Keeping the Dirt Where It Belongs

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2002

REGIONAL EROSION PREVENTION AWARDS PROGRAM

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WE HAVE 22 WINNERS!

The results are in from thirteen jurisdictions and twenty two awards will be presented on June 28th, 2002.

Two agencies did not participate in the rating and four jurisdictions opted not to nominate a non-single family project. This, however, may be the basis of a litmus test for the program. If next year the nonsingle family sites improve enough to be nominated for award then perhaps the influences of the awards program can be considered effective.

A well deserved Thank You goes out to each and every jurisdiction for your support and involvement.

Your questions, comments and even criticisms are welcome, as we work towards improving the program. Please contact Fred Wright @ 503-730-8690 or by e-mail at

Envirowrgt@aol.com

IN THE NEWS:

Breakfast Ceremony

Each participating jurisdiction is invited to attend the awards breakfast ceremony on June 28th, 2002.

Each award winner has been contacted and formal invitations have been sent out in the mail to confirm their attendance.

We have some really cool "crystal" looking awards to hand out, as well as door prizes, exhibitor displays and lets not forget.....food! Doors open 7:30 am Fancy Continental Breakfast 7:30-9:00 Welcome & Opening Speaker 8:30- 9:15 Awards Presentation 9:30- 11:00 Exhibitors Displays 7:30-11:30 11:30 Wrap up

Directions Home Associaing and more info will be forthcom-

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REGIONAL EROSION PREVENETON AWARDS Keeping the Dirt Where It Belongs

Special Points of Interest:

- Floating Display has visited 10 jurisdictions and will be at the 5 remaining participating agencies thru the end of May and the first part of June.
- Door Prizes! Committee members are soliciting local hardware stores and building supply businesses to drum up a solid collection of fantastic door prizes. Contributors will be recognized at the awards ceremony.
- Press Release! A press release document is available to all participating jurisdictions. The document is a one page announcement of the erosion award program and is available electronically for you to pass on to your local news paper or agency publications for print. For a copy contact Fred Wright @ 503-730-8690 or by email at Envirowrgt@aol.com

INFREQUENT INSPECTIONS MAY LEAD TO GREATER STREAM POLLUTION

Enforcement of control measures can be the key to erosion prevention, a new study shows. Drs. Seth Reice and Richard Andrews, professors at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, conducted the study between 1996 and 2000 in a 16-county area in the central Piedmont region of North Carolina. The scientists sampled benthic macroin-

vertebrates, some of which are particularly sensitive to sediment loads, including mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies. They then compared that information to the strength of erosion control rules and the degree to which they are enforced. The stringency of the laws proved far less important than the strictness of enforcement. The scientists found that if enforcement is slack, many builders are less careful about implementing the necessary erosion control measures and water quality is degraded.

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Water Quality and Erosion Control

The scientists collected macroinvertebrate samples at 18 construction sites before, during, and after each project. During-construction samples were taken only on days following heavy rainfalls (at least 1/2 inch). According to Reice, "This was a very complicated, detailed study, during which we sampled and identified more than 300,000 invertebrates." Their analysis showed the best water quality in Orange County, followed by Wake County, followed by a 16county, 8,000-square-mile area known as District 4 of the North Carolina Division of Land Quality.

The researchers compared the sampling results with the results of a public policy analysis of erosion control rules and enforcement. The analysis, conducted by Andrews and Ph.D. student Joanne Carmin (now a faculty member at Virginia Polytechnic Institute), revealed that Orange

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County had the strongest erosion control rules and adequate staff to inspect and strictly enforce the rules. Wake County had less stringent rules than Orange County but also was well staffed and strictly enforced the rules. District 4, on the other hand, had the same relatively weak rules as Wake County but fewer enforcement staff per capita and was less able to enforce the rules.

"The problem for District 4 is that the inspectors, who are good people doing their best, can't possibly keep up. It's likely they can't visit a construction site more than once before it's completed," Reice says. "The bottom line is that problems lie not with the counties or where the streams are but with enforcement, which is just not good enough in most counties. Our data provide a powerful argument for hiring many more sedimentation inspectors for North Carolina."

[For more information, contact Dr. Seth Reice, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Biology, Coker Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3280; Phone: (919) 962-1375.]

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BMP of the MONTH

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Erosion Control Northwest

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