

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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Stunning poster reveals historical channels of the Willamette River

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has released a full-color poster showing historical channels of the Willamette River as delineated by lidar data. Lidar, a laser-mapping technology, allows for amazingly detailed and accurate mapping of the earth's surface.



(above) This 17 x 38 inch poster shows current and former stream channels in the central Willamette Valley.

This lidar-derived digital elevation model of the Willamette River displays a 50-foot elevation range, from low elevations (displayed in white) fading to higher elevations (displayed in dark blue). This visually replaces the relatively flat, featureless landscape of the valley floor with vivid historical channels, showing the dynamic movements the river has made in recent millennia. This segment of the Willamette River flows past the City of Albany near the bottom of the image northward to the communities of Monmouth and Independence at the top. Near the center, the Luckiamute River flows into the Willamette from the left, and the Santiam River flows in from the right.

This imagery was featured in the North American Cartographic Information Society's first [Atlas of Design](#). The image was also highlighted in an [American Scientist article](#) that discussed the interplay of art and technology in map-making today.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has been collecting lidar data in Oregon since 2006. The goal is to cover the entire state as funding for data collection becomes available. You can learn more about lidar and view lidar images of other parts of Oregon at www.OregonGeology.org.

DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

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Each 17 x 38 inch **Willamette River poster** can be purchased for \$15 from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 965, Portland, OR, 97232. You may also call NNW at (971) 673-2331 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$4.95 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items. For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center.

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The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards is key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon's geology online: <http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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