



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 portion of the workshop will consist of video presentations to be viewed by the students on their own time, with completion of a written exam. The class will have a virtual synchronous meeting for discussions and questions. The two field days will involve visits to local waterways to examine and discuss mussel habitat and survey techniques and conduct surveys and population assessments.

Duration: 2 days.

Fee: All instruction, program facilitation and a certificate of completion for this offering is provided.

Available Professional Credit: 1.4 CEU, 14 PDH.