

I'm writing in favor of limiting the maximum loading weight for boats primarily because of the destruction caused by these massive wakes to riverbanks, natural habitat and to manmade structures such as docks and houseboats on the Willamette.

But also, as a rower, these wakes are truly a danger. They require you to stop your boat, turn parallel and hope for the best. If you are not lucky, or if the waves are too big and breaking, they will swamp your boat. In cold water or on a cold day, this is life threatening.

These boat users say the river should be for everyone, but really that translates to only for them. No one else can enjoy the water when they are out. Human powered boats, riverbanks and wildlife all suffer.