

VI: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCE QUALITY

Summary: Air, water, and land resource quality in Wallowa County is basically good.

Goal: To maintain or improve the quality of air, water, and land resources of the County.

Findings: The findings below are the basis of decisions made with respect to air, water and land resource quality of Wallowa County:

1. The air, water and land resources of Wallowa County are relatively pure and unpolluted.
2. Major additional industrial development that might adversely affect land, water, or air resource quality appears unlikely.
3. Water supply contamination by subsurface sewage disposal methods, appears to be the only significant threat to environmental quality.
4. The D.E.Q. is responsible for monitoring most resource quality through their control of air and water emissions, solid waste disposal site regulations, and subsurface sewage disposal systems.
5. The County has neither the expertise nor the funds to assume any additional regulations of resource quality.
6. The configuration of the valley is bowl-shaped and subject to air contamination problems.
7. The present siltation in the creeks is not primarily the result of man-caused incidences.
8. A float and dock ordinance has been adopted by the County to protect the water quality and scenic value of Wallowa Lake.
 - i. Wallowa County Board of Commissioners has developed the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan with Multi-species Emphasis which is an inclusive basin wide ridge top to ridge top Watershed Habitat Management Plan. The Plan provides a long-term management goal

that enhances and improves fisheries, threatened and/or endangered species habitat, recreation, aesthetics, timber production, and grazing utilization.

- j. The County recognizes that hydroelectric projects, while providing for the utilization of valuable resources, do alter the natural environment of the resources.

Policies: The following statements of policy are related to satisfying the above goal.

1. A high priority will be given to the above goal.
2. Partitioning, subdividing, and other development not be approved which exceeds the carrying capacity of an area's air, land, or water resources.
3. The County's cooperate and coordinate with State and Federal agencies meet the same quality regulations.
4. Development by State and Federal agencies meet the same quality regulations standard as are applicable to private development in the County.
5. Municipalities be notified of any proposed development in the general proximity of their watersheds.
6. All development within Wallowa County must comply with applicable State and Federal Environmental rules, regulations and standards.
7. The county will work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide a more complete Fish and Wildlife habitat inventory.
8. Hydro-Electric development proposals shall be subject to public review.
9. Design Standards will be implemented around Wallowa Lake - and similar areas - to insure against resource degradation.
10. Where possible a 100 foot setback from major drainage be included in the County's zoning ordinance.
11. Decisions which might have an adverse effect on resource quality be made at public hearings posted for that purpose.
12. Ordinance provisions be adopted which would require quarry reclamation plans and

improvements to be approved by the County Public Works Department

13. That work with SCS and Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation district be continued to improve streambank erosion, runoff problems, and reclamation plans, and that provisions for such improvements be included in zoning and subdivision regulations (Appendix 6-1).
14. Water quality monitoring be continued on Wallowa Lake to insure against contamination by subsurface sewage disposal or other means.
15. Wallowa County shall actively promote the study and development of current and potential water sources and storage to provide water for obtainment of Goals 3, 5, and 9.
16. Wallowa County shall aggressively protect existing water rights.
17. Wallowa county shall inventory and identify significant wetlands within the County.

