



WORKFORCE WEBINAR SERIES

Office of Wastewater Management

Office of Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

February 18, 2020

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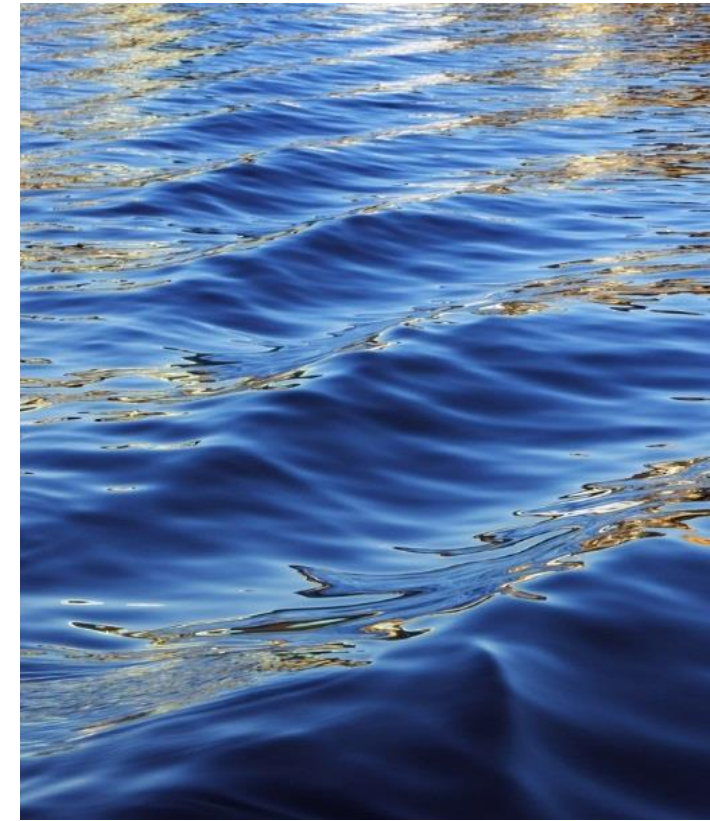
Creating the Water Workforce of the Future

Webinar Series
Jim Horne, U.S. EPA Office of
Wastewater Management

February 18th, 2020

Speakers

- **Julia Beck** – Vice President of Networks, Project WET Foundation
- **April Lopez** – Water Conservation Education Specialist, El Paso Water
- **Cindy Busche** – Environmental Education Manager, Boise WaterShed Education Center



Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded
- Participants will be in listen-only mode
- To submit a question, use the Q&A function
- Presenters will monitor these questions and respond to as many as possible during the “Q&A” session at the end of the presentation.



- Webinar slides and recording information will be sent out to all participants following the webinar

1. Please indicate the sector that you work in:

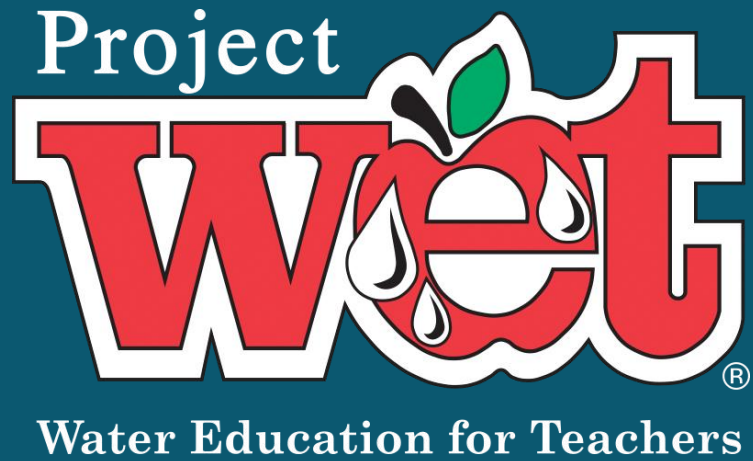
- Utility
- State or Local Government
- Federal Government
- Consultant
- Academia/Educator
- Other

2. How familiar are you with Project WET?

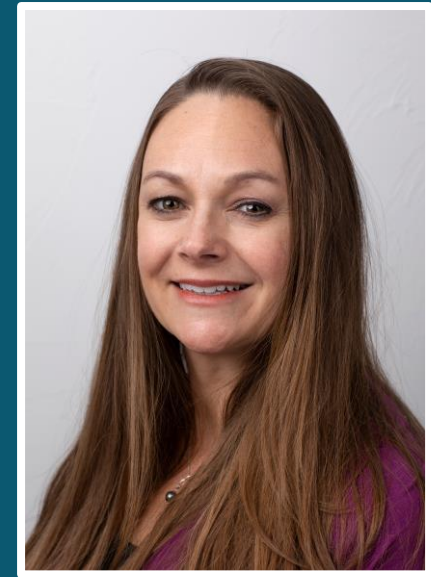
- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not at all

3. Have you been involved in K-12 or teacher education in your community in the past?

- Regularly
- Occasionally
- Once or twice
- Never



Julia Beck
VP of Networks



The Global Leader in Water Education



Project WET

Advances water education to understand global challenges and inspire local solutions.



How does water education impact the world?

Check out our [YouTube Video](#)



Why do water education?

H₂O in the Know...

Studies conducted in 2008-2010

- Less than half of US respondents were very familiar with 14 water-related terms (e.g. groundwater)
- Only 28% of SC respondents could identify the correct definition of a watershed
- Only 38% of NC respondents knew that stormwater flows to the nearest waterway
- 30% incorrectly thought that stormwater is treated prior to discharge in NC



Do you know where your water comes from?



Huffington Post Survey (2018):

- Only 21% of people know “very well” where water comes from
- 49% of people under 30 did not understand where their water comes from

Water is part of everything





Why Project WET?

People learn better when having FUN!



