

# The Willamette River Basin



## Planning for the Future

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# Willamette River

- Governor's top environmental priority
- Environmental, economic, social importance
- Challenges associated with increasing population and expanding economy
- Many studies and plans
- Common areas of concern identified through major planning efforts

# Willamette Plans and Reports

Willamette Basin Biological Opinion

*NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, July 2008*

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Hydropower/Willamette-Basin/Willamette-BO.cfm>

The Willamette River Legacy: The Governor's Blueprint for Restoring and Enjoying a Healthy Willamette River Basin

*Oregon Governor's Office, May 2005*

[http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/Willamette\\_River\\_Legacy/vision\\_background.shtml](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/Willamette_River_Legacy/vision_background.shtml)

Willamette Greenway Parklands Strategy

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, September 2008

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/docs/Greenwaystrategy10-05.pdf>

Willamette Basin Restoration Priorities: Watershed Summary

*Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Willamette Basin Watershed Council, December 2005*

[http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/Rest\\_Priorities/Willamette\\_Watershed\\_Council\\_Summaries\\_Dec05.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/Rest_Priorities/Willamette_Watershed_Council_Summaries_Dec05.pdf)

Willamette River Basin Challenge of Change

*Marcia Sinclair, Willamette Partnership and Defenders of Wildlife, 2005*

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/bitstream/1957/87/1/ChallengeOfChange.pdf>

# Willamette Plans and Reports *cont.*

Listening to Landowners: Conservation Case Studies from Oregon's Willamette Valley  
*Paige Fischer, Defenders of Wildlife and the Willamette Basin Conservation Project, 2005*

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/bitstream/1957/66/1/casestudy.pdf>

Willamette Subbasin Plan

*Willamette Restoration Initiative for the NW Power and Conservation Council, 2004*

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/willamette/plan>

Restoring Rare Native Habitats in the Willamette Valley

*Bruce H. Cambell, Defenders of Wildlife, 2004*

[http://www.ser.org/sernw/pdf/DefOWild\\_willamette\\_hab\\_restore\\_manual.pdf](http://www.ser.org/sernw/pdf/DefOWild_willamette_hab_restore_manual.pdf)

Willamette Valley - Puget Trough – Georgia Basin Ecoregional Assessment

*The Nature Conservancy and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2004*

[http://conserveonline.org/docs/2004/06/WPG\\_Ecoregional\\_Assessment.pdf](http://conserveonline.org/docs/2004/06/WPG_Ecoregional_Assessment.pdf)

Restoring the Stream of Commerce: How a Clean Willamette River Will Benefit Oregon's Economy

*Rhett Lawrence, OSPIG, July 2003*

<http://static.ospirg.org/reports/restoring-the-stream.pdf>

# Willamette Plans and Reports *cont.*

Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas

*Edited by David Hulse, Stan Gregory, and Joan Baker, 2002*

[http://www.fsl.orst.edu/pnwer/wrb/Atlas\\_web\\_compressed/PDFtoc.html](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/pnwer/wrb/Atlas_web_compressed/PDFtoc.html)

A Place for Nature: Willamette Basin Habitat Conservation Priorities

*Elizabeth Grossman, Defenders of Wildlife, 2002*

<http://willametteexplorer.info/publications/pdf/APlaceforNature.pdf>

Willamette Restoration Strategy

*Willamette Restoration Initiative, 2001*

[http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/bitstream/1957/58/1/WRS\\_OVER.pdf](http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/bitstream/1957/58/1/WRS_OVER.pdf)

No Place for Nature: The Limits of Oregon's Land Use Program in Protecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat in the Willamette Valley

*Pam Wiley, Defenders of Wildlife, 2001*

[http://www.defenders.org/resources/publications/programs\\_and\\_policy/biodiversity\\_partners/no\\_place\\_for\\_nature.pdf](http://www.defenders.org/resources/publications/programs_and_policy/biodiversity_partners/no_place_for_nature.pdf)

Choices for the Future: The Willamette Valley

*The Willamette Valley Livability Forum, May 1999*

<http://www.lcog.org/wvlf/pdf/choices.pdf>

# Willamette Plans and Reports *cont.*

The Willamette River Basin Task Force Recommendations Report  
*Executive Summary, December 1997*

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/willamette/summary.htm>

State of the River Report

*River Renaissance, City of Portland, 2006-07*

<http://www.portlandonline.com/river/index.cfm?c=43324&a=175405>

2005 Portland Watershed Management Plan

*Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland, 2005*

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=dijgf>

River Renaissance Strategy

*City of Portland, December 2004*

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=78885>

Willamette River Conditions Report

*River Renaissance and Bureau of Environmental Service, City of Portland, 2004*

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=78882>

# Willamette River Legacy Initiative

- Continues work started by Tom McCall
- Blueprint completed in May 2005
- Coordination effort
- Includes high priority actions
- Not an exhaustive list of all that is needed
- Set of short-term actions

# Themes

## Repair

- Cleaning up industrial pollutants and toxics that have contaminated the river

## Restore

- Returning the river to its natural state; restoring its abundant wildlife and pristine riverbanks

## Recreate

- Addressing the role that the river plays in Oregon's quality of life so Oregonians can enjoy the many activities the river offers now and in the future

# Repair

- Implement watershed based point source permitting and reduce permit backlog
- Finalize and implement TMDLs basin wide
- Investigate feasibility of water quality trading program
- Clean up Black Butte Mine
- Clean up the Portland Harbor Superfund site
- Reduce excessive groundwater nitrate in the southern Willamette Valley



