

Spokane Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer



Curriculum Summary

July 2010-December 2011

Purpose

The purpose of the Spokane Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Curriculum is to educate the greater Spokane community about the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer which is a high quality underground body of water that is the sole source of water for most of the people in Spokane County, Washington, and Kootenai County, Idaho.

Target Audience

- Teachers, Citizens, and Elementary/High School Students

Topics Covered

- Aquifer Formation
- Water Cycle
- Water Systems
- Social Issues & History
- Quantity
- Water Quality



Successes/Strengths:

- From the period of July 2010 to December 2011, the OLC directly taught community programs to 7,827 students and community members from the greater Spokane area.
- Provided environmental sustainability education standards workshops to 35 Idaho and Washington classroom teachers. Field study component of workshop focused on Spokane Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.
- Provided curriculum workshops to 66 pre-service teachers. Workshops included lesson observations and practice lessons from the SRPA curriculum. Each student received a copy of the SRPA curriculum.
- Aquifer educational tubs have been made available for Idaho teachers. Tubs are housed in North Idaho College for Idaho STEM education checkout.
- Enviroscope and other aquifer resources have been used by community partners and classroom teachers over 40 times in 2011.
- Continued utilization of Pasadena Park Irrigation Well #1 as a teaching station for over 2,000 students and teachers.

Looking Forward:

- Continued promotion of aquifer curriculum connections to state science standards and FOSS science kits. Twenty seven schools near the Spokane community currently use FOSS science kits to teach science in their classrooms. Our plan is to continue marketing the aquifer curriculum to schools using FOSS kits and show how the aquifer education kits can meet state standard connections while supporting district science kits. To this end we are updating aquifer curriculum promotional materials to include grade level science standards.
- Jami Ostby Marsh will be presenting at the National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA) regional conference on December 9th in Seattle. The NSTA is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership is over 60,000, and over 2,000 members will be in attendance at the regional conference. The Presentation will highlight effective community partnerships in public schools. SAJB's partnership with the Outdoor Learning Center will be showcased as a successful community partnership.

Teacher Workshops

- We are developing aquifer education workshops to be presented to Idaho teachers as part of the Idaho STEM conference.
- We are also planning another aquifer education workshop for Spokane area teachers at NEWESD 101.

