

Water Quality Questions

Field Biology

Answer these questions individually. You can search the web using a search engine like Google, or you can use one of the links below to help get you started.

As you think about the questions, do not simply write down definitions. Instead, think about implications of each term and why it might be important from an ecological point of view to look at water quality issues. Think about how these issues might affect your own life or Jackson Creek.

When you are done, send your completed work as an attachment to dan.bregar@corvallis.k12.or.us. The subject line of your e-mail should be “per X your name wq quest”.

1. What is water quality?
2. How is water quality measured? What are some of the different parameters of water quality and what do they mean?
3. What is a water quality index used for?
4. What is “non-point source” pollution? What is “point source” pollution?
5. What is the meaning of the term “water quality standards”?
6. What are some of the current water quality issues in the Willamette Valley near Corvallis? Use these links to find the information:
<www.deq.state.or.us/wq/willamette/docs/maps/upperwill.pdf>
<<http://water.oregonstate.edu/projects/willwq.htm>>
7. What is “water quality monitoring”?

Potential sources of information:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality <www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/index.shtml>

Environmental Protection Agency <www.epa.gov/ebtpages/water.html>

Washington State Department of Ecology <www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wqhome.html>

Washington State University Water Quality Program <wawater.wsu.edu/>