

Cleaning Up the Willamette – Mercury Pollution



There are multiple fish consumption advisories issued for the Willamette Basin advising people of the health risks associated with consuming fish containing elevated levels of mercury. The goal of this effort is to restore the beneficial use of fish consumption to the Willamette Basin.

Basin Wide Activities:

- DEQ will require selected domestic and industrial point sources to monitor for mercury and to develop mercury minimization plans.
- DEQ is collaborating with partners to promote the recycling of mercury-containing products such as dental amalgam, fluorescent lights, and thermometers.
- DEQ is working with a range of management agencies in the Basin on mercury implementation activities for non-point sources.

Stormwater permits will help reduce soil erosion and runoff that can carry mercury and other pollutants to rivers and streams.

Use mercury monitoring information to evaluate effectiveness and update the mercury TMDL by 2011.

Implement erosion control measures to reduce the erosion of native mercury-containing soils from agricultural, urban and forested lands.

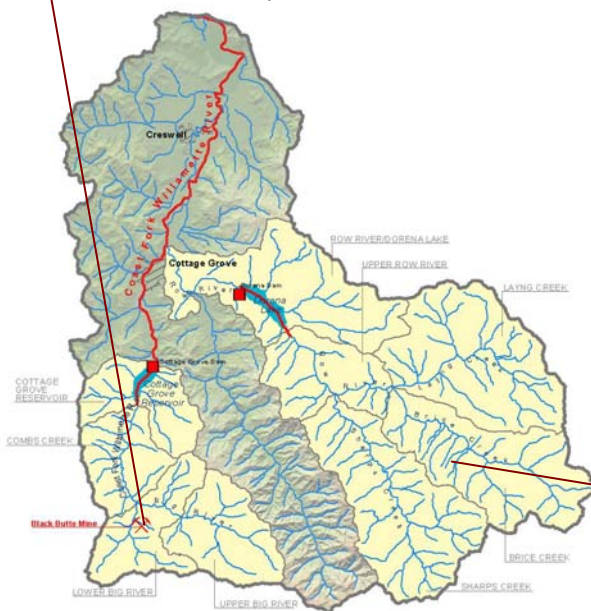
Continue cleanup work at Black Butte Mine.



303d Listed Streams - Mercury

Land Use / Land Cover

- Urban
- Agriculture
- Rangeland
- Forest
- Water
- Wetland
- Barren



Assess the contribution of mercury from the Bohemia Mining District.

Willamette Fish Consumption Advisory:

- Children under 6 should eat no more than one 4-ounce meal every two months.
- Women of childbearing-age should eat no more than one 8-ounce meal every month.
- Healthy adults should eat no more than one 8-ounce meal every two weeks.
- All persons should reduce or avoid eating fatty parts of fish.
- Removing the skin and all fat, eggs and internal organs can reduce exposure.