

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

***POSTER PRESENTATION***

**Presenter(s):** André Walker, Utah State University Water Quality Extension

**Title:** Stream Side Science-Developing Outreach Materials With The Audience In Mind

Abstract: In 1999, USU Water Quality Extension developed an in-depth manual to help teachers and other educators teach watershed concepts by designing and implementing their own water quality monitoring programs. The manual was well received by teachers who were already interested in water quality and had the resources to do the activities, but did not spark the interest of other teachers or the Utah State Office of Education.

The two main reasons cited for this were 1) a lack of knowledge about water quality and watersheds, and 2) a need by Utah teachers to restrict their time and resources to materials that are directly linked to the Utah State Core Curriculum for each grade level.

Over the last year, USU Water Quality Extension worked with teachers and Utah Office of Education staff to develop a curriculum which utilizes the hands-on activities in the Utah Stream Team Manual, but is also aligned to the Utah State Core for 9th Grade Earth Systems Science. These activities now have the full support of the state education office and the Utah Governor's Watershed Initiative, including evaluation of the materials, printing and distributing the materials statewide, and assistance in teacher training.

This poster will discuss the process of partnering with state agencies and educators to develop educational materials and trainings that not only meet the needs of educators through alignment to core standards of the state, but also provide hands-on, high quality water education for high school and middle school students.

Target Audience(s): Teachers

Educational Purpose: Education

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