

Urban Watershed Management

In this update:

Research: Collaborative Research and Watershed Management for Optimization of Forest Road Best Management Practices

Upcoming Event: World Environmental and Water Resources Congress

WUI in the News: Protecting watersheds secures freshwater and saves billions of dollars

Literature: Protecting and Restoring America's Watersheds

Website: Southern Regional Water Program

Research: Collaborative Research and Watershed Management for Optimization of Forest Road Best Management Practices

The Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, USFS Southern Research Station, worked with state and local agencies and various organizations to provide guidance and tools to reduce sedimentation and facilitate restoration of the 1900km² Conasauga River watershed in northern Georgia and southern Tennessee. The Conasauga River has the most diverse aquatic ecosystem of any river in the region. The watershed is encircled and dissected by highways and roads, and receives intense recreational, industrial, and agricultural use from the surrounding human population. Unpaved roads have been found to account for more than 80 percent of stream sedimentation in the forested lands of this region. Collaborative efforts of research and management focused on developing sediment yield models, prioritizing road restoration, and reducing sediment yields from roads to streams. Model development facilitated identification of highly erosive roads and prediction of sediment yield reductions following reconstruction of forest roads.

For more information about this research, visit: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_riedel006.pdf

Upcoming Event: World Environmental and Water Resources Council

This Congress is an important annual opportunity for the best minds at work in environmental and water fields to convene and focus on topics of the day. The central theme is the great rivers of the world and the engineering challenges of balancing environmental and development issues while achieving a sustainable future. It is imperative that those working on the front lines – at the environmental/water engineering nexus – share insights from research and practical experience in the field to generate best practices for the future on issues such as river system management, environmental issues, watershed management and restoration, dam safety, hydraulic structures, and more. This event takes place in Kansas City, MO from May 17- 21, 2009.



Interface South Update

For more information visit: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2009/index.html>

For more upcoming events visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/events.html>

In the News: Protecting watersheds secures freshwater and saves billions of dollars

The World Water Forum brought together 25,000 experts in Istanbul, Turkey to discuss the water challenges facing a growing world. According to a compilation of case studies by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which sponsored the event, one of the simplest and least expensive ways to have ample water for a growing human population is to protect watersheds. Not only do protected watersheds provide clean and easy-access water for many of the world's largest cities, their protection also saves billions of dollars. Foreseeing a global water crisis, IUCN currently estimates that two-thirds of the world's population will face water shortages by 2025. One of the best ways to prevent such shortages is protecting existing watersheds and improving water management before a crisis hits.

To read the full story, visit: http://news.mongabay.com/2009/0319-hance_watersheds.html

For additional current news articles on WUI topics, visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/inthenews.html>

Literature: Protecting and Restoring America's Watersheds

This report offers a comprehensive approach to addressing water quality issues; one that considers all threats to a watershed. The "watershed approach" addresses natural resource issues that cross jurisdictions and political boundaries. It integrates concerns about water quality and water quantity and coordinates insights from the natural and social sciences. A successful watershed approach includes the support, participation, and leadership of local stakeholders and land users since their decisions and lifestyles profoundly impact the nation's waters. In recent years, governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and citizens have used a watershed approach to refocus their efforts to protect and restore the nation's waters. These refocused efforts have brought widespread positive results. This report considers challenges to watershed health, recent successes of the watershed approach, and obstacles that remain.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/protecting/restore725.pdf>

For more articles on WUI issues visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/literature.html>



Interface South Update

Website: Southern Regional Water Program

The Southern Regional Water Program was developed as a partnership between USDA CSREES and Land Grant Universities with the purpose of responding to water quality and conservation issues through educational assistance, technology development and technology transfer programs. On this site, you can find expertise in water resource management and other related areas such as animal waste management, agricultural engineering, soil fertility, agronomy, solid waste management, extension education, and agricultural economics. This site also offers information on various current southern water quality programs, as well as success stories, reports, regional links, and other projects.

To view this website, please visit: <http://srwqis.tamu.edu/>

For more Web links about interface issues visit <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/websites.html>

Contact Us!

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