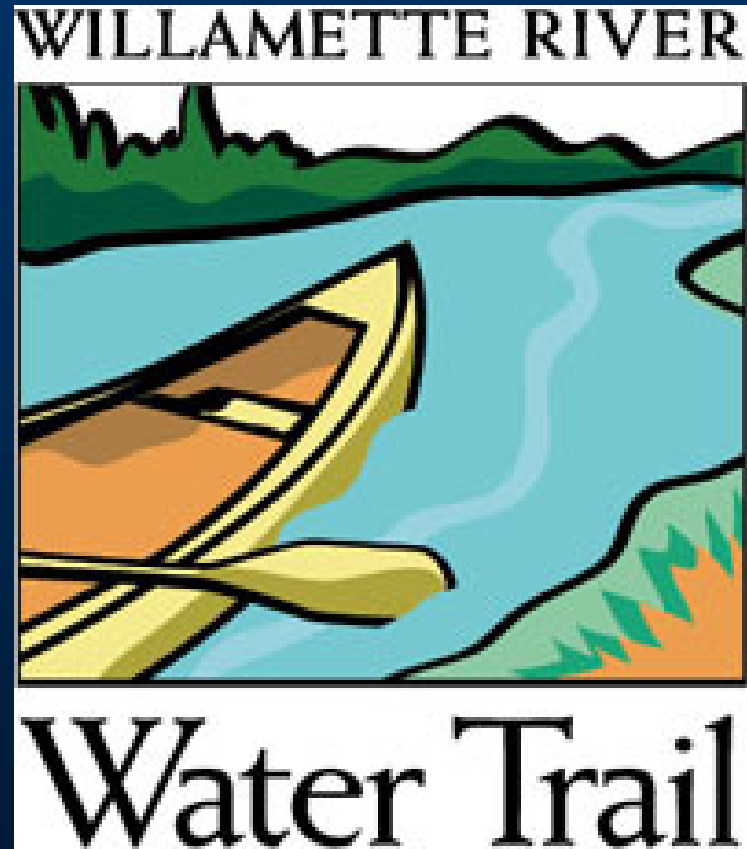
# Restore

- Develop priorities for watershed restoration
- Protect healthy riparian areas and reestablish riparian vegetation
- Protect functioning floodplains and reconnect historic floodplains
- Protect quality wetlands and restore historic wetlands
- Protect and restore prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodlands
- Restore streamflows in WABs
- Increase measurement of water diversions



# Recreate

- Establish the Willamette River Water Trail
- Establish the Willamette Scenic Bikeway
- Work with local governments to develop new parks in the Willamette Greenway
- Develop recovery plans for federally listed salmon, steelhead, and trout



# Cutting Across the 3 Rs

- Promoting Partnerships and Collaboration
- Monitoring and Maintenance
- Outreach and Education
- Technical Assistance



# Accomplishments

## Repair

- New resources to DEQ for permit program enhancements, water quality standards, stormwater control, toxics monitoring and reduction, UIC program, 401 program improvements
- EPA approved Willamette TMDL
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership efforts
- Grant to develop Willamette Ecosystem Marketplace
- Source control efforts in Portland Harbor
- EPA funding for interim cleanup of the Black Butte Mine
- Final Action Plan for Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area

# Accomplishments

## Restore

- Established Governor's Fund for the Environment
- Watershed summaries for Willamette Basin Restoration Priorities
- OWEB funded projects for fish passage improvement, habitat restoration, stream channel complexity
- Oregon Solutions habitat restoration projects
- Willamette Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study
- Negotiations with the BPA on mitigation for the effects of hydro-dams on wildlife in the Willamette Valley

# Accomplishments

## Recreate

- Developed 204 mile Willamette Water Trail
- Opened the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway
- Assisted the City of Milwaukie in restoring and improving its Willamette waterfront
- Funding to the City of Keizer to develop riverfront greenway and park
- *Willamette Greenway Parklands Strategy* report and recommendations
- Work underway to develop recovery plans for listed salmonids in the Lower Columbia/Upper Willamette domains

# Opportunities and Investments

- OWEB Willamette Special Investment Partnership
- Meyer Memorial Trust Strategic Action Initiative
- Willamette River United Act
- Governor's Fund for the Environment
- Willamette Basin BiOp
- Ecosystem Services/ Water Quality Trading
- Toxics Monitoring and Reduction
- H2O Initiative

**2009-2011**

## **Governor's Recommended Budget**

- Integrated Water Resources Planning
- Ongoing implementation of SB 737
- Clean Water SRF
- Water Quality 401 Project Certification
- Restore Onsite Septic Program

# Next Steps?

- Outreach/ PR
- Coordination of efforts in the basin
- Increased coordination/ partnerships with efforts in the Portland Metro area
- Increased private sector involvement/investment
- Increased public investment
- Identify ways to connect the dots for actions in the basin
- What can we do to ensure continued focus on the Willamette River Basin?
- Your ideas?

## **Willamette River Legacy Program**

[http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/Willamette\\_River\\_Legacy/vision\\_background.shtml](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/Willamette_River_Legacy/vision_background.shtml)

## **DEQ Water Quality Program**

<http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/index.shtml>

## **DEQ Willamette TMDL**

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/willamette/willamette.htm>

## **DEQ Water Quality Budget Proposals**

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/pubs/factsheets/programinfo/2009-11WaterQualityBudgetProposals.pdf>

## **OWEB Willamette River Basin Restoration Priorities**

[http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/restoration\\_priorities.shtml#Willamette\\_Basin](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/restoration_priorities.shtml#Willamette_Basin)

## **Willamette River Water Trail**

<http://www.willamettewatertrail.org/>

## **Willamette Ecosystem Marketplace**

<http://www.mwvcog.org/WillamettePartnership/WillamEcoMarket.asp>

## Governor Kulongoski's Plan for The Willamette River Legacy



REPAIR • RESTORE • RECREATE

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<http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/GNRO/index.shtml>