

**Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals**  
**Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions**

***POSTER PRESENTATION***

**Presenter(s): Tabitha Madzura, Missouri Watershed Information Network**

**Title: Web-Based Watershed Workshops: Using Internet Resources To Protect Water Quality In Missouri**

Abstract: Water is costly to purify and transport, is impossible to substitute, and is essential to food production, economic development, plant and animal life. In the United States over 250 million people depend on rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater supplies for their drinking water. Approximately 179 water bodies are listed on Missouri's 1998 Final 303 (d) List for Impaired Waters and require immediate restoration to designated uses. Many streams suffer from low water volume, organic enrichment, siltation and polluted runoff. There is need to address surface runoff, groundwater, sediment, in-stream nutrients, and wildlife and fish populations from the perspectives of variety of stakeholders: researchers, state and federal conservationists, local citizen-based watershed groups, natural resource interest groups, landowners, farmers, young children, plus local officials.

The Internet plays an increasingly vital role in providing access to watershed information. The Missouri Watershed Information Network (MoWIN) proposed to develop and disseminate interactive watershed information Web sites for use in schools (grades 4-8) in five Missouri watersheds. Web site topics include history, agricultural activities and statistics, human impact on the environment, recreational resources, nonpoint source pollution and prevention, plant and animal life, plus water quality information. This project provides an additional tool for educators to improve science education library collections and integrate watershed education with science, social studies and other subjects and to help increase children's awareness of local community natural resources. Objectives include: providing information to encourage participation in watershed stewardship; increasing knowledge and understanding about watersheds; and facilitating development of skills to identify and prevent nonpoint source pollution. For additional information please visit the MoWin Web site: <http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin>

Target Audience(s): State and federal agency water quality personnel, natural resources interest groups, farmers, citizen-based watershed groups

Educational Purpose: Two way communication

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