

**Allen, Jennifer, Autumn Salamack and Peter Schoonmaker. *Willamette Restoration Initiative: Restoring the Willamette Basin*. Portland: Institute for the Northwest, 1999.** (Reviewed by Kate Koehler)

The report *Willamette Restoration Initiative: Restoring the Willamette Basin*, funded by the US Army Corp of Engineers, is an excellent source on land use issues and future strategies for the Willamette River basin. This 82-page document, published in September 1999, provides a general overview of the various land uses in the Willamette Valley, how the land use has changed over time, and also offers restoration tips. These tips align with the goals of the Initiative to restore the Willamette in order to preserve and protect natural habitat, offer clean water to humans, and sustain Oregon's economy.

This report begins by summarizing “the key issues, actions, challenges, and opportunities” (pg. 1) associated with restoration efforts. It talks about the need for public engagement, an integrated plan, and adequate funding. The report continues with an introduction of the Willamette basin, including information about the various landforms, both uplands and lowlands, which affect the water quality of the Willamette. It then offers possible solutions for improving the water quality in the basin.

The report continues by addressing the human environment and its impact on the basin. It acknowledges the importance of economic development on an agricultural, forestry, industrial, and urban level. It also offers suggestions as to how to continue economic development while maintaining conservation. For example, it proposes supporting “the development and implementation of practices that have both economic and ecological gains through extension, education, and incentives” (Table 10). It also discusses community stewardship and which agencies are accountable, as well as addressing the need for a coordinated, clearly defined plan. This report concludes by looking at some of the challenges and opportunities present in a restoration initiative. It acknowledges the importance of using “solid science” to develop the best strategy, but that the strategy itself will be “policy-driven.”

## **Critique**

This report is very useful for information on land-use policies, history, problems, and possible solutions, in relation to the Willamette River. It is very easy to understand, but could include more “hard” evidence to back up some of the statements. However, it is well organized, with a number of tables and figures, as well as an extensive bibliography.

This report is useful in that it offers a number of solutions to the pollution and damage done to the Willamette River. However, like other government documents I have read, it acts only as a good starting point. What is needed is documentation that both implements and follows through on these beneficial and plausible restoration ideas.

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