Water Discussion Course **Our Watershed** Water Discussion Course Our Watershed: The purpose of this presentation on the water **Pacific Northwest** discussion courses, Our Watershed: Pacific Northwest and Our Watershed: Puget Sound, is to define their: A Self-Directed Course for Small Groups • Purpose • Content Session Structure And to define the roles of: • Facilitator Water Discussion Course • Opener Our Watershed: **Puget Sound** A Self-Directed Course for Small Groups

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

FOREWARD

Thank you for joining us in learning about Our Watershed: Puget Sound.

This self-directed water course was designed to:

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- Raise awarene them
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We are very excited about Our Watershed: Puget Sound and thank you for participating with us.

Please forward any questions or comments to:

Water Team Washington State University Jefferson County Extension Port Hadlock, WA 360-379-5610 waterteam@jefferson.wsu.edu



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- . To become familiar with the concept of a watershed and the wide range of environmental relationships it embodies.
- . To broaden our understanding of the nature of water, the hydrological cycle, and water's essential role for all life.
- . To begin to gain a sense of how we as individuals fit into the world of water.

Session 2 - Watersheds of the Pacific Northwest

- . To become familiar with the major watersheds of the four states and tribal lands of the Pacific Northwest (PNW)
- · To understand the ecological and hydrological importance of the PNW's two largest aquatic ecosystems, the Columbia River Basin and Puget Sound
- To develop a focus on your local watershed
- · To consider the potential impacts of climate change on PNW watersheds

Session 3 - Taking Water Personally

- · To gain a more in-depth knowledge of our water consumption habits.
- · To consider the costs and environmental impacts of bottled water and other
- · To understand how our personal and community choices have bearing on the quantity and quality of water both locally and in distant places.

Session 4 - Regional Challenges: Water Quantity

- To better understand the regional challenges and some successes in resolving competing needs for water.
- . To become acquainted with major water management areas of the Pacific
- · To learn about various water policies aimed at managing the region's finite water supplies.

Session 5 - Regional Challenges: Water Quality

- · To consider the implications of global, regional and local actions on our regional marine waters.
- · To learn from the difficulties in fixing past errors in our management of our rivers and estuaries.
- · To examine the impact of how we live on the availability of clean water in our region.
- · To hear from your group about local articles and stories about water quality in your region.

Water Discussion Course

Session 6 - Whose Wat

· To appro

Our Watershed

- To learn how legal systems based on the doctrines of prior appropriation and riparian water rights have evolved to manage water between competing interests.
- To better understand the various kinds of water rights governed by law.

Session 7 - The Wave of the Future

7-1

- · To share insights from the course and personal commitments to be better stewards
- To envision and discuss potential positive changes for water in the future.
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OUR WATERSHED: PACIFIC NORTHWEST TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Session 2 – Watersheds of the Pacific Northwest

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Session 7 – The Wave of the Future

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Water Discussion Course



SESSION 1

Ours Is a Water Planet

For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports.

Sandra Postel, Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity

Water Earth from Green News

SESSION GOALS

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REFLECTION QUESTION

What is your relationship to water?



World Ripples from SXC

Reminder to Facilitator: The Reflection Question moves quickly. Each participant gives a brief answer without questions or comments from others.

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

SESSION STRUCTURE

Initial page

Session Introduction

Articles and Quotes

SESSION INTRODUCTION

Water is physical...water is finite...water is ecological...water is local...water is global. Water is the ultimate resource, essential to all life and the basis of our economies. Civilizations have arisen and faded away as their water fortunes declined. The human body consists of 65–90 percent water, and although we can survive for many weeks without food, we will perish within days without the elixir of life. Water commands our attention and needs our care.

This first session surveys many facets of the most mysterious and miraculous liquid on our planet. You will learn about the surprising scarcity of freshwater and its vulnerability to pollution and other abuses; the dynamic cycling of water from the atmosphere, through Earth systems, and back again; and the ever-changing balance of available water in the face of the world's steadily rising population. Several of the readings discuss the fundamental concept of watersheds, the drainage basins—large and small—that funnel all the water within an area into a collecting body such as a stream or bay. Watersheds represent a critical common denominator worldwide, because each and every one of us lives in one, and these interconnected hydrological ecosystems support the existence and future of all life.

Finally, we will get a glimpse into how watersheds respond to restoration efforts and offer valuable and rewarding opportunities for repairing and protecting our relationships with our planet and the well-being of all life.

This session is meant to lay the foundation for exploring the core topics of this course: Puget Sound watersheds, water uses and their impacts, competing demands for water, water regulation, and future prospects for water quality and supplies. Hopefully the readings and group discussion will whet your appetite for probing these issues and serve as a springboard for becoming more water-savvy in relation to your local community and the larger world.

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Our Watershed

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The Nature Conservancy. This article appeared on nature.org in 2010.

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"Watershed" is the term used to describe the geographic area of land that drains water to a shared destination.

As the world's population grows and develops, demand for water has increased rapidly, putting increased pressure on watersheds. The United Nations estimates that in the year 2017, close to 70% of the global population will have problems accessing fresh water.

Today, it is widely recognized that an integrated approach to fresh water management offers the best means of reconciling competing demands. Watersheds or river basins offer the obvious boundaries in which to develop integrated plans -- plans that must transcend political boundaries in many cases.

