

"Integrated Fuels Management Strategy": Willamette NF, Eugene BLM, Salem BLM, Nov. 2000.
(Reviewed by Eleanor Gordon)

This source is most useful for its broad and in-depth coverage of fire management issues in the Willamette Basin. The most pertinent information concerning the Willamette River is the section that deals with Landscape Patterns and Vegetative Diversity as well as prescribed burning. There is also an important section on wildlife habitat quality and quantity after various fire treatments. Social dimensions of fire management are included as well, with a very interesting and detailed account of the fire history of the Willamette valley. The history of vegetative changes up to the present time is also discussed. The Native American influence is clearly large according to this source, and they cite many references in support of this point of view.

The human use of forests and the natural ecosystem processes and condition are compared, and the overlap between the two is discussed. This compilation of documents is supposed to be a reference for those who need a fire management strategy tool in the future. In this way, it is also good for public or research purposes, because it is like a comprehensive review of the issue which combines many disciplines and resources. In addition to the book itself are eight fold-out color maps, all of Oregon, which detail the following: Historical Vegetation types (1850), plant association groups, Current Seral Stages, Fire Regimes and Fire Zones, Ignition Risk, Current Fire Behavior Potential, Current Composite Fire Potential and Wildland/ Urban interface.

Critique

This source is great for those looking for a history of the Willamette valley vegetation, fire ecology and management, human impacts, and much more! It doesn't provide as much in-depth science as would be helpful for a complete understanding of the subjects involved and is published by the agencies that must manage the land, which may create a few biases. The maps that are contained within this volume are awesome and very relevant to the natural history of the Willamette River. Overall, this source is excellent; well referenced and formatted.

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