

An Enterprise Approach to Natural Resource Monitoring:



What is the Enterprise Monitoring Approach?

Oregon’s natural resource agencies manage Oregon’s air, water, land and wildlife resources to support a healthy environment that sustains Oregon communities, Oregon’s economy, and the places Oregonians treasure. The Enterprise Monitoring Approach ensures that agencies are collaborating on environmental monitoring to achieve outcomes more efficiently, cost effectively and with better results than individual agency actions. By sharing capabilities and capacities we maximize the efficient use of state resources, information and know-how.

Information Based Management

Monitoring and assessment are the foundation for effective natural resource management and informed decision making. Monitoring programs provide the information Oregon needs to identify and prioritize problems, target actions where they will have the most benefit, and determine what is working and what is not. Without data Oregon runs a greater risk of implementing costly programs that do not produce the needed environmental results.

Collaboration

Natural resource issues cross agency jurisdictional boundaries. Water quality affects fish and aquatic life; forestry, agriculture and urban development affect water quality. Natural resource agencies, organizations and citizens are interconnected and their collaboration and monitoring informed decision

making can leverage resources to address natural resource management challenges. Just one example is the Wilson River watershed enhancement project. Monitoring information not only brought stakeholders together to address water quality issues, but also provided data that helped them pinpoint the biggest problems and create an effective strategy for restoration. The result has been a dramatic reduction of bacteria in the river over a 10-year period.

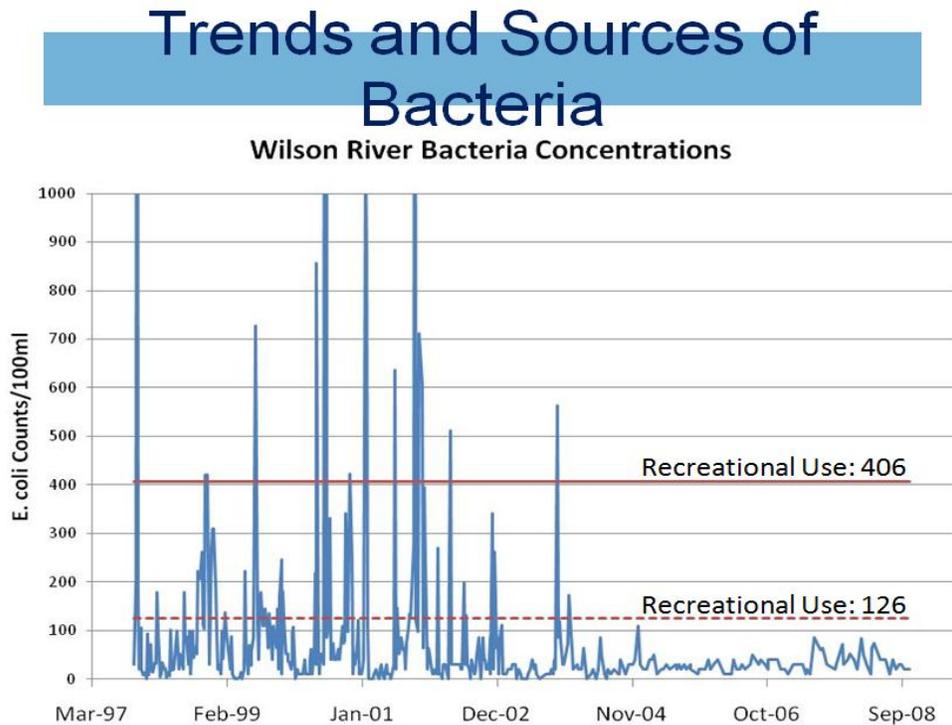


Figure 1 Collaborative monitoring and restoration activities in the Tillamook basin between DEQ, Tillamook Estuary Program, ODA, SWCD and local producers has resulted in dramatic improvements in Wilson River water quality. The extensive locally driven monitoring programs documenting sources and trends of fecal bacteria were the catalyst for this success story.

More Investment Needed

Natural resource program stakeholders agree that a greater investment in monitoring and data collection up front leads to better policy decisions. Agency leadership and stakeholders recognize that Oregon needs to invest more in natural resource monitoring programs to provide the information needed to wisely manage these precious resources.

Natural Resource Agencies are approaching the 2013/2015 biennium understanding the need for smart investment and demonstrating an enterprise approach. To be successful, we must have an interactive monitoring plan that will support the right decisions around water quality, water quantity and ecosystem service.