# No Water No Life ®

## NWNL Methodology
### for Researching, Investigating, Documenting its Six Case Study Watersheds


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.

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### 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