

OEC'S CLEAN RIVERS GOAL

Future generations of Oregonians will be free to swim, boat and fish in our rivers—and to eat what they catch—without being concerned about their health.



Cleaning up Oregon's rivers: a top priority for OEC

Our vision is that the Willamette and other major rivers, such as the Rogue and the Deschutes, will no longer violate standards that protect people from bacteria, toxic chemicals and other pollutants.

Preventing household pollution and conserving water will be a part of everyday living, just as recycling is today.

Oregon businesses, including ranchers and farmers, will be national leaders in protecting clean water while thriving economically.

Oregon's towns and cities will protect watersheds as they grow.

As a result, future generations of Oregonians will be free to swim, boat and fish in our rivers – and to eat what they catch – without being concerned about their health.

We will know we are making progress towards this vision when by 2010, the majority of Oregon's ten largest rivers have improving water quality and quantity conditions.

2006 Clean Rivers Projects

Clean Rivers Progress Report

While many Oregonians know that the Willamette River has serious water pollution issues, few realize these issues extend to almost every other watershed in Oregon. The goal of this project is to foster greater stewardship of Oregon's rivers and watersheds by developing a biennial progress report to spotlight water pollution issues in Oregon, such as bacteria, mercury and high temperatures, which currently cause 15,000 miles of rivers and creeks to fail to meet the federal Clean Water Act's "fishable and swimmable" standard.

Our progress report will be based on data that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submits every two years to EPA. We will distill that data into easy-to-understand measures that will enable lay people to gauge how polluted their favorite rivers are, and what amount of progress is being made to restore water quality. An appendix will include a series of tips that citizens can take to improve water quality, based on our popular 50 Ways to Love Your River booklet. Our target audience will include river user groups, such as anglers, kayakers and other recreationists, as well as local watershed councils and local media outlets.

Stormwater Solutions Team

OEC is convening a group of 15 - 20 stakeholders that includes a cross-section of businesses, local governments, and interest groups affected by urban stormwater runoff. The Stormwater Solutions Team will examine what is working and what is not, and develop recommendations for local and state level policies and projects that a) provide incentives for and remove barriers to low impact development and good stormwater management, and b) reduce the sources of pollutants commonly found in urban stormwater. The team will produce a report outlining their recommendations, and work with OEC to begin implementing them.