



2005 Targeted Watersheds Grants: Willamette River Basin Oregon

WHY IS THIS WATERSHED SPECIAL?

The 11,478-square-mile Willamette River Basin is home to 72% of Oregon's citizens. The state's three largest urban areas are located within its boundaries. Its population is expected to nearly double by 2050. Yet it remains 70% forested and 22% agricultural. The agricultural lands within the watershed are very productive, providing about half of Oregon's agricultural output. Wetlands in the basin have been severely impacted, now covering only one percent of the watershed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Industry, agriculture, shipping, hydroelectric power generation, waste treatment, recreation, and development all place heavy demands on the Willamette River and its watershed. Pollution from point sources and non-point sources degrades water quality. The Targeted Watersheds Grant will focus on:

- Rising water temperatures that result from the diverse uses of the watershed and that harm salmon and other wildlife.
- Moving beyond traditional regulatory and voluntary approaches to achieving water quality goals.

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

The Willamette Partnership will use the Targeted Watersheds Grant funds to develop new ways of meeting temperature standards TMDL (total maximum daily load) by:

- Developing a temperature credit trading and banking program.
- Conducting a market appraisal to determine the supply, demand and costs of credits.
- Creating a temperature credit portfolio, a credit marketplace and a functional prototype.



Five of Oregon's largest cities including Portland are located along the Willamette, relying on it for shipping, wastewater disposal, recreation and, in some cases, drinking water. Photo credit: US Army Corps of Engineers



A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

The Willamette Partnership is a strong coalition of members from diverse interests within the Willamette River Basin who seek to retain and restore the natural processes that provide and sustain western Oregon's quality of life. Partners include:

- Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Associated Oregon Industries
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Clean Water Services
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Cities of Albany, Salem, Eugene and Portland
- Oak Lodge Sanitary District

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grants

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grants program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.



*Photo credit: James Yuskavitch
Planting a wide buffer of shade trees along streams and rivers is one of the best ways to reduce water temperature while improving habitat.*

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