

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION UPDATE

# WaterWatch

University of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Idaho counties cooperating.



## Fall snapshot scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>

### Highlights

*Fall Snapshot scheduled*

*Professional development credits now offered*

*MWS Annual Meeting*

*Grant opportunities expand IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program*

### Contact Information

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story by Ashley McFarland

After much anticipation, and a cancelled Spring snapshot due to weather, the Fall snapshot is finally on the calendar. Thursday, October 6th, Master Water Stewards will be encouraged to go out and collect a sample of water from their monitoring site to be analyzed at the UI Coeur d'Alene Center Water Lab.

For \$40, your water sample will be analyzed for Nitrates, Total Phosphorus and *E.coli*/total coliform. Although you or your watershed group will be responsible for the cost, valuable information will be gained through this analysis.

Many people are concerned about the excessive plant growth occurring in their water—often linked to excess nutrients like Nitrogen and Phosphorus getting in the water. As you learned in class, when this vegetation dies off, oxygen is depleted from the system which can harm critical fisheries habitat.

Any time you have direct contact with the water; knowing bacteria

levels, especially during times of low flow, is especially important to ensure those enjoying the water are safe.

For those of you that have registered monitoring sites, I will be contacting you via e-mail to see if you plan to participate. Those that agree to monitor on October 6th will receive their water sample jar in the mail. All water samples will need to be returned to the UI Coeur d'Alene Center, unless you have made other arrangements.

I am really looking forward to this first-time event and hope you'll be able to participate!

Happy Monitoring,

Ashley McFarland  
IDAH<sub>2</sub>O Program Coordinator  
UI Extension Educator



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# Educator Professional Development Credits now offered

story by Ashley McFarland

Starting in Fall 2011, professional development credits for K-12 educators will be offered through the University of Idaho's College of Education.

In addition to the standard 8-hour Master Water Steward certification workshop, those that apply for professional development credits will be required to complete some additional assignments. They include pre-readings, a water quality issue report and a monitoring plan for their classroom.

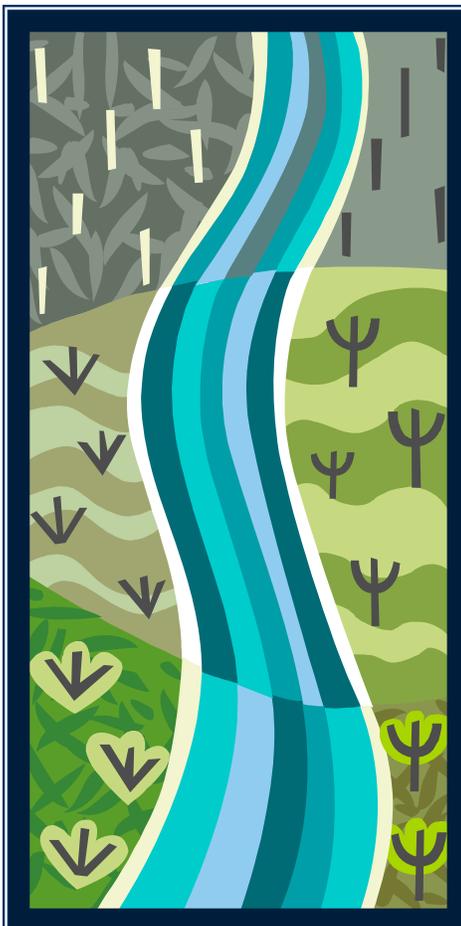
Educators that take the training will be encouraged to apply the curriculum in their classroom, and as always, students are welcome to participate in monitoring events.



The IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program has many applications in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields so feel free to visit with IDA-H<sub>2</sub>O staff on how we can integrate the program into your classroom!

Professional development credits are \$60/each and must be requested when registering for a workshop. Educators will be required to also pay any workshop fees associated with the certification training.

If you are interested in obtaining these credits or know of a school district that would like to host a training, please feel free to contact us to schedule an event.



## Save the Date

2011 Master Water Steward Annual Meeting

Monday, November 14th

Reception starting at 5:30 pm

Dinner and educational program at 6 pm

Location TBA, formal invitations to follow

Dinner and program free to all certified Master Water Stewards. Please join us for a fun evening of food, education and fellowship with other volunteers.

