



Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability

The State Water Resources Research Institute for Oregon

Program Overview:

Solutions to environmental problems are inherently interdisciplinary -- they require simultaneous consideration of human, ecological, and physical systems. The **Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability (CWEST)** is a research center that supports interdisciplinary research, education, and technology transfer for the state of Oregon.

The center brings together specialists from multiple disciplines to address complex environmental problems and develop creative, interdisciplinary solutions.

Co-Directors:

Dr. Kenneth Williamson
Dr. Denise Lach

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Dr. Williamson



Dr. Lach

CWEST's co-directors, Ken Williamson and Denise Lach, illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of the center. Dr. Lach is a sociologist with research interests in the use of scientific information in decision-making and citizen involvement in environmental issues. Dr. Williamson is a civil engineer with research interests in bioremediation of hazardous wastes and wastewater treatment.

CWEST's Goals:

- Foster sound management of natural resources.
- Promote interdisciplinary and multi-agency research and education.
- Facilitate information transfer and dissemination through conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Catalog physical, biological, and social information for digital distribution.

2003 Water Resources Research Project Topics

- Watershed Management
- Nitrate Transport
- Endocrine Disrupters
- Transboundary Water Conflict
- Water Quality and Land Use

Highlights from 2002-2003:

Research

- CWEST received research grants from USGS, DOE, and EPA.
- CWEST helped establish OSU as a partner in the PNW Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit.

Education

- CWEST funding supported 9 graduate students with research opportunities.
- CWEST coordinated federal science internships for 17 undergraduate students.

Technology Transfer

- CWEST supported ongoing research and education on transboundary water disputes through the Universities Partnership for Transboundary Waters.