



EPP 725 – Freshwater Mussels of the Pacific Northwest

Course Summary: This combination of classroom and field learning will provide participants with knowledge of the ecology, habitat needs, and conservation status of freshwater mussels in the Pacific Northwest, and enable them to survey for and identify native and invasive freshwater mussel species. This course will enable participants to understand, manage, and protect one of our most vulnerable and threatened groups of native wildlife.

The life history and habitat needs of freshwater mussels will be described, along with their important roles in stream ecology and biogeomorphology, and aquatic and terrestrial food webs; their current distribution, status, and conservation needs; as well as guidelines for habitat management and conservation practices. Participants will learn species identification and survey and salvage techniques, and will conduct surveys in local waterways during the field portion of the course. Cultural and historical aspects of freshwater mussels, including their use by regional Native American groups, will also be addressed. Exotic bivalves, including zebra and quagga mussels and Asian clam, will be covered, as well as native bivalves other than mussels.

The classroom part of the workshop will consist of interactive presentations, videos, and examination of mussel shells. The second day is dedicated to site visits at local waterways to examine and discuss mussel habitat and conduct surveys.

Duration: 2 days.

Fee: All instruction and program facilitation, resource manual, transportation to/from the field (if applicable), morning coffee/tea; a certificate of completion for this offering is provided.

Available Professional Credit: 1.4 CEU, 14 PDH.