No Water No Life

NWNL Methodology
for Researching, Investigating, Documenting
its Six Case Study Watersheds
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This methodology can be applied to the longest river in the world - or to a backyard stream. Everyone lives in a watershed; and the health of each and every watershed is key to the availability of clean fresh water. No Water No Life encourages use of this methodology outline for obtaining and sharing watershed conditions and data with fellow stakeholders in order to provide effective stewardship of their fresh water resources.

I. Identify BASIN CHARACTERISTICS of each NWNL case study watershed and how they impact freshwater usage, quality and availability. Consider:

- Spanning regional and/or national boundaries
- Hydrologic Systems (Basin size, river length, source, tributaries, lakes, wetlands, land cover, geology, biodiversity, climate)
- Ecologic functions (species’ resource and habitat, flood storage and irrigation)
- Values/Services (resource use, recreation, spiritual)
- Human impact (affecting or affected by fresh water resources in basin historically and currently) – population size and density, economy, culture, stakeholders, governance, industry, political environment, future development and growth
- Condition of watershed
  - Biodiversity – status of species
  - Water Quality - Sources of pollution (point and non-point)
  - Diversity of conditions between case studies
    - Socioeconomic
    - Climate
    - Management approach
  - Threats to watersheds (pollution, climate, resource extraction, invasive species, recreation, proposed or existing infrastructure projects)
  - Consequences of threats to water quality and quantity; biodiversity; human health; and economic, cultural, social and political stability
- Historic and current management, protection, designation and/or documentation
- Present and Future Solutions
- Dramatic visual potential
II. Develop a CONTACTS / RESOURCE LIST for NWNL case-study watersheds, that is annotated and indicates possible NWNL partnerships. Consider:

- Watershed conservation organizations – international, national, state and local
- Watershed Scientists / Researchers / Policy Analysts (check local universities)
- Government agencies and elected/appointed representatives
- Commercial / Public Stakeholders
  - Water Authorities
  - Hydroelectric
  - Shipping & Transportation
  - Mining
  - Nuclear plants
  - Agribusiness & ranching
  - Recreation
- Private stakeholders –
  - Local stewardship organizations
  - Representatives of indigenous cultures
- Local press: Newspapers and magazines for interviews of/with NWNL Team
- Museums, galleries, public spaces, such as a City Hall, for exhibits & lectures
- Local conservation photographers

III. Establish BASIN FOCI for NWNL documentation of its case-study watersheds by researching and filing information on identified NWNL Basin Characteristics. (Sources to include the Internet, magazines, books and newspapers, as well as stewardship and conservation organizations’ reports.)

IV. Compile a RESEARCH REPORT of all research on the watershed according to NWNL’s Case Study Outline. This will inform NWNL Expedition Coordinators as they set up documentary expeditions in NWNL watersheds. All information include will be identified with source and date.

V. Set EXPEDITION GOALS and OBJECTIVES per the watershed Research Report.

VI. Prepare for Watershed Expeditions covering either the watershed of the main stem of the river, its major tributaries, or specific reaches/regions. NWNL Researchers, Expedition Coordinators and Field Teams work together to:

A. Identify expedition sites and route according to Researchers’ recommendations
B. Choose interviewees using established Contact/Resource List
C. Book meetings, interviews and tours. Create “Info sheets” for each interviewee with their career and their organization’s backgrounds, current activities in the watershed, date & place of interview, contacts and photo if possible.
D. Choose Expedition Field Team and identify student groups wanting to follow the expedition
E. Check for need for photo permits.
F. Find Funding Sources (general and local)
   - Grant writing
   - Personal donations
G. Get Support Sponsorship / Expedition Partners
   Flag status
   In-kind donations or gear
H. Website organization
   Expedition description to be posted
   Field notes to be sent – pod casts
   Student interaction / blogs
I. Logistics
   Travel: Book flights; get passports, visas, and necessary meds/shots
   Lodging
   Expedition’s on-the-ground transportation
   Equipment List
      Maps
      Photo/video equipment (cameras, batteries, chargers, filters…)
      Field gear (binoculars, field notebooks, maps)
      Personal gear (bug nets, trekking poles, boots, camping gear…)
      Communications, IT
   Carbon offset payment
   Create a watershed narrative to give to contacts, which would include:
      Donors, Flags, other supporting and local partners
      Basin Foci, Goals and Objectives
      Any past expeditions in chosen watershed
      Itinerary being followed to study Basin Foci
   Print expedition business cards, model releases, one-page narratives
   Organize gifts of appreciation: photos, NWNL pens, caps, stickers…
   Prepare press packets, including:
      NWNL mission & story
      One-page narrative of chosen watershed
      Completed expedition narratives and/or itineraries
      List of Expedition Team with contacts, biographies & headshots
   Expected outputs: publications/reports, partnerships, lectures, exhibits, model for curriculum extension…

VI. EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES:

   The Field Team pursues visual documentation and interviews. An Expedition Coordinator and Researchers should be available for Field Team members’ queries while on expedition.

   A. Photography & Video: Create images from shot lists
   B. Get model releases signed (Name, address, telephone, e-mail, affiliation)
   C. Record interviews and quotes from local contacts (get releases)
   D. Contact and be available for local press interviews of NWNL Team
   E. Log in video media and download / caption and download photos nightly
   F. Field Notes:
      Site description
      Weather and Time
      Location: Place name; Coordinates, Elevation; Background Information
      Species: ID, Behavior and Habitat
      Infrastructure
      Land use
Habitat
Management
Human: Action/Activity (get model releases)
Any recommended books, contacts, maps or further research resources
G. Blog / Website Report
   Weekly postings w/ images and stakeholder quotes
   Interactive component possibilities
H. Project Administration
   Expense documentation and odometer readings
   Daily communication with office staff when possible
   Ongoing logistics coordination (in-the-field and office-based)

VII. POST-EXPEDITION SYNTHESIS: Expedition Coordinator, Field Team and Researchers work together on this.

   A. Write thank-you notes to all expedition contacts
   B. Finish Field Notes and post on website
   C. Collate raw material
      Download, transcribe and edit videotapes
      Backup and edit still photographs
   D. Disseminate material /data to publicize watershed issues documented
      Write requested Flag and Grant Reports
      Post on website: Photos, Report, Final itinerary with sites, contacts & affiliation
      Blog
      Submit magazine articles
      Create lectures and exhibits; enter photos and videos in contests
   E. Continue coordination with partners in watershed and foster upstream/downstream Partnerships to promote and strengthen watershed conservation
   F. Establish relationship of this watershed with other NWNL watersheds

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