

No Water No Life ®

NWNL Methodology for Investigating and Documenting a Watershed (All Rights Reserved)

This methodology can be applied to the Nile, 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 data with fellow stakeholders in order to provide effective stewardship of their fresh water resources.

I. Identify the chosen case study watershed's *Basin Characteristics* that impact fresh water resource usage, quality and availability.

NWNL Basin Characteristics

- 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 watershed (pollution, climate, resource extraction, recreation, invasive species proposed or existing major infrastructure projects)
- Consequences of threats (to water quality and quantity, to biodiversity, and to human health, economy, culture and social/political stability)
- Historic and current management, protection, designation and/or documentation
- Present and Future Solutions
- Dramatic visual potential

II. Develop an annotated *Contacts / Resource* list for researching the watershed.

NWNL Contacts / Resources

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. Research and file available existing information relating to identified NWNL *Basin Characteristics* to further refine above *Basin Foci* within the watershed.

Sources to be explored include the Internet, magazines, books and newspapers. Reports from stewardship/conservation organizations studying the watershed shall also be consulted and filed.

IV. Compile all research on the watershed into a Research Report according to *NWNL's Case Study Outline*. The Research Report will be used to inform Expedition Coordinator's preparations for expeditions in this watershed. All quotes must be in quotation marks and all information must have its source with date identified within the paper.

V Based on Research Report, set goals and objectives for expedition(s) and identify possible partnerships within the watershed.

VI. Prepare for Expedition (covering either the entire length of the river or specific reaches or regions of watershed) : Researchers, Expedition Coordinator and Field Team work together on this.

NWNL Pre-Expedition Preparations

- 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

- background, 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. The Expedition: Field team pursues visual documentation and interviews. Expedition Coordinator and Researchers are available for team members' queries from the field.

NWNL Expedition Team Activities

- 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 and Researchers work with the Field Team on this.

NWNL Post-Expedition Synthesis

- 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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