

The Impact on the Ohio River Watershed by the United States Federal Government

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This interactive timeline, which currently covers 1775 through the first quarter of 2014, takes accounts of water-related actions of the federal government and places them alongside water-related environmental events. Research drew together water use information within Acts of Congress, legal cases argued before the Supreme Court, actions undertaken by agencies within the Executive Department, and reports of pollution or flood incidents. This data was then charted using Tiki-Toki software into separate bands along the timeline with descriptions, images, and links to add depth of explanation. This juxtaposition reveals a story tracing human interaction along the Ohio River watershed since the American Revolution. In addition, the Tiki-Toki software makes the information available in multiple views through which different patterns emerge allowing future researchers to manipulate the timeline to more easily see connections with their own projects. Because of the data's inclusiveness and ease of use, this timeline can provide a platform for comparison with the companion site of the Rivers of the Anthropocene study, the River Tyne. However, since the primary region of study in the United States is the Ohio River and its tributaries, only data applicable to this region specifically or all water in the United States generally was utilized. Because of the exclusiveness of the data, frequent gaps in events may risk being misinterpreted as a period of inactivity on the part of the federal government, though this is likely not the case; even apparent inactivity along the Ohio reveals much about human impact on the waterway systems.

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