Job Readiness

Develop skills for workplace:

- Think critically and independently
- Problem-solve
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Perseverance



Children more likely to choose a career by “doing” than being told to be ____ (NYU, Princeton)

Professional mentorship is important (Phillips Charitable Foundation)



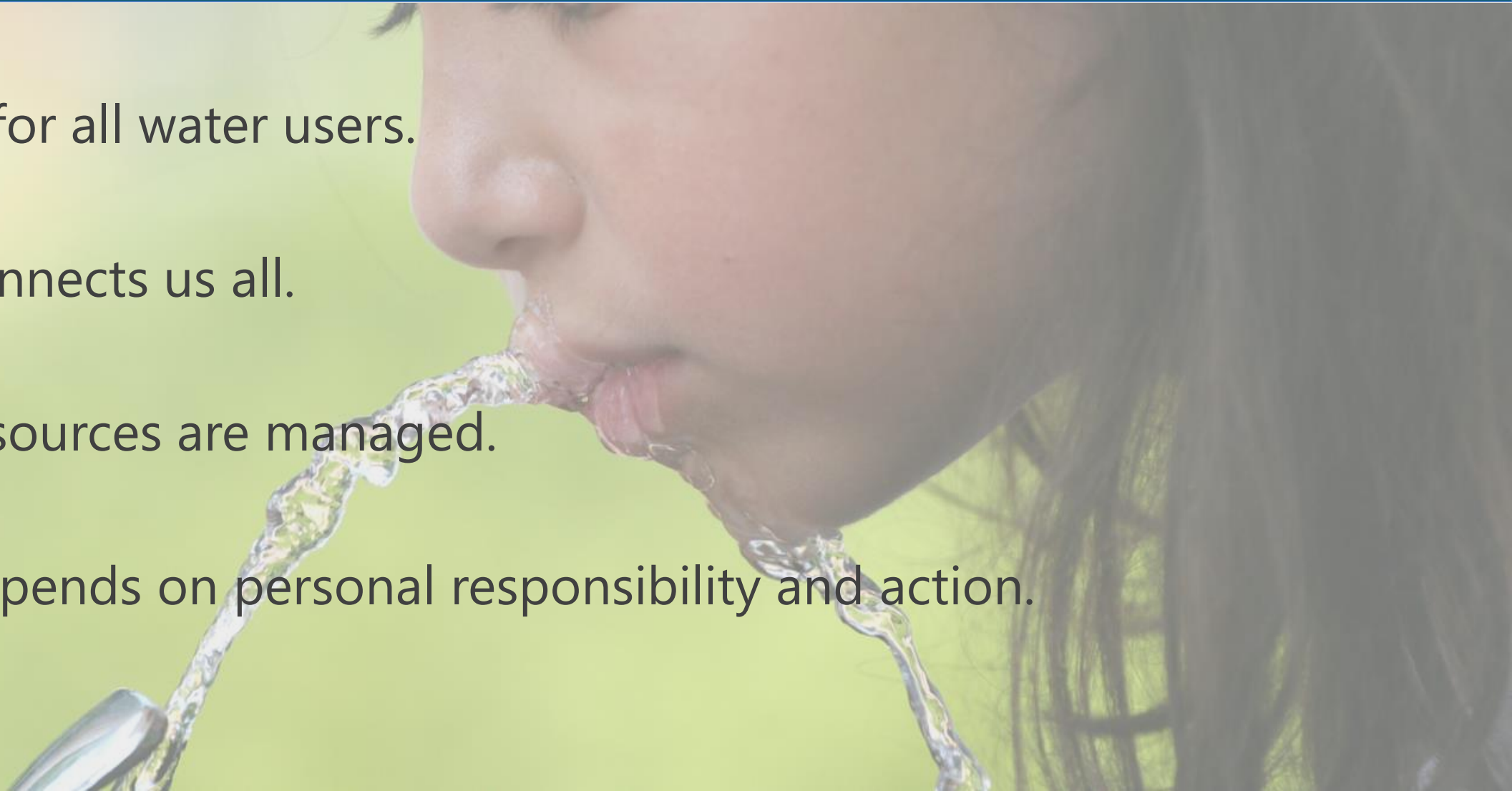
Project WET Core Beliefs

Water is for all water users.

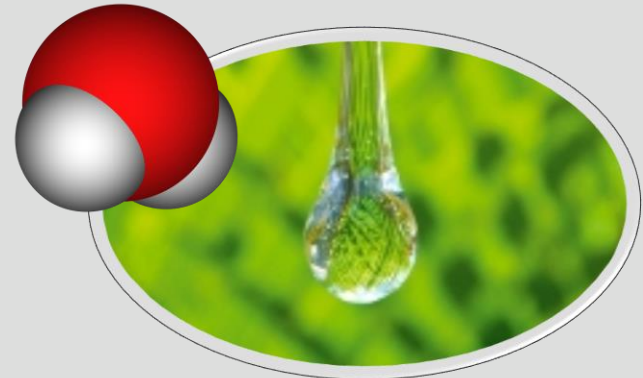
Water connects us all.

Water resources are managed.

Water depends on personal responsibility and action.



Educate on ALL Topics of Water



CHEMICAL AND
PHYSICAL
PROPERTIES



QUALITY



WATERSHED HEALTH



QUANTITY



HEALTH, SANITATION & HYGIENE



WATER SYSTEMS

The Project WET Foundation

Networks

- USA (68)
- International (25)

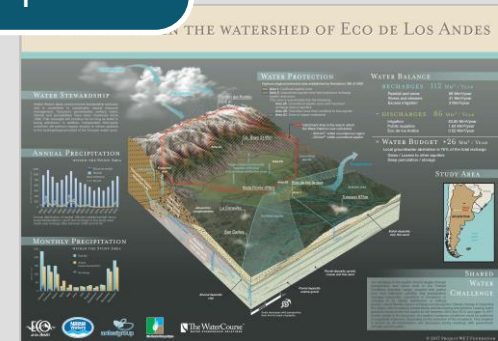
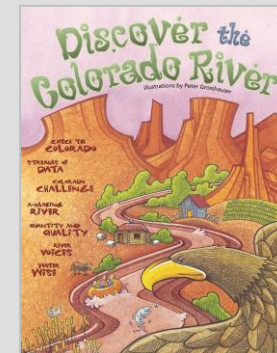
Other Partners

