

**Oberrecht, Kenn. "Nonpoint Source Pollution and Pacific Northwest Estuaries." South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 2002. (Reviewed by Pamela Johnston)**

Estuaries are located at the transition areas between rivers and oceans, a mixing zone rich with life. Unfortunately, this is also a dumping point for much of the contamination that has built up within a river over its course. Nonpoint source pollution, mostly run-off from industrial and agricultural practices, is of special concern in the country today and is said by EPA to be “the nation's greatest threat to clean water.”

The West Coast partakes in a good deal of activities that impact native riverbanks and add to the foremost type of pollution, at least in the Willamette Valley—temperature increase. Logging leads to soil erosion and reduced shading, urban structures give way to runoff, and agricultural chemicals endanger life in the watershed. The principle pollution source in estuaries is runoff due to increased population density in coastal areas.

So what can the average citizen do to participate in the safekeeping of these waterways? This pamphlet includes tips for doing one's part, whether in a rural, urban or recreational boating setting, such as fencing livestock off from streams and controlling runoff of chemicals. We are reminded that, where ever one might be on the river, “upstream pollution is always a downstream problem.”

## **Critique**

Not much of a technical report, this research provides a concise look at everyday pollutants and where we may not realize they end up. Estuaries are another important part of the marine habitat, and a place we might not be conscious of in terms of pollution impact. We must be reminded that the place to start being conscious about human interactions with these ecosystems is at the citizen level. This source includes a general list of links to government sites.

<http://www.southsloughestuary.org/EMI%20papers/npspoll.pdf>

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