If you would like to present or display your work, please contact Ashley @ [idah2o@uidaho.edu](mailto:idah2o@uidaho.edu)

# New grant opportunities expand IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program

story and map by Ashley McFarland

This summer, the IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program was fortunate enough to get the exciting news *twice*, that we had been recipients of grant awards.

The first grant was awarded from the Equinox foundation through the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. This grant program was established to benefit the communities of Bonner and Boundary County in North Idaho.

The family foundation was founded on the values of wisdom, integrity and environmental stewardship. It is the Equinox Foundation's mission to protect the natural assets of this region and to support ecologically sustainable solutions for growth and development. It is equally important to the Equinox Foundation to nurture the long-term health of the region by supporting positive opportunities for youth.



IDAH<sub>2</sub>O will use Equinox funds (\$7,700) to integrate the water monitoring program into Boundary County's 4-H Afterschool program. Students will learn about water stewardship and participate in regular monitoring on two streams in Boundary County.

The second grant award comes from the EPA Environmental Education program. \$77,000 was awarded to help expand the IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program with two goals in mind.

First, a part-time program assistant will be hired to handle the day-to-day tasks of keeping track of Master Water Stewards and their water monitoring data. This will allow for more certification trainings each year, along with additional educational opportunities and events.

The second goal is to develop an improved data management system to maintain the ever-growing dataset that is compiled by our volunteers. This will lead to improved functionality, not only in data entry, but also when retrieving stored results. We look forward to launching the new system in 2012!

The IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program would like to thank all of their funding partners, without their support, the program would not be possible!

## Autumn outlook and the return of La Nina

story by Robin Fox—National Weather Service—article from *The Weather Watcher Newsletter* September 2011

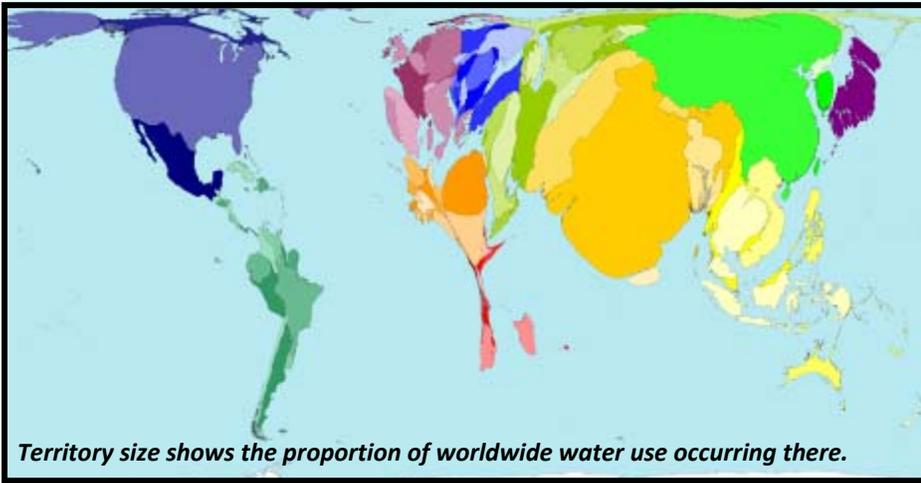
As summer comes to a close, folks want to know what kind of fall and winter weather we can expect. One of the many tools used by long range forecasters at the NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is the analysis of ocean-atmosphere circulations. The status of the El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle is the most used tool for much of the country.

If you remember, last winter and much of 2011, the ENSO cycle was La Nina, responsible for much of our cool and somewhat wet weather. The La Nina signals finally weakened this summer and ENSO-neutral conditions developed. The CPC forecasters see the ENSO-neutral conditions persisting through the autumn and likely to drop back to a weak La Nina for the winter season. In fact a La Nina Watch has been upgraded to a La Nina Advisory for the winter.

What this means for the Inland Northwest is more seasonal weather through the fall. But as we move into winter, there is a better chance for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Inland Northwest. Please see <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/> for more La Nina information.



# WaterWatch



## World Water Usage

Four thousand cubic kilometres of water are used by people each year around the world, for domestic, agricultural and other industrial purposes. This does not include non-consumptive uses such as energy generation, mining, and recreation.

China, India and the United States use the most water. These are also the territories where the most people live. But water use per person is about three times higher in the United States than it is in India and China.

Whilst everybody needs water, people use hugely varying quantities. On average, people living in Central Africa each use only 2% of the water used by each person living in North America.

[www.worldmapper.org](http://www.worldmapper.org)

Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!

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