- WASH
- Corporate

Customized Programs

- Employee engagement
- Watershed specific

**Project
WET
Foundation**



2018 Impact

2.5
Million



820K+



USA Impact

PARTNERS



68

EDUCATORS
TRAINED IN 2018



8,450

EDUCATORS USING
PROJECT WET IN 2018



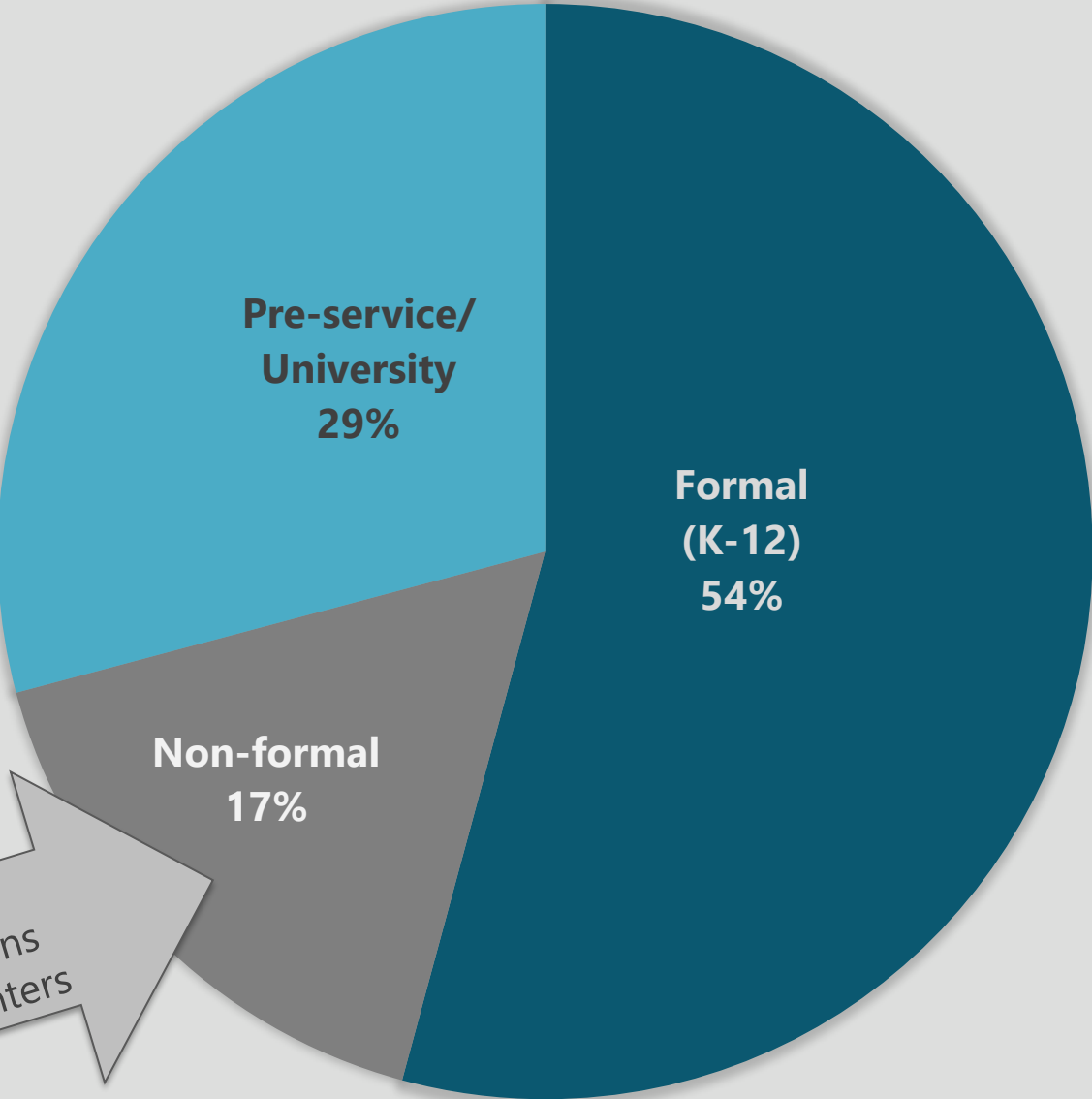
26,410

STUDENTS EDUCATED

792,303



New Educators Trained in 2018



N = 8,450

NSTA recommends®
National Science Teachers Association

Project WET

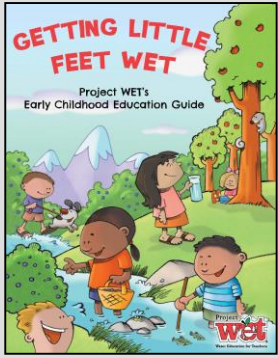
Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0



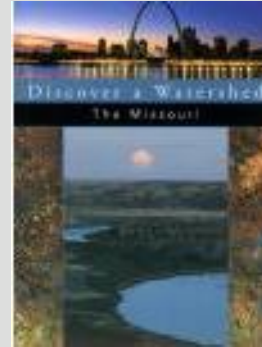
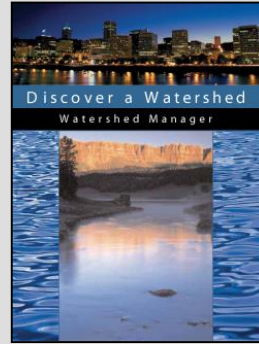
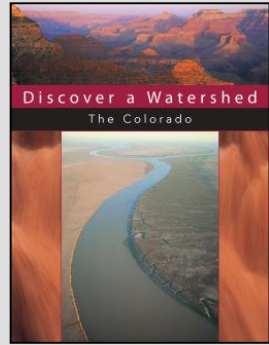
Educate. Empower. Act.

Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide

- 64 activities on all topics of water
- Hands-on lessons
- Learning through discovery
- Correlated to educational standards
- Vetted by educators and experts

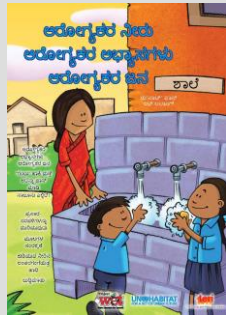
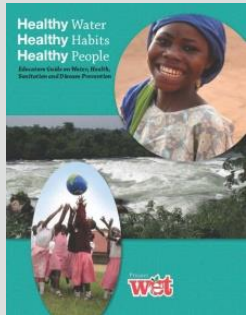


Getting Little Feet Wet
(Early Childhood)

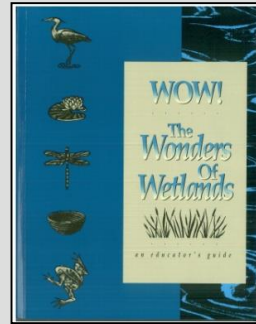


Discover a Watershed Series

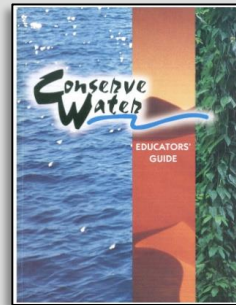
Educator Guides



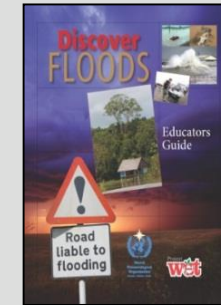
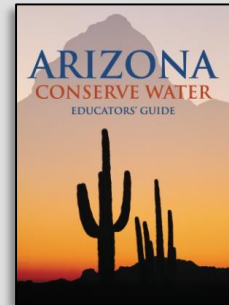
Water, Sanitation
& Hygiene