United States: Twenty-One Regional Watersheds

"The United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and the Caribbean islands, is divided up into twenty-one regional watersheds. These regional watersheds range in size from under 5,000 square miles to over 600,000 square miles. Each regional watershed is subdivided into many sub-regional and smaller scale watersheds, each of which drains water into the larger watersheds. By the time one gets to drainage basins that are about 15 to 60 square miles in area, there are "more than 150,000 sub-watersheds," according to the U.S. Geological Survey."

Going Green, Envirocast, Houston KPC Local 2 News kprc.envirocast.net 2009.

Global Watersheds

"Globally, there are 263 watersheds that cross the political boundaries of two or more countries; these watersheds represent about one half of the earth's land surface and forty percent of global population. This fact underscores how much water connects us all, but also highlights the potential for conflict -- and for cooperation."

United Nations Development Programme

Water Discussion Course

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FURTHER READING & RESOURCES

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SESSION STRUCTURE

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Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

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SESSION 1

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

REFLECTION QUESTION

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The reflection question is an ice breaker. Everyone in the group gives a brief response.



World Ripples from SXC

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Water Discussion Course

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Session Introduction

Articles and Quotes

Final Page

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Our Watershed

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Initial page

Introduction

Articles and Quotes

Final Page

The body of each session is a series of articles. Quotes are included in blue shaded boxes.

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United Nations Development Programme

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Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

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Possible Discussion Questions

Time Out For A Watershed Moment Further Reading and Resources

TIME OUT FOR A WATERSHED MOMENT

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Tara Lohan <u>,Water Consciousness</u>, 2008.
 Designed to change the way people think an crisis.

Discussion questions provide possible areas to cover for each article. The questions can be read to initiate a discussion or used as a reference to see if the group discussion is covering the varied topics.

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FURTHER REA

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Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

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Possible Discussion Questions **Time Out For A Watershed Moment**Further Reading and Resources

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Our Watershed

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- Provide a structure to learn more about our specific watersheds and actions an individual can take

The course was developed in a "study circle" format. A study circle is a small group of people who agree to meet to discuss an issue in depth. If you have taken Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) courses, they are examples of study circles.

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

SESSION ROLES

Session Facilitator Opener

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Our Watershed: Pacific Northwest and Our Watershed: Puget Sound follow NWEI Guidelines where one participant brings an "opening" and a second participant facilitates the discussion in each session. The roles rotate each week with a different group member providing the opening and facilitating the session. For those of you who have not taken a NWEI course these roles and the session guidelines will be covered in the first meeting.

Please forv

Water Tea

We are ver

Washington State University Jefferson County Extension Port Hadlock, WA 360-379-5610 waterteam@jefferson.wsu.edu



GUIDELINES

FOR THE FACILITATOR AND OPENER

Provided by Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI)

For each session of this course, one participant brings an "opening" and a second participant facilitates the discussion. The roles rotate each week with a different group member doing the opening and facilitating. This process is at the core of the learning for this course – it assumes we gain our greatest insights through self-discovery promoting discussion among equals with no teacher.

FOR THE SESSION FACILITATOR

As facilitator, for one session, your role is to stimulate and moderate the discussion. You do not need to be an expert or the most knowledgeable person about the topic.

Your role is to:

- Remind the designated person ahead of time to bring an opening.
- · Begin and end on time.
- Ask the questions included in each chapter or your own.
- Keep discussion focused on the session's topic. A delicate balance is best – don't force the group into the questions, but don't allow the discussion to drift too far.
- Manage the group process, using the following guidelines:

FOR THE SESSION OPENER

- Bring a short opening, not more than five minutes. It should be something that expresses your personal appreciation for the natural world. Examples: a short personal story, an object or photograph that has special meaning, a poem, a visualization, etc. You can be creative.
- The purpose of the opening is twofold. First, it
 provides a transition from other activities of the
 day into the group discussion. Second, since
 the opening is personal, it allows the group to
 get better acquainted with you. This aspect of
 the course can be very rewarding.

THANK YOU NORTHWEST EARTH INSTITUTE

The developers of this water course, *Our Watershed*, wish to thank and acknowledge the

(, wish to thank and acknowledge the Earth Institute for sharing their course to enhance your experience of *Our*. The Northwest Earth Institute is I as a national leader in the ent of innovative programs that individuals and organizations to culture toward a sustainable and future. Explore NWEI and their nwei.org.

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able Systems at Work
Warming: Changing CO2ourse
s for Sustainable Living
or the Future
ary Simplicity
t Children, Healthy Planet
ering a Sense of Place
ecting with Earth

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

OPENER

Brings a short opening to share – not more than 5 minutes. Possible openings are:

Personal Experience Poem Book Website

FACILITATOR

- a. Begins and ends meeting on time
- b. Asks the questions included in each session or questions of their own
- c. Keeps discussion focused on the session's topic
- d. Manages the group process to follow the guidelines agreed on Session 1

Water Discussion Course Our Watershed: **Pacific Northwest** A Self-Directed Course for Small Groups Water Discussion Course Our Watershed: **Puget Sound** A Self-Directed Course for Small Groups **HOW TO GET STARTED**

Water Discussion Course

Our Watershed

Select the course for your region

Access it free online

http://county.wsu.edu/jefferson/nrs/water/courses/Pages/default.aspx

Contact the WSU Water Team with any questions waterteam@jefferson.wsu.edu