

# Drainage Basins

-  **REGION**
-  **SubRegion**
-  **Basin**
-  **Sub-Basin**
-  **Sub-Basin**

Sub-Basin boundaries which define major river drainages are shown in black.

A river's watershed, or drainage basin, is the area above a specified point that contributes surface runoff to the river. Watersheds are defined by drainage divides, the ridges that determine which way surface runoff will flow. All of Oregon lies in one of four regional watersheds. Most rivers of northern and Eastern Oregon flow into the Columbia

River or its major tributary, the Snake River. The western edge of the state contains a group of smaller watersheds that each flow directly into the Pacific Ocean. Most of the southern part of Oregon lies within the Great Basin hydrologic region. In this arid region, large through-flowing rivers have not developed, and each watershed drains into a sump, its