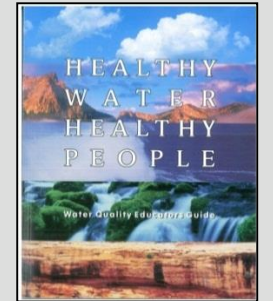
WOW (The Wonders of
Wetlands)



Conserve Water & Arizona
Conserve Water



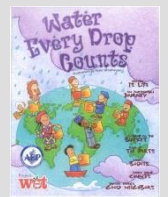
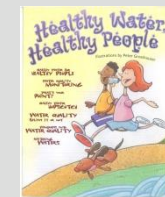
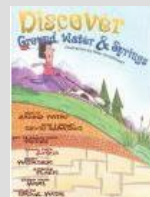
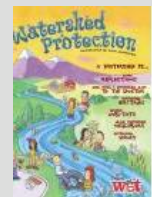
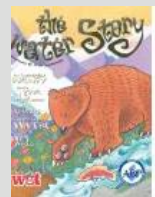
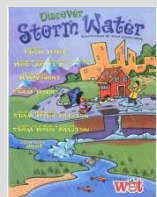
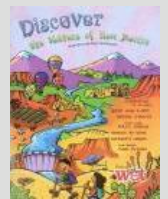
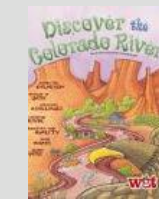
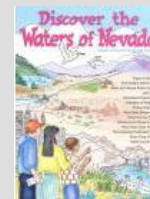
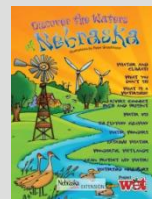
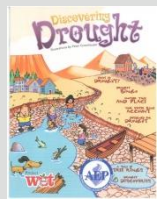
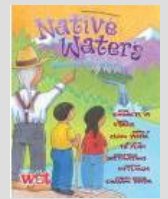
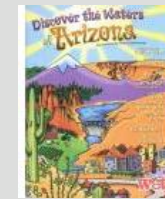
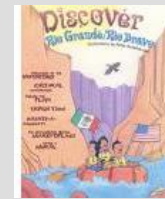
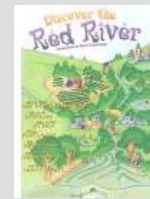
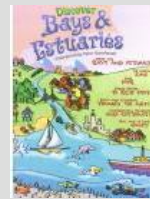
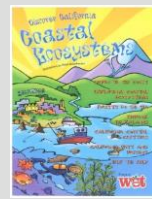
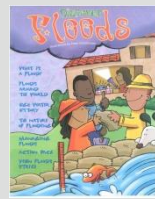
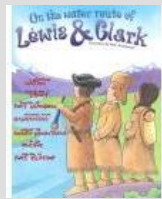
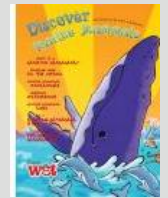
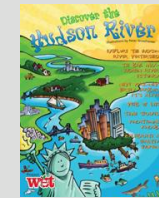
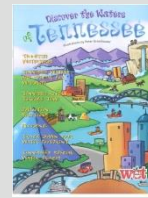
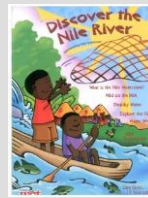
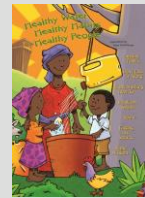
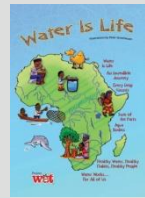
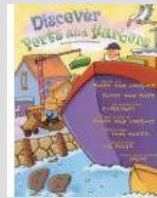
Floods Series



Healthy Water,
Healthy People

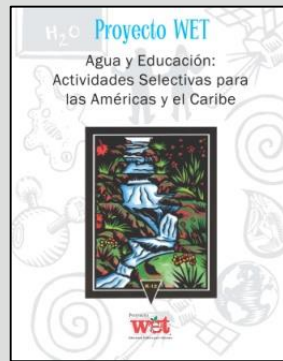
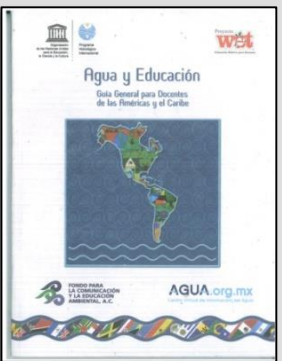
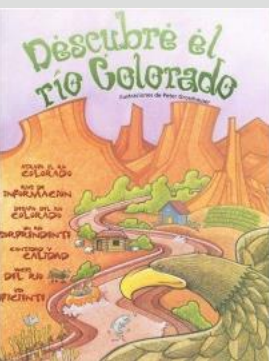
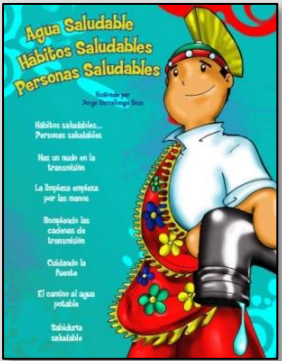
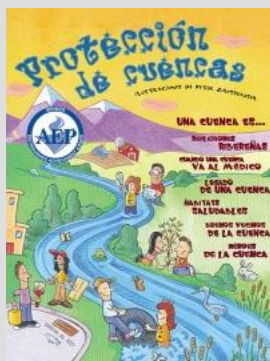
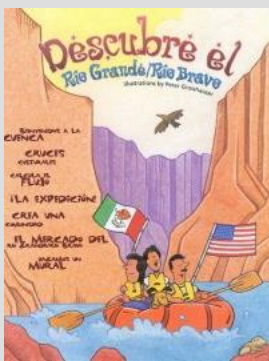
Special Topic and Derivative Guides

Kids in Discovery Series (KIDS)



Spanish Language

Guides and KIDS Booklets





New Hampshire (NH Dept. Environ. Serv.)

