

Jerrick, Nancy; *Restoring a river of life: the Willamette restoration strategy : overview* Willamette Restoration Initiative, Salem, OR. Febuary 2001 (Reviewed by Charles Bosse)

The Willamette Restoration Strategy (WRS) was an initiative from the Oregon state government to create a mixed citizen group to review and submit plans and suggestions for “enhancing, restoring, and conserving the biological integrity and economic vitality of the Willamette Basin.” This document is an overview of the recommendations and reports put together by the WRS.

The WRS Overview covers a diverse range of topics concerning the condition of the river and its surrounding environment, such as clean water, water quantity, and habit and hydrology. It recommends scientific monitoring of water conditions and continued use and recording of government data. This report could easily fall in any or all of the general categories concerning the condition of the Willamette, because it covers a little on pollution, a little on politics, and a little on history. However, it talks most about conservation and restoration of habitat and availability of clean water, and what needs to be done to assure that these things are restored.

Critique

The WRS overview does not contain the extensive scientific data or bibliography of a scientific report, but it does contain a lot of more general information about the Willamette and what has been done, and what, in the opinion in the report, needs to be done. The report takes an environmentalist view, but not a radical view. It provides sources for the data it uses, and even more, has a very easy to use visual layout, including a number of full color maps of ecological systems, city areas and human-imposed changes in the river, river habitats (historic and current), and an example of river changes. The WRS overview is also a lot easier to read than more in-depth reports and studies. It presents information about the condition of the Willamette River and what needs change in and around it in an easy to read and concise manner.

Taken by itself, the report is almost too broad, only skimming the surface of the real issues and not talking extensively about the science used to back up their demands. However, as an overview, this report does an excellent job of linking a number of issues concerning the life in and around the Willamette River.

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