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Challengers Commit to Protect Waters and Habitat in the Northwest

The Challenge is fun and easy and even businesses and organizations are committing to protect Pacific Northwest waters and habitat. It takes less than 5 minutes to take the on-line Pacific Northwest Clean Waters Challenge and identify 2 new steps to clean waters.

It is so fun and easy that Northwest organizations Sound Experience aboard the schooner Adventuress, Boise Co-op, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Alaska Conservation Voters, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, SeaDoc Society, Sea Wolf Adventures Inc., Alaskan Brewing Co., Buy Alaska Program, Multnomah Outdoor School, Kenai Watershed Forum Save Habitat And Diversity Of Wetlands and South Sound Estuary Association have committed to 100% of their staff participating in the Challenge. **Top honors for who arrives first will be announced April 2 when the program officially launches.**

The Challenge is designed for participants to take on-line. Challengers can join the program through one of the 6 on-line networks--Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn, YouTube or Flickr. Challengers only need access to a computer to participate and are encouraged to email the program to their friends.

The goal of the program is to protect water quality, public health and habitat within the water basins of the Pacific Northwest States of Alaska, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Challengers will commit to at least 2 new behaviors out of a possible 16.

The Challenge is available now for innovators and people ready to take the next step to protect Pacific Northwest Waters. Over 150 people have already taken the Challenge.

The Challenge is easy to take in under 5 minutes. One behavior Challengers can choose is, "Reduce the amount of single occupancy car trips I take. Choose to carpool, walk, bike, or use public transportation whenever I can."

Challengers can choose to join local groups who are doing watershed protection or restoration. Local groups and resources are listed on the main webpage for the Challenge and on social media sites when available.

For more information and **to take the Pacific Northwest Clean Waters Challenge, go to** www.pnwwater.wordpress.com.

The Challenge is a program of Pacific Northwest Regional Water Program including partners University of Idaho, WSU Extension, OSU, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Extension, Northwest Indian College, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability, State of WA Water Research Center, WSU, Environmental Protection Agency and Western Ecology Division, ORD, NHEERL, USEPA Office of Research and Development..

For further information contact Brian Stafki at (360) 867-2167 or b.stafki@wsu.edu. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.

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