- Paired educators and water utility workers together as mentors
- Advertised specifically for water utilities and educators
- Lara Hooper:
Lara.Hooper@des.nh.gov



Ohio (Ohio EPA)

Addresses shortage of water utilities operators:

- water professionals' associations
- career tech high school centers

Developed online career pathways

- students and parents
- high school classes needed for particular jobs, including water operators and utilities directors.

Project WET: Who Works for Water?

“Urban Waters”

Dennis Clement:

dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov



Who Works for Water?





South Carolina (Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District)

- lunch and learn for local water utility employees (using WET)
- partner with a local municipality public works dept. on rain barrel workshops and water quality education
- career days to teach about conservation jobs
- offer a paid internship position for college juniors, seniors, or recent graduates



Project WET in Your State

www.projectwet.org/where-we-are

Contact your PWET Coordinator today!



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WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO WHERE WE ARE MEDIA WORK WITH US

WHERE WE ARE



Julia Beck

Julia.Beck@projectwet.org



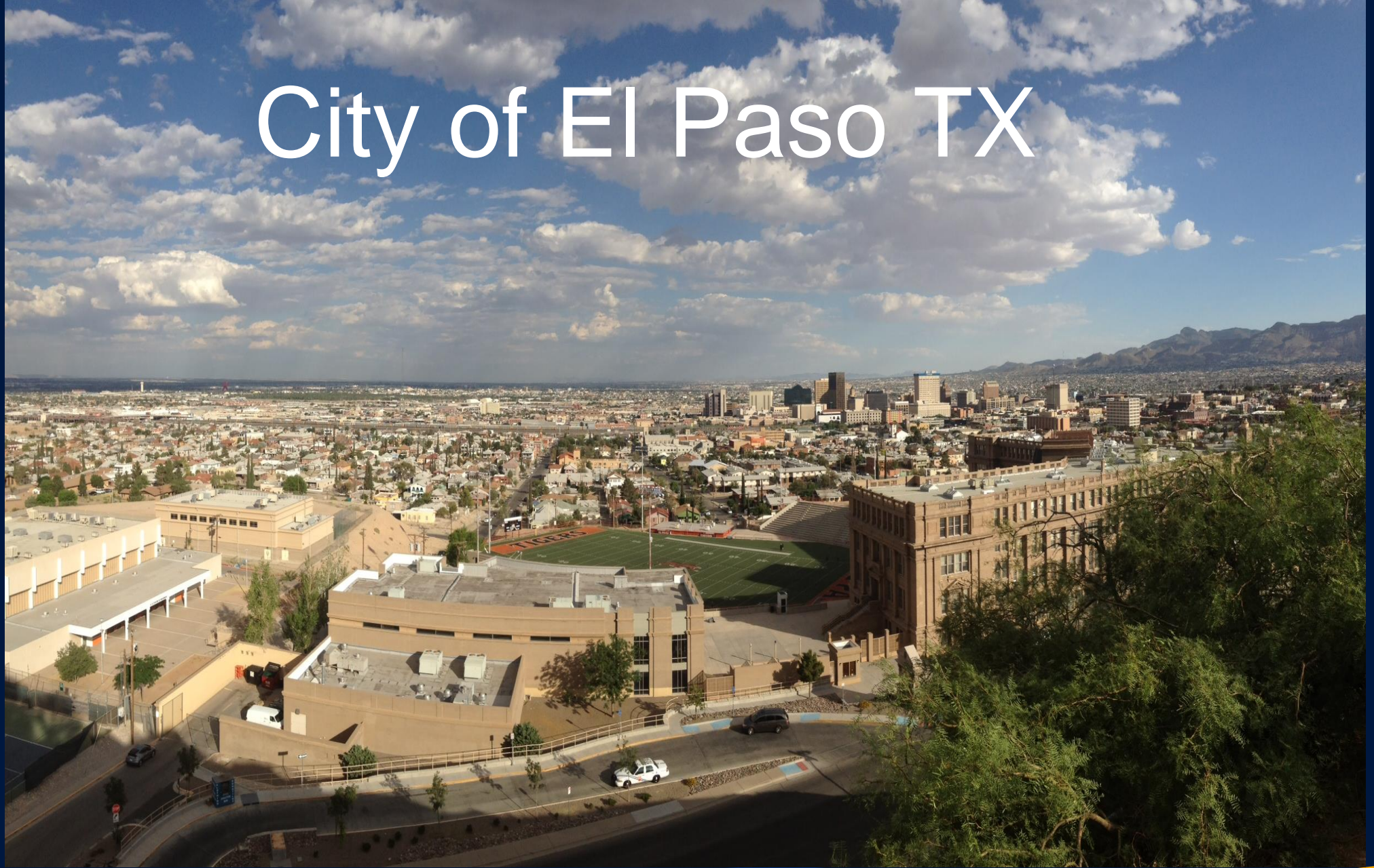


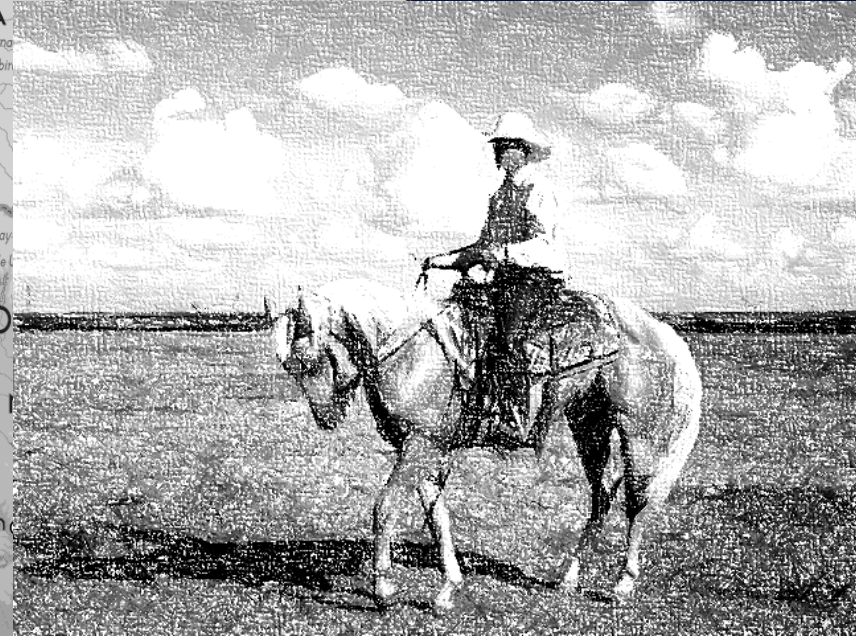
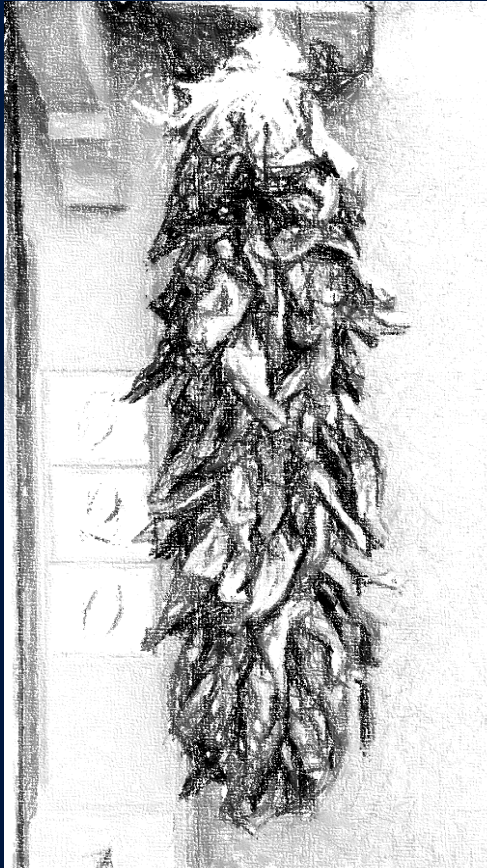
Public Education – Key Element Building the Career Pipeline

