



As you travel by canoe or kayak and plan to spend the night along the river, it is important to adhere to the principles of **Leave No Trace**.

The overall goal is to leave a site better than you found it. Along any river, camping conditions will vary. Some sites may have toilets and fire rings. Other sites may be natural areas with no amenities, but open for rustic camping. Regardless of existing conditions when you arrive, all sites should be better when you leave.

Natural lands along the Willamette River are a finite resource. Avoiding or minimizing impacts to these areas can reduce ecological harm and protect them for all users. While there are conflicts at times about the appropriate level of use of all public lands, our use of these natural areas is linked to the ability of river travelers to keep them clean! This is a basic responsibility of a river traveler.

The following are some important recommendations for those traveling the Willamette River Water Trail:

- **Camp Toilet.** Although a portable camp toilet is not required for the Willamette River, it is a good idea to bring one when camping overnight. Several types are on the market, from small lightweight models to larger systems that fit in an ammo can. The smaller systems can fit in a kayak, and the larger systems in a canoe. Typically, they are used together with products that break down the waste and reduce odors. Check your local paddle shop or outdoor store for options.
- **Catholes.** If you do not have a camp toilet, human feces must be buried. A recommended alternative is to dig a small hole 6 to 8 inches deep. A small garden trowel is perfect for this task. After use, the cathole should be covered with the original dirt and disguised with native materials (e.g., leaves, pieces of bark, small branches). Catholes must be located in out-of-the-way areas adjacent to the camp site and at least 200 feet from water.
- **Toilet Paper.** Leave No Trace recommends burying toilet paper in a cathole or placing it in plastic bags and carrying it out when you leave.
- **Fire pans.** Use of a fire pan is preferred to constructing a new fire ring. This decreases the level of work needed to clean up the site, leaves fewer burned materials behind, and makes the site more attractive for the next user.
- **Of course, take everything else out with you!**

If all paddlers using the Willamette Water Trail adhere to these simple steps, the experience of traveling the Willamette River will be far more enjoyable for all.