now have easier access to information about environmental performance of individual facilities. Government agencies at all levels can use the information as a planning tool.

Visit the web site at www.epa.gov/r10earth/ec-on-line.html. For details, call David Tetta, EPA, at 206/553-1327 or 1-800-424-4372, or email Tetta.david@epamail.epa.gov.

Although no training is necessary to use EC-On-Line, EPA is holding a series of public feedback sessions to demonstrate how EC-On-Line works, the variety of ways it can be used, and to answer questions on how and why it was developed. Each session runs from 1-3 p.m.

May 17: Washington Department of Ecology, Bellevue

May 21: EPA, Seattle

June 5: EPA, Seattle

June 6: Department of Ecology, Lacey

Sessions in Boise and Portland are also being planned for late June, although specific dates are not yet available. To register, please contact Lane Nothman, Ross & Associates, at 206/447-1805 or by email at: lane.nothman@ross-assoc.com.

Funds for Puget Sound Projects

Have an idea for a project to help protect Puget Sound? In July, the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team will begin accepting proposals for funding under their **Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Fund**. The PIE fund supports public involvement and education projects aimed at protecting and improving Puget Sound's water quality and marine resources. Any Washington State resident, business, organization, tribal or local government, school or educator may apply. For details, visit the Action Team website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound and click on the PIE logo, or call 1-800-54-SOUND. Application deadline is August 27.

Source Water Awareness Tool Kit Online

EPA recently funded a project to raise public consciousness of the importance of protecting the quality of drinking water at the source -- river, stream, lake, reservoir, or aquifer. The

International City/County Management Association used the EPA grant to create a source water awareness media tool kit. The kit highlights the benefits of source water protection, and what individuals and communities can do to protect their water supply. The tool kit includes a 2-color poster, fact sheet, flyer, sample public service announcements and press releases, and other materials that can be downloaded and adapted to meet the needs of local groups. The tool kit is available from EPA's source water protection web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html.

Booklet Discusses Rural Wastewater Options

A booklet titled **Choices for Communities: Wastewater Management Options for Rural Areas** is now available from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC). The dilemma for many rural communities is that they lack a wastewater infrastructure, but a centralized system is too difficult and costly. Today, there are many wastewater treatment options for rural communities.

The booklet examines the alternatives, along with their advantages and disadvantages. It also outlines steps to a community-needs assessment, including planning and economic aspects. The 16-page booklet can serve as a resource for local, state, and public health officials; engineers; finance officers; contractors; developers; managers; planners; researchers; and state regulatory agencies.

The booklet costs 50 cents plus shipping charges. To order, call NSFC at 800-624-8301, and request Item #WWBLMG09 or e-mail nsfc_orders@mail.nesc.wvu.edu. NSFC is a nonprofit organization funded by EPA to provide free and low-cost information about small community wastewater treatment. For more information, visit NSFC's web site at www.nsfsc.wvu.edu.

Free Newsletter on Wastewater Issues

Interested in community wastewater issues? **Pipeline**, a publication of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), offers free subscriptions.

The Pipeline newsletter is written for a general audience, and each issue explains a wastewater technology or theme of interest to local officials and community residents. The articles are presented in an easy-to-read, nontechnical style and include a list of contacts and resources.

Pipeline may be downloaded from the Internet. Located at www.nsfsc.wvu.edu, the NSFC Web site also provides information about new wastewater-related products, NSFC services, and a calendar of upcoming events. For a free subscription, call 800/624-8301, or write to NSFC, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064.

Video Demonstrates Streamside Planting Techniques

Washington State University Cooperative Extension has developed a video and fact sheet intended to improve the success of streamside planting projects. The video **Plant It Right: Restoring Our Streams** is a 17-minute program geared for students and volunteers that provides essential

information on proper planting techniques. The video shows youth volunteers demonstrating how to plant trees and shrubs the right way and is full of other useful information. A 2-page fact sheet covers the same information in a succinct manner and is laminated for field use. A limited number of videos and laminated fact sheets are available free for use in the Puget Sound Basin (contact Bob Simmons at simmons@wsu.edu). The video and fact sheet can also be downloaded from the web at <http://wawater.wsu.edu>.

WATERWORDS

O&M Project Helps Rural Alaska

In rural Alaska a number of communities struggle with the operation and maintenance of water and sewer systems. Increasingly, rural Alaskans want the ability and authority to deal with their problems and needs at the local level.

