

Nurture Nature – Clean Water for All

Balancing Natural Systems and Human Activity

Student Fact Sheet 2010

- ◆ Water is vital for all living creatures and sustains all ecosystems. *Conservation International (CI)*
- ◆ Every day in the United States a family of four uses an average of 400 gallons of water. *EPA WaterSense*
- ◆ One out of every six people on Earth has no access to clean drinking water. *CI*
- ◆ The human population is expected to increase to 9 billion by 2050, worsening the global freshwater crisis. *CI*

- ◆ Less than 1% of the world's water is fit to drink and it must be shared by a vast assortment of forms of plant and animal life, including people. *CI*



where it is needed. *CI*

- ◆ Two of the most immediate threats to freshwater ecosystems are hydropower dams and the use of water for agriculture. *CI*
- ◆ The 70 percent of all freshwater is used for agricultural purposes can deplete underground aquifers, pollutes sources of clean water, and diverts water away from
- ◆ The manufacturing of clothing and home furnishings uses more water than any industry other than agriculture. At least 8,000 chemicals are used to turn raw materials into clothing and textiles. 25% of the world's pesticides are used to grow non-organic cotton. *Earth Pledge*
- ◆ We can reduce greenhouse gases produced by agriculture, industry, and commerce by using sustainable waste management technology and develop

new sources of renewable energy while putting our waste to work. *Earth Pledge*

- ◆ Adoption of sustainable practices throughout the food chain, from farmer to consumer, can decrease the use of agricultural chemicals which pollute our water and find their way into our food. These chemicals poison and minimize natural soil fertility and contaminate clean water supplies. *Earth Pledge*
- ◆ Roughly 2,500 gallons of water is required to produce a pound of meat- 13 to 15 times more water than is needed to produce the same amount of plant protein. *North American Vegetarian Society*
- ◆ **Don't waste water-** Turn off water while you brush. Take shorter showers. Don't use the toilet for trash. *Massachusetts Drinking Water Partnership Association*