April Lopez
Water Conservation Specialist
El Paso Water



City of El Paso TX





Approach to Reduce Consumption

Effective outreach and education programs

Gaining public support



**Tried and true
conservation
programs**

Regulatory tools

Conservation ordinance
Plumbing code

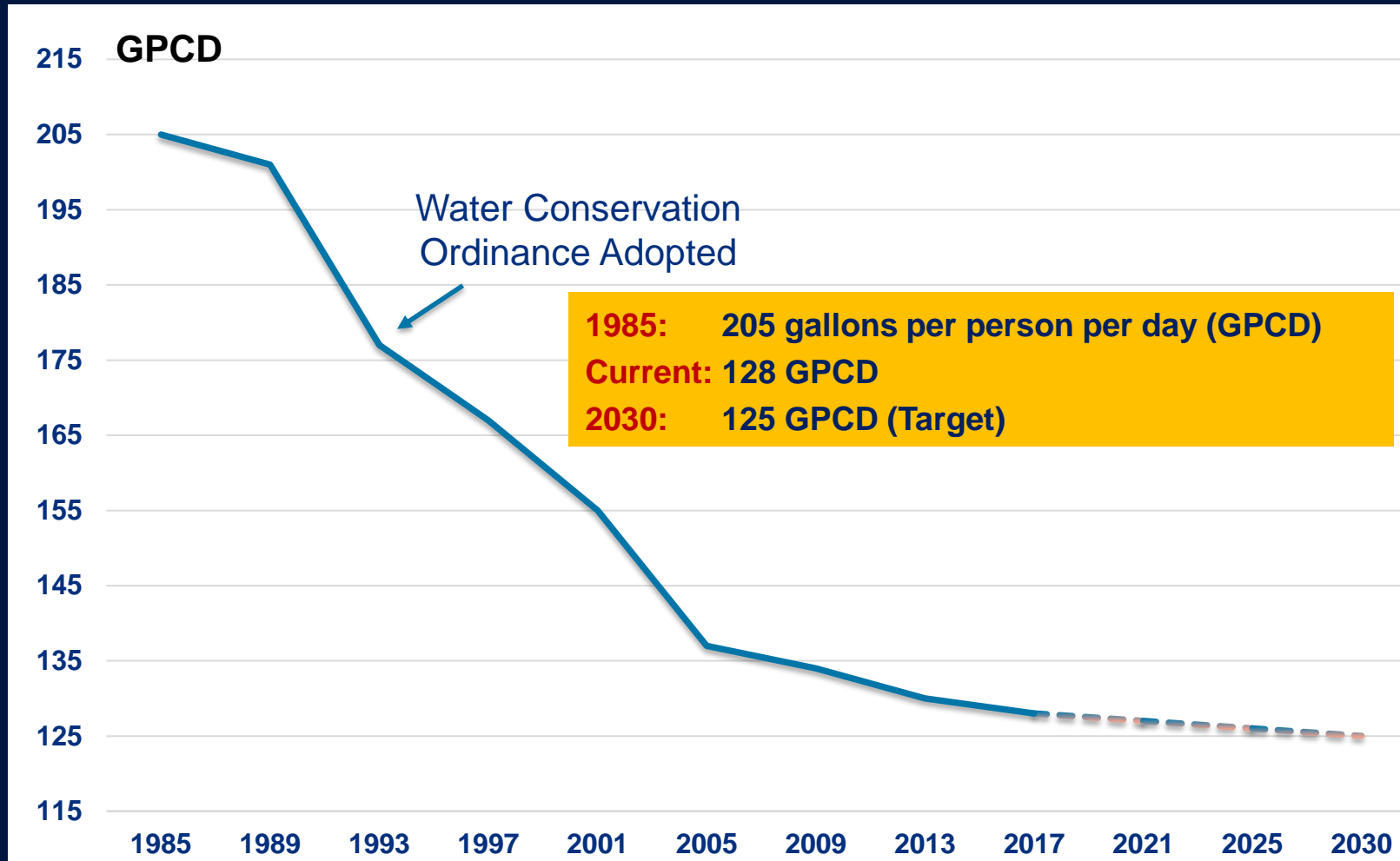
Financial incentives

Rate structure
Rebates and incentives

Supply side conservation

Improve system efficiencies

Water conservation has reduced per person consumption by 35%



TechH₂O Water Resources Learning Center

- Opened in 2008
- Project WET Host Facility
- Educate more than 40,000 people per year