The Alaska Native Health Board recently completed an important effort to help rural Alaskan communities meet their sewer and water system needs using locally-based solutions. Called the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Demonstration Project, the EPA-funded effort lasted from 1995 until 2000. More than 30 villages participated in the project. Already, some form of measurable improvement in long-term O&M has been achieved in 75% of participating villages. Reports are available:

O&M Project Yearbook—about 80 ideas improve efficiency, reduce costs, increase collections, provide local subsidies to utilities, strengthen community support, and increase agency cooperation.

Final Project Report--details on the overall approach, evaluation, project goals, and conclusions.

Evaluation of Alaska Native Health Board Sanitation Facility Operation and Maintenance Program--two volumes provide details on the overall project evaluation.

The Alaska Native Health Board is a non-profit organization with the purpose of “promoting the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of the Alaska Native People.” The board includes members from tribes and tribal organizations throughout Alaska, and represents Alaska Natives on public health policy issues. To learn more or to request copies, contact Elizabeth LeBlanc at 907/743-6116, or e-mail Eleblanc@ANHB.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Egg Farm Gets Pollution Prevention Award

EPA Region 10 recently awarded its prestigious **Evergreen Award** to Edelweiss Farms of Aurora, Oregon.

Edelweiss Farms processes about two million eggs per week from approximately 500,000 hens, and produces enough chicken manure each year to cover a football field six feet deep. On this scale, poorly managed manure could cause problems for local water and air quality. However, by integrating waste management into building design, Edelweiss has eliminated all ground or surface water impacts. The manure is kept indoors and as dry as possible which greatly reduces manure odor and produces more marketable manure product.

About 40% of the farm's manure is blended with recycled yard waste and sold as an organic fertilizer. The remaining manure is used for agricultural applications. Also, Edelweiss has offset carbon dioxide emissions through planting trees and grass at its facility.

EPA's Evergreen Award is designed to showcase companies that have clearly incorporated a pollution prevention ethic in their business planning and have demonstrated tangible reduction successes. Companies in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington are considered for nomination if they are in full compliance with environmental laws, and meet the criteria of 1) having documented achievement in pollution prevention, 2) a commitment to the environment, and 3) a history of environmental leadership.

Nominations are accepted from employees of environmental regulatory agencies, individuals and the companies themselves. For details, contact Robert Drake, EPA, at 206/553-4803 or e-mail drake.robert@epamail.epa.gov.

Model Stewardship Program Celebrates Ten Active Years

The **Land/Water Stewardship Program** recently celebrated a decade of promoting a stewardship ethic towards land and water resources among rural and urban residents of King County, Washington. This model volunteer program recruits, selects, trains and supports adult volunteers who are interested in teaching others about the basics of watersheds, wetlands, streams, and other natural resource topics. Training is free; each volunteer agrees to perform educational service.

Since the first Land/Water Stewardship Volunteer Training Program in September of 1990, eleven more have been held and another session is underway now. There have also been three public conferences, two Wetland Shortcourses, and a year-long wetland monitoring project. About 200 stewards are currently active. Volunteers contributed 10,000 hours on a variety of natural resource education projects. Run by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension, the program will accept applications early next year for the next training session. To learn more about participating in this program, or starting one in your community, contact Marilyn Freeman, Extension Liaison at EPA, at 206/553-0038 or 1-800-424-4372 x0038, freeman.marilyn@epa.gov.

ECOSYSTEM

Alaskan Environmental Planning Process Goes Global 7 Generations Manual Used By Small Communities Around the World

Environmental planning in torrid Africa can be remarkably similar to that done along the frozen Yukon River. It's not in the details, but in the process by which village residents identify, prioritize and develop their own solutions to environmental problems.

The **7 Generations** environmental planning manual was developed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Chugachmiut, through funding from EPA for use in rural Alaska. It is now being adapted around the world to solve local problems through local commitment. The 7 Generations community decision-making process and school environmental curriculum can be adapted for rural areas of the Lower 48, and for other countries.

Countries as far-flung as India, Guatemala, Albania, Ethiopia, Fiji, Samoa, and Mongolia are interested in the publication and its companion Train the Trainer Manual and instructional video. Recently, the U.S. Peace Corps started looking at this tool for their environmental work throughout Africa.

The "7 Generations" style of planning begins with identifying and prioritizing and developing solutions for local environmental issues. According to DEC's Rural Assistance Coordinator Bill Stokes, the heart of 7 Generations is its process. The process "brings people together to discuss what they see as the big problems, not what a distant government tells them are the problems. Then working on it together makes everyone more interested in seeing them solved."

Stokes said, "We developed two easy-to-use environmental surveys: one for community concerns and one for technical inspections of village facilities. The problems that bothered residents most were not always the same as the ones a technical survey would find, but both were important."

