# Document No.: 27

## Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual: Component II Historical Conditions Assessment

**Citation:** Watershed Professionals Network. 1999. Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual Component II Historical Conditions Assessment. June 1999. Prepared for the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. Salem, Oregon.

**Source:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
Phone: (503)-986-0178
Internet: http://www.watershednet.com/oweb.htm
(may be downloaded as a pdf file)
**Cost:** Hard copy of entire manual: Send $45.00 fee to Leilani Jennings at the address above.

**Abstract:** The intent of the protocol is to provide clues that can be used to develop an understanding of the condition of key watershed resources before settlement by Europeans. The protocol guides users to develop a set of critical questions regarding the characteristics of a watershed's resources at the time of European settlement, the historic trends and locations of land use, the historical accounts of fish populations and distributions, and the location and extent of historic modifications of the aquatic and riparian resources.

The final product is a concise report of the watershed's historical conditions that includes seven components:

1. A descriptive historical narrative
2. Historical conditions time line
3. Historical information referenced by stream and subwatershed location
4. Historical Channel and Riparian Modification Inventory and Map
5. A summary of historical information and trends, and conclusions on impacts on aquatic and riparian resources
6. A comprehensive listing of the sources of information
7. A Confidence Evaluation

A suggested outline is provided and forms are provided for tasks 4 and 7.

**Target Application:** General **&** Management

**Suitable for Volunteers:** Yes

**Training Required:** No

*Note:* The minimum necessary skills identified in the protocol include: (1) the ability and desire to search for and compile information from a variety of information sources and individuals, (2) the ability to summarize information in a report format. The ability to use aerial photographs will help protocol users to accomplish the assessment, but isn't required by the authors.

**Monitoring Focus:** This Assessment provides guidance to collect and develop a report on the collection of historical materials related to:

- Landscape condition
- Aquatic\riparian habitat
- Fish populations
- Water quality

Issues to be explored through investigation of historical information include:

- Settlement patterns
- Direct impacts to the stream channels including channel modification
- Natural and human-caused disturbance
- Riparian vegetation patterns and change

- Natural and human-caused disturbance such as floods and fire
- Fish presence and distribution

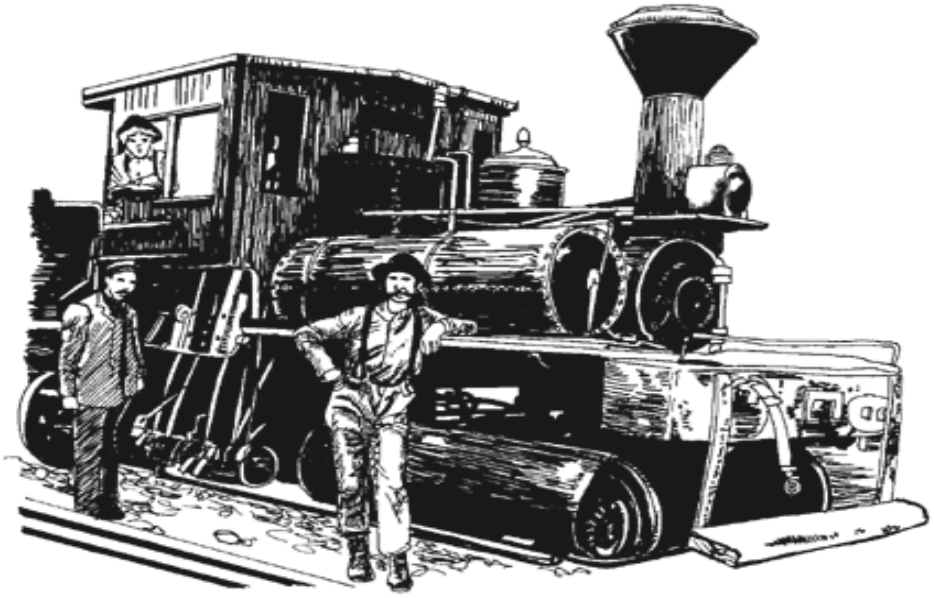
**Geographic Scale:** Basin, sub-basin, stream reach, project site

**Methods:** Office

**Level of Data Quality:** Level 2

**Equipment and Tools (*list*):** Provided in the document; see Upland Equipment List

**Data Forms:** Included in the document

**Examples of Filled-in Data Forms:** Not provided

**Key References:** Page 11-8 of the document