

IMPACT



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Water Awareness Week Festival

The Situation

Idaho's people and its major industries depend on the state's water. To conserve and protect Idaho's water, Idaho's people need to learn about the basic science and processes of water. They also need to understand the issues related to competing uses of our water, the trade-offs in environmental management, and their responsibilities as citizens.

Our Response

Water Awareness Week helps acquaint Idaho's sixth grade students with water issues each May. The 2001 Southwest Idaho Region III program involved the distribution of Channing Bete water educational materials and a Water Festival. Region III is guided by a steering committee with representatives from local, state, and federal agencies or private entities in Adams, Valley, Washington, Gem, Payette, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, and Owyhee counties. Water education materials were delivered to 10 school districts in Region III, involving 5,804 sixth grade students and 195 teachers. Those school districts were Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Kuna, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Horseshoe Bend, Emmett, Payette, Fruitland, and New Plymouth. The highlight of Water Awareness Week in Southwest Idaho Region III was a water Festival held at United Water Treatment Plant and Municipal Park in Boise. Over 750 students spent the day outside involved in hands-on activities related to water. The materials and the festival activities teach students about Idaho's water resources, water conservation, the properties of water, and its uses.

Program Outcomes

Post-festival interviews with 31 students showed they left with a good understanding of the importance of water conservation, water quality protection, and the sometimes competing demands for water by people and nature. Other evaluations reflected strong involvement by the students, clear, and well organized activities that were age-appropriate and engaged the students.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

The success of the 2001 Region III Water Awareness Week program depends on the commitment of the steering committee members and more than 150 festival volunteers from public and private organizations.

For More Information

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