

## **APPENDIX 6-2**

### **AIR, WATER, AND LAND RESOURCE QUALITY**

SUMMARY: Air, water, and land resource quality in Wallowa County is basically good. Few apparent threats to future quality have been identified. Air quality is affected minimally by smoke from timber-related activities, and although atmospheric inversions occur periodically, air is essentially cleaned free from pollutants and is anticipated to continue that way. It is recognized that because of the bowl-shaped configuration of the Wallowa Valley, air pollution could become a problem if industries with substantial emissions were to locate in the area. Air quality in the County has been monitored by the State Department of Environmental Quality since 1974.

Water quality in the County is also good - primarily because of the protection provided to most supplies as a result of being initiated in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Subsurface sewage disposal is the primary threat to water quality - particularly in the Hurricane Creek area which provides water to Enterprise for their municipal water supply. A number of subsurface sewage disposal systems are located in the Hurricane Creek watershed. Although present drain fields must be approved by the Department of Environmental Quality and be at least 100 feet from any water course, many of the systems installed before the 1970's had no approval and might eventually create water pollution.