

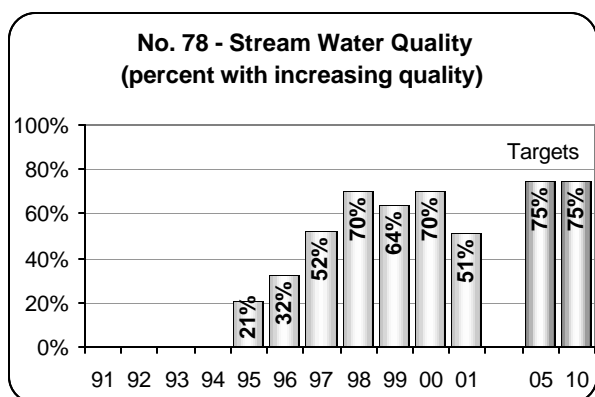
Natural Resources

NATURAL RESOURCES BENCHMARKS

There are five key Oregon Benchmarks related to the Natural Resources Program Area. They are air quality, wetland preservation, agricultural land preservation, forestland preservation, and wild salmon and steelhead recovery.

Benchmark 75 tracks the percent of time that the **air is healthy to breathe** for all Oregonians (healthy means zero exceedances of National Ambient Air Quality Standards). Air quality is state-monitored in 15 strategic metropolitan areas throughout Oregon. The monitors measure whether, on any given day, the ambient air exceeds federal standards for each of seven harmful pollutants. Five of these are particularly relevant to Oregon: 1) carbon monoxide, 2) nitrogen oxide, 3) lead, 4) ozone, and 5) fine particulate matter.

There are three benchmarks related to land preservation. They are Benchmark 77 – **wetland acreage**, Benchmark 80 – **agricultural lands**, and Benchmark 81 – **forestlands** (final wording for these benchmarks has not yet been determined).



Benchmark 78 – Percentage of monitored stream sites with: a. significantly increasing trends in **water quality**, b. water quality in good to excellent condition, c. significantly decreasing trends in water quality - is Oregon’s best measure of surface water quality. Rivers and lakes are essential to providing water that is safe for drinking, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Benchmark 85 – measures the **health of salmon and steelhead populations**. It reports the percent of monitored wild native fish populations that are classified as healthy. Salmon and steelhead health are considered bell-weather for

the long-term health of aquatic species and watersheds.

Additional natural resources benchmarks include:

- **On-Time Permits** – Benchmark 10: Percent of permits issued within the target time period or less: a. air contaminant discharge, b. wastewater discharge.
- **Carbon Dioxide Emissions** – Benchmark 76: Carbon dioxide emissions as a percentage of 1990 emissions.
- **Water Rights** – Benchmark 79: Percent of key rivers meeting instream water rights: a. 9 or more months of the year, b. 12 months a year.
- **Solid Waste** – Benchmark 83: Pounds of Oregon municipal solid waste landfilled or incinerated per capita.
- **Hazardous Waste** – Benchmark 84: Percent of identified hazardous waste sites that are cleaned up or being cleaned up: a. tank sites, b. other hazardous substances.

