

Water Quality Questions

Field Biology

Answer these questions individually. You can search the web using a search engine Google (www.google.com), or you can use one of the links below to help get you started. When you complete this assignment, please e-mail it to dan.bregar@corvallis.k12.or.us with the subject “per X your name WQ Quest”

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.

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 this link to find the information:
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/willamette/docs/maps/upperwill.pdf>)
7. What is “water quality monitoring”?

Potential Sources:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (www.deq.state.or.us)
Environmental Protection Agency (<http://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 (<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>)