Educational Outreach



*Water Quality
Ask the Bugs*

Project WET & School Visits



*Colegio Teresiano
International visitors*



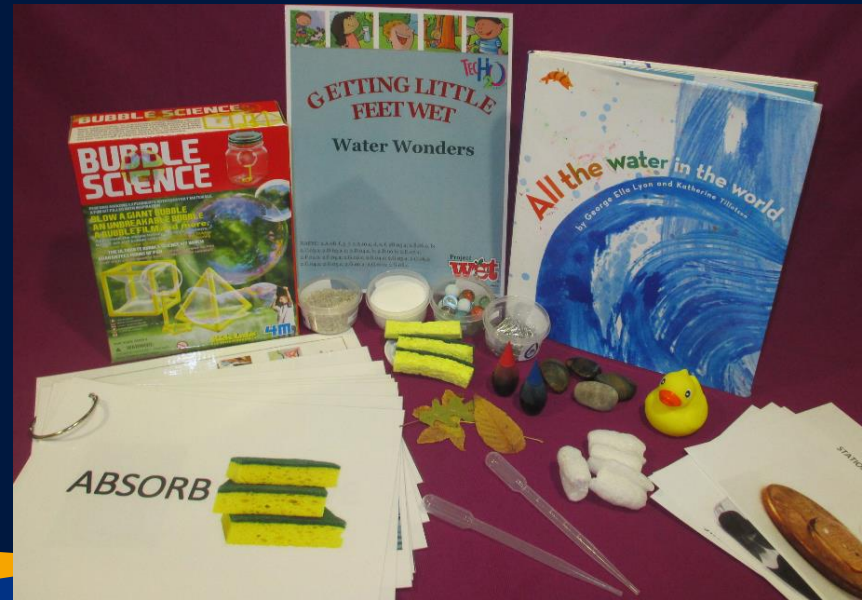
Is There Water on Zork?

Blue Planet





Educator Workshops





El Paso Water in the Community

Water Festival



Conclusion & Testimonials

Getting Little Feet Wet Workshop
Testimonials

Because of our educational efforts, El Paso Water's Conservation Program is leading a 35 percent reduction in per person water consumption.

[Click here to watch our video.](#)



Cindy Busche
Environmental Education Manager
City of Boise



CITY OF BOISE PUBLIC WORKS





Employees: our most valuable asset



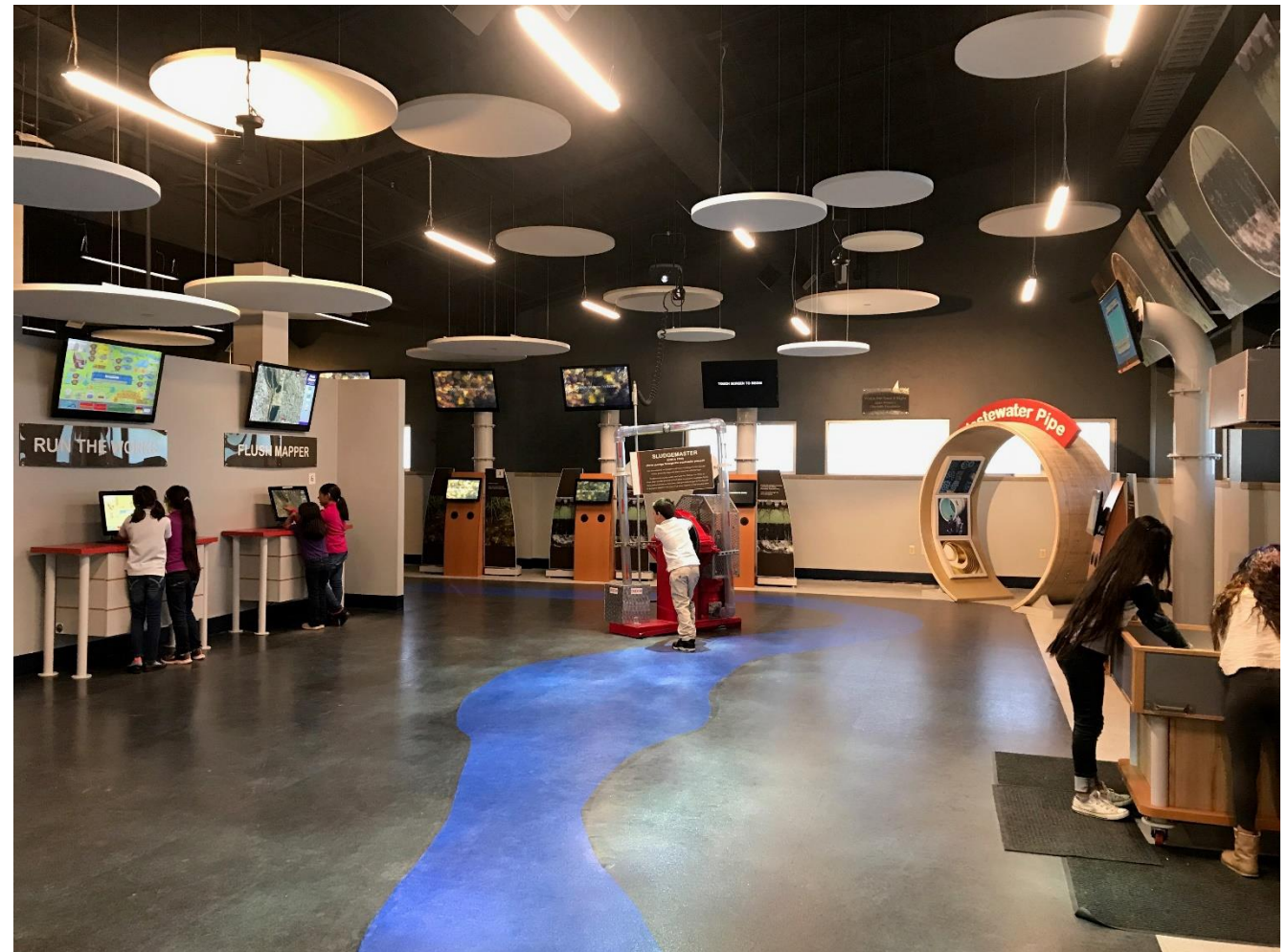
BOISE WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER



BOISE WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER

Mission: educate people of all ages to protect and conserve precious resources for future generations

- Opened in 2008
- Public-private partnership
- Educate 28,000+ people per year





Project WET Activities



BOISE WATERSHED & PROJECT WET

- 2017 became host site for Project WET
- Offer teacher professional development workshops





Project WET in the community



WATER RENEWAL FACILITY TOURS

Tony Harmon, West Boise Water Renewal Operations Coordinator



[Click here to watch our video.](#)



College Student Internships



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY IDOTEACH

- Provides teacher certification preparation coursework for future science and math teachers.
- Paid internships at Boise WaterShed.
- Interns learned to teach two Project WET activities to 2nd grade students.



