

# REGIONAL ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER of the Northwest and Plains States

## STATES IN THE REGION

The Academic Center works with nine states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Carl Osaki is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington and is also on the faculty of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. He was the former Director of Environmental Health with Public Health - Seattle & King County and is currently a member of the Washington State Board of Health. He provides consultation and training to local, state, and tribal environmental health units nationwide.

## PROJECT STAFF

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Regional Academic Environmental Health Center is to assist local, state, and tribal Environmental Health units in developing the capacity to provide effective, state-of-the-art environmental public health programs. The Center aims to do this by assessing the workforce using the fourteen environmental health core competencies as well as by identifying organizational barriers, challenges, opportunities, and successes in a nine-state region. This three-year project, begun in September, 2004, is supported by the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## OBJECTIVES

- Identify the environmental public health capacity and technical assistance needs in the nine Northwest and Plains states
- Provide direct assistance to agencies in the nine-state region by conducting training, providing technical assistance, performing program and service delivery assessments and evaluations, and helping to develop environmental health policy plans
- Disseminate to the environmental health practice community findings based on the experiences of local, state, and tribal environmental health units
- Evaluate the outcomes of the Center's partnerships and collaborations

## CURRENT PROJECTS

- **Program Evaluation:** Develop and provide training materials to assist agencies in assessing and measuring the effect of programs, with the goal of demonstrating the value of environmental health
- **Communication:** Provide training materials and a tool kit to guide practitioners in communicating the role and importance of environmental health to the public, peers and policy makers
- **Social Marketing:** Develop and provide trainings on social marketing with a focus on environmental health
- **Success Stories:** Disseminate inspirational stories, gathered from environmental health practitioners, that demonstrate how environmental health has made a difference

THE NORTHWEST CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE was founded in 1991 by the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Its mission is to improve the quality and effectiveness of public health practice in the northwestern United States by strengthening the link between academia and the practice community.