Over 150 villages in Alaska have used the 7 Generations process. Successes in Alaska have included elimination of plastic shopping bags, a major source of litter, in a number of Yukon River villages.

The manual, with its companion publication, "Train the Trainer" is available for download at the DEC website: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dsps/compasst/7generations/7gen.htm>
For more information contact Bill Stokes, DEC, at 907/269-7580.

Beneficial Landscaping

English Ivy, a Runaway Ornamental

From California to British Columbia (and elsewhere nationally), English Ivy, known scientifically as *Hedera helix*, has been used for years as a popular ground cover and climbing vine. While there are plant societies dedicated to its virtues and varieties, without adequate control, English ivy can become invasive. This is particularly true in our urban natural areas such as greenbelts and remnant forest patches, although English ivy is now penetrating old growth forests. The vine is so invasive, in fact, that in February, the Oregon Noxious Weed Board voted unanimously to list English ivy as a noxious species in Oregon, where it joins the ranks of notorious weeds such as tansy ragwort, Himalayan blackberry, purple loosestrife, and Scotch broom. English ivy has been identified as an invasive species in at least 28 states.

Why is this? English ivy is an evergreen woody vine that spreads rapidly, can climb to a height of 30 meters and, when mature, flowers prolifically. The vines, which can live to be hundreds of years old, produce berries that are eaten by birds, which disseminate the seeds. As a spreading ground cover, the plant forms an ivy monoculture or “desert” on the forest floor, overwhelming native ground covers and shrubs, and aggressively climbing trees. Trees are weakened when English ivy consumes the water and nutrients needed by the tree roots, and the tree trunks and branches enveloped by the vines are pulled down by the weight of the stems, leaf mass, and the additional wind and water they capture.

English ivy was once thought to be useful for erosion control. However, because landslides occur in ivy-covered settings, it is now recognized that its foliage overwhelms and prevents the growth of other plants that would hold the soil, and its shallow roots leave slopes vulnerable to erosion.

Control is also a challenge. English ivy grows well in sun and shade, can grow year round when deciduous plants are dormant, thrives in droughty and soggy soils, and its waxy leaves retain water and repel herbicides. Thus far, mechanical control seems to be most effective: sawing, clipping, and manual removal of the vines coupled with ongoing vigilance and maintenance.

The upshot is that, while English ivy is listed as a noxious weed in Oregon, it is not quarantined, nor is it listed in other northwestern states. It is still sold in nurseries, and can be used and enjoyed in a variety of settings. Efforts to landscape for environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits, however, may require monitoring for English ivy (and other weedy) infestations, judicious control, and even removal. For advice about suitable substitutes, contact your local cooperative extension office, conservation district, university or other knowledgeable source. See also our Region 10 EPA beneficial landscaping website for information and helpful links at www.epa.gov/r10earth/bl.htm or contact Elaine Somers at 206/553-2966, somers.elaine@epa.gov.

CALENDAR

May

American Wetlands Month, Terrene Institute, 1-800-284-4952, www.iwla.org/sos/awm.

7-13: National Drinking Water Week. Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

9-12: Pollution Prevention for Sustainable Cities, Seattle, Washington. 206/443-7723, bhamner@cleancities.net, www.cleancities.net.

22-24: National Site Assessment Conference, Portland, Oregon.
www.epa.gov/oerrpage/superfund/programs/siteasmt/sa_conf/agenda.htm, Joan Fisk, EPA, 703/603-8791, fisk.joan@epa.gov.

22-25: Klamath Basin Fish & Water Management Symposium, Arcata, California.
www.humboldt.edu/~extended/klamath, 707/826-3731.

June

5-6: Low Impact Development Conference, Seattle, Washington. 360/407-7300, 1-800-54-SOUND, www.wa.gov/puget_sound.

#####

WaterTalk is published each February, May, August, and November by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10. WaterTalk seeks to be a useful tool for those who protect water resources and ecosystems in communities of the Greater Pacific Northwest, by providing practical resources and relevant agency news.

You are invited to contribute items for publication. Submittal deadline is the 15th day of the month before publication. WaterTalk articles can be used in other publications. Please give credit to WaterTalk.

For mailing changes, call Tomi Rutherford at 206/553-0603. To contact the editor, call Andrea Lindsay at 206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA x1896, or email lindsay.andrea@epa.gov. Assistant Editor, Debra Packard, can be reached at 206/553-0247 or 1-800-424-4EPA x0247.

Accessibility information: To request services to accommodate persons with disabilities, contact EPA at 206/553-1200 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

#####