

Willamette Basin Reservoir Study



Industry

Some Facts



Recreation



Wildlife



Community

During the summer months, water stored in reservoirs operated by the Corps of Engineers in the Willamette Basin is critical to residents and businesses. The operation of the reservoir system influences stream flow, water quality and associated aspects of providing municipal and industrial water supply. As the Willamette Valley continues to increase in population, its citizens will be faced with the critical issue of supplying and maintaining clean water for growing communities, commerce, and industry.

- Although the basin covers less than 14% of the state's total land mass, more than 70% of Oregon's residents reside in the valley.
- About 50% of the state's agricultural production comes from the fertile lands in the valley.
- According to 1991 DEQ data, 33 major and 320 minor permitted municipal and industrial facilities exist in the basin. Twenty of the major facilities discharge directly into the Willamette River.
- Public water systems serve over 80% of the basin's population, and supply water for municipal, commercial, and industrial users.
- Major employers in the forest and paper products, construction, and technology related industries use river water directly. The Oregon Economic Development Department estimates a 25 percent increase in water demand for these industrial users between 1995 and 2005.

The study will determine whether changes in the operation, storage and allocation of water in the reservoirs would better serve current and future water needs. The study:

- began in June 1996 and will be completed in early 2001;
- is cost shared between the Corps and the state; and

Over 60 cities, districts, and industries have provided financial support for the study.