- Research study
- How does participation in the field trip impact *knowledge* of STEM careers?
- How does participation in the field trip impact *interest* in STEM careers?

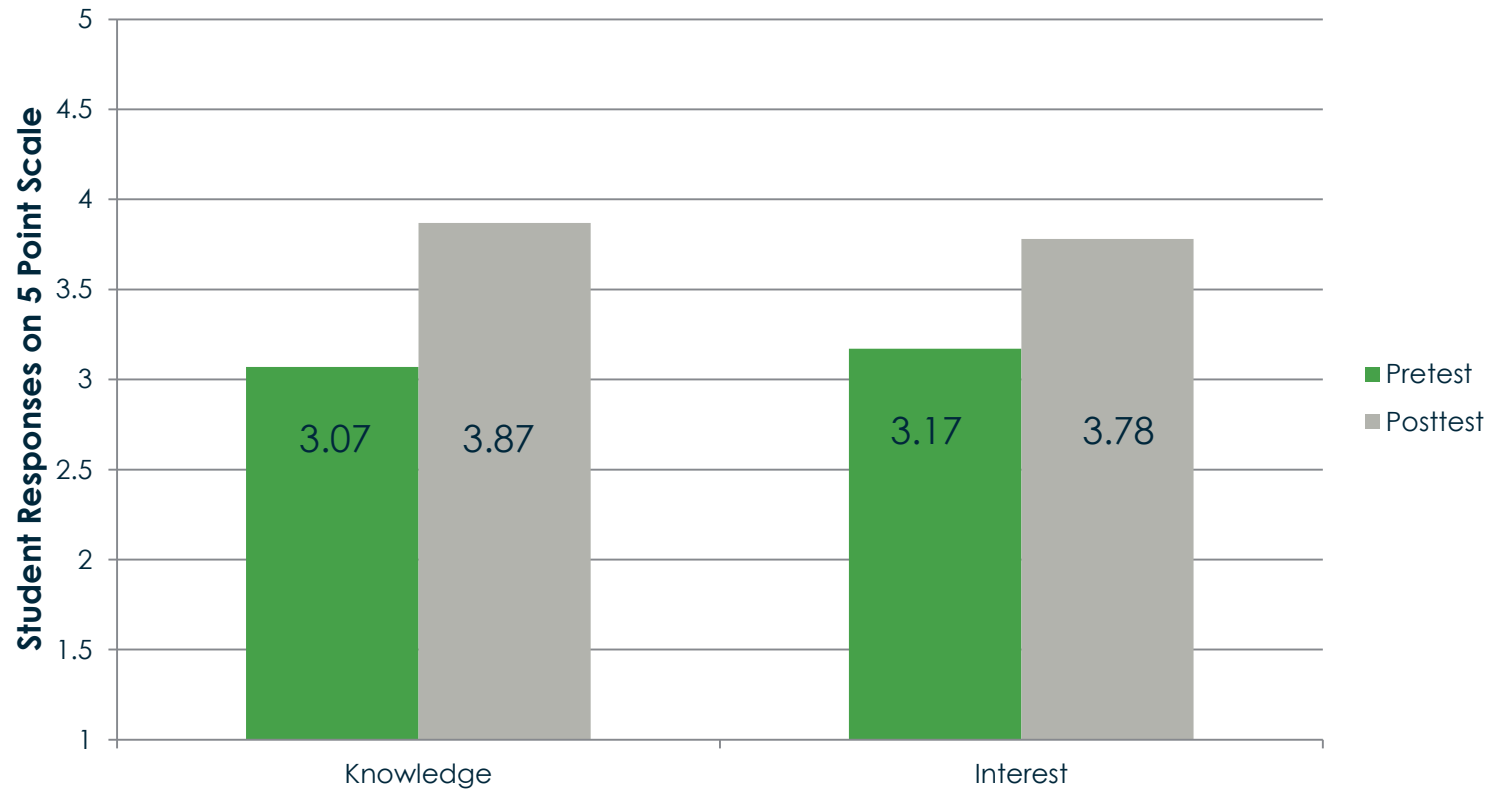
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY IDOTEACH

Survey:

- Administered to 535 students before and after the field trip.
- Five-point scale using smiley faces.

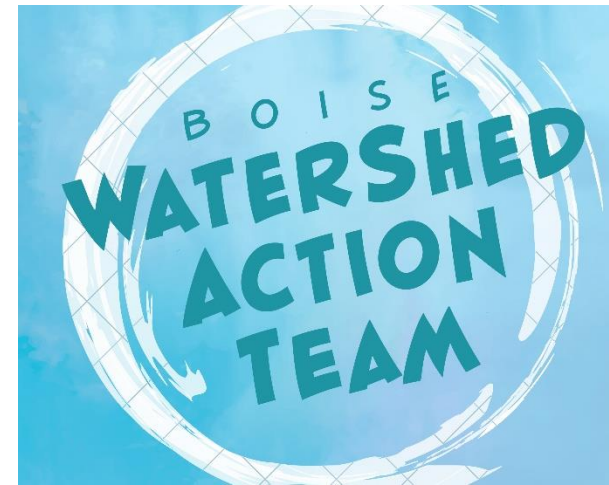
Results:

- Informal educational experiences for young children can help develop vocational awareness and interest.





WaterShed Action Team



CONCLUSION

- K – College Environmental Education is an effective tool in workforce development
- Partnering with Project WET can have far-reaching impacts on career awareness and interest.





Question & Answer

Please submit text questions using your webinar dashboard



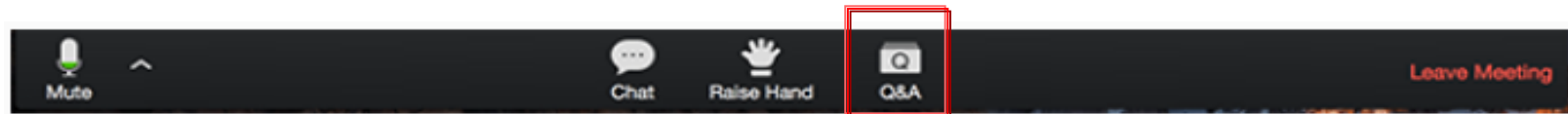
Closing Poll #1

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best score and 1 being the worst, how would you rate today's Webinar?

Closing Poll #2

Finally, what other topics would you like to see covered in subsequent webinars?

Please type a brief response in the questions box.





Thank you!

