Changing environmental perceptions, attitudes, and values in Oregon’s Willamette Valley: 1800 to 1978
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This thesis is an attempt to set forth the history of environmental thought of the people of the Willamette Valley, and to illuminate the explanatory variables of its development. Evidence for the study was gathered through content analysis of literature offering either description of the Valley landscape or subjective evaluation of regional environmental issues.

The changes in the regional environmental ideology have reflected the historical processes of urbanization and industrialization, which have had drastic impact upon the Valley inhabitants’ society and culture. Two major themes are apparent in the development of this ideology: the first is the continuing redefinition of natural resources and regional environmental assets brought about by an expansion of the regional economy and advances in technology; the second is a transformation of the man-nature relationship in the Valley culture’s world view, from one in which man is superior to and apart from nature, to one which recognizes greater interdependence between man and nature.