

Savitz, Jaqueline D., et al. "Dishonorable Discharge: Toxic Pollution of Oregon Waters." Environmental Working Group, September 1996. (Reviewed by Sarah Koski)

This document is a collective project of several public interest groups regarding the pollution levels in selected Oregon waterways. The two main sponsors of the text are non-partisan, environmental lobbying organizations: US PIRG and the Environmental Working Group.

The main focus of this document is to inform citizens about the high levels of toxic pollution in major Oregon watersheds and to express a "call to arms" regarding an increased effort by the media to inform Oregonians about the pollutants in our waters.

For example, the report states that "[t]he Willamette River received the greatest amount of pollution in Oregon from 1990-1994, a total of 1,200,000 pounds."

Along with a brief summary of the interest groups' goals, the also compile a list of recommendations, many of which correlate to the Toxics Release Inventory. The Appendix also provides the reader with a wealth of information, including:

- Names of carcinogens in the rivers
- Persistent toxic metals
- Chemicals that affect reproduction

Critique

Also included in the text are descriptive lists of references and specific charts relating to the toxicity of each river. Furthermore, US PIRG and the Environmental Working Group attempt to outline the polluters, their location, and the substances dumped into the river. These charts are effective in pinpointing the anti-environmental lobbyist interests, such as Willamette Industries and Cascade General.

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