



**State Scenic Waterway
Report:**

**Grande Ronde
River**

October 27, 2014

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301-1266



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for administering the State Scenic Waterways Program, which is designed to protect the existing scenic, natural, and recreation values of 20 designated waterways throughout the State. OPRD is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been designated since 1988.

In September 2013, the Governor directed OPRD to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders input, OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study.

This Oregon Scenic Waterway study, conducted by OPRD, serves as the statutorily required first step in the process to possibly designate a new Oregon Scenic Waterway. That process, established by ORS 390.855, allows for the Governor to designate new scenic waterways following study and approval of the OPRD Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This study document constitutes the first step - a report to OPRD Commission. This study, covering approximately 29 miles on the Grande Ronde River, was done to accomplish two objectives:

1. Determine if the river segments meet the qualifications for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway (ORS 390.855); and
2. If the qualifications are met, outline, in *general*, what type of management designation would be appropriate for waterway, *if* it is found to be eligible, suitable, and ultimately designated.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

In 2014, OPRD evaluated the Grande Ronde River during a field visit using eligibility criteria established by State statutes (ORS 390.855). The river was evaluated from April 10th to April 11th during the optimal float season to assess the waterway's free-flowing nature, scenic characteristics, and recreational qualities. In addition to OPRD's on-river evaluation, other agencies, organizations, and members of the public also provided feedback on whether the waterway meets the required eligibility criteria. Public input was provided through submitted written comments, an online survey conducted by OPRD, and through discussions with agencies, organizations, and community members. Based on OPRD's field visit and public input, the eligibility assessment resulted in the following findings:

- Based on the results of the study, the river section from confluence with Sheep Creek to Tony Vey Meadows, and the river section from Tony Vey Meadows to Red Bridge State Wayside, do not meet all of the Scenic Waterways eligibility criteria;
- When applying program eligibility criteria from Red Bridge State Wayside to Hilgard Junction State Park, OPRD finds that this river section only marginally meets the eligibility criteria;
- All segments of the study area were found to be completely free-flowing within primarily natural banks and offer generally pleasing views of both primitive and rural-pastoral lands from the river;
- This study area includes two state parks with camping and day-use and a forest service campground and day-use area, offering hunting, hiking and other river-related pursuits such as wildlife viewing and scenic enjoyment;
- Other than at designated recreation areas, there is limited recreational fishing and floating opportunities due to the short seasons and lack of public access along much of the study area;
- Levels of recreation use throughout the study is relatively low and confined largely to locals from the surrounding areas and visitors driving through the area; and
- Lack of public access and limited facilities present a potential conflict with private land owners if the study area were to sustain a substantial increase in recreation use.

Public Input Findings

In addition to the evaluation of waterway eligibility, OPRD evaluated stakeholder and community input to gauge public support and understand issues and concerns associated with the potential Scenic Waterway designation. A webpage was established to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Citizen input was collected through a designated email address and through the development of an online survey for the waterway. A community meeting was hosted in La Grande on September 24, 2014 to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners within the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised through a news release and public notice in the local paper. Based on OPRD's analysis of public input, the following findings were identified:

- The majority of comments received clearly demonstrate that local residents and business owners are strongly opposed to the potential of a Scenic Waterways designation and feel that it would unnecessarily create new regulations and make it significantly more difficult to develop their property;
- Public input indicated that unless funding is made available for area conservation, recreation, and development mitigation projects, the program could create an economic hardship for individuals planning to make improvements to their properties.
- Several property owners within the study area were concerned that, due to dry conditions, required screening vegetation under a Scenic Waterway designation would not survive unless it could be installed directly adjacent to the river;

- Local gun club members were significantly concerned that a Scenic Waterway designation would eventually lead to the adoption of other new regulations by local, state, and federal agencies, resulting in the elimination of the gun range within the study area;
- Both community members and US Forest Service staff indicated that locals are the primary recreational users of this section of the Grande Ronde River and that this use is occurring primarily at designated recreational areas like the Federal Bird Tracks Recreational Area, Red Bridge State Wayside, and Hilgard Junction State Park;
- Included with the written comments are emails from several conservation groups and other individuals who support a Scenic Waterway designation so protection of the Grande Ronde River's natural, scenic, and recreational values will be enhanced;
- Some community members were concerned with the requirement to establish a minimum recreational water flow under a new Scenic Waterway destination since this regulation could prevent issuing future water rights to area farmers; and
- A number of community members indicated that recent placement of woody debris within and along the river to improve fish habitat has significantly reduced public access to the river and it's potential to accommodate recreational use.

Waterway Suitability Conclusions

Based on the OPRD's eligibility findings and passionate local opposition to the possible designation, the Grande Ronde River study area is not a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway's program. OPRD finds that due to seasonal water flows and lack of public access, the study area has limited recreational use, other than at existing recreational sites. This study has identified deep-seated resistance to the regulatory aspects of the Scenic Waterways Program and this would likely result in problematic management of a new waterways designation. When considering whether the study area is suitable for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program, the following issues are of particular concern:

- All residents and business owners which have provided input within the study area have voiced strong opposition of any new regulations which affect use of their property;
- There was consensus at the community meeting that new regulations on this section of the Grande Ronde River are not needed or required to protect the existing scenic, recreational, and natural qualities of the waterway;
- Both local community members and US Forest Service staff indicated that there is very little hiking, camping, fishing or other similar recreational use other than at developed facilities at designated State and federal use areas,
- Opposition to including the Grande Ronde River into the Scenic Waterways Program was also stated through resolution by the Union County Commission, after reviewing the September 24th Community Meeting input and holding an additional public hearing on October 15th.

STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate segments of the Grande Ronde River in Union County, Oregon, to determine if they qualify under the criteria of the Scenic Waterway Act for possible designation as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway; and to prepare information that would help inform a possible management plan for these river sections if they are selected as additions to the Scenic Waterway System.

Study Location and Area

The Grande Ronde River has its headwaters near the Anthony Lakes recreation area in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in the Blue Mountains of Union County, eventually flowing after approximately 200 miles into the Snake River once it enters Washington State. The river ranges from an elevation at the start of the study area, near Sheep Cr. of around 4,092 feet above MSL (mean sea level) to a low at Hilgard of around 2950 feet above MSL, with an average drop of about 39 feet/mile. The Grande Ronde system is characteristically a meandering stream in the truest sense of the word. The study segment travel a distance of approximately 30 river miles in a straight line distance of only about 19 miles. The variability in flows and the constant meanders provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of enjoying the river, although the season in which to do this from a boat is relatively limited along with some public access issues. The gently rolling to steep and rocky topography of the Grande Ronde River provide a variety of different vegetation cover types common in the Blue Mountains ecoregion - ranging from open grassland, to shrub steppe, deciduous riparian forest, scrub-shrub wetland, and coniferous forest, woodland, and savanna. Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Wallowa and Minam Rivers, both Grande Ronde tributaries and also State Scenic Waterways (shown in blue, Figure 1).

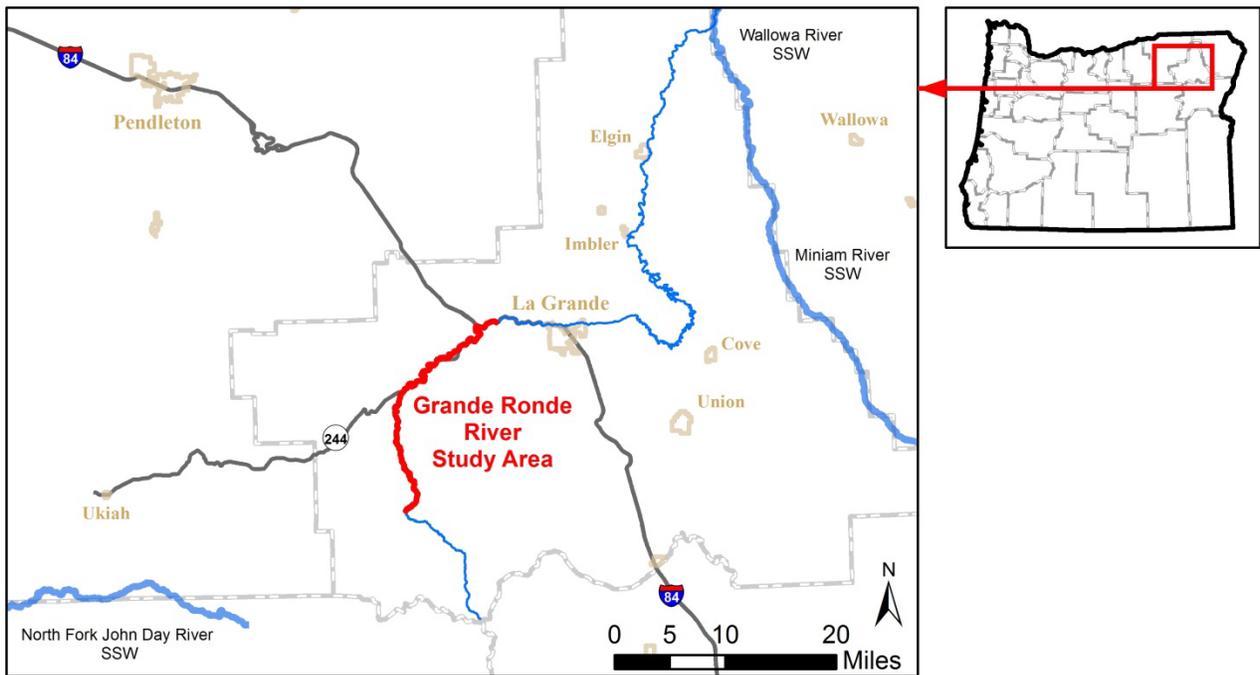


Figure 1. Location of the Grande Ronde River Study Area in Union Co., Northeast Oregon

The Upper Grande Ronde Study Area referred to in this report is defined as follows: The Upper Grande Ronde River and all lands within ¼ mile of each bank, beginning at the confluence of Sheep Creek (near the junction with Highway 51) in Tony Vey Meadows and ends at Hilgard Junction State Park, near the city of La Grande, Oregon.

The meandering nature of the river, rural pastoral combined and sometimes forested setting provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of enjoying the river and its banks on public lands (see: Recreation). The river segment under study is known for its importance as a salmon stream, it also supports steelhead, bull trout and mountain whitefish and a multitude of other upland wildlife. Recreational activities include fishing, camping, swimming/wading, hunting, rafting, kayaking, scenic enjoyment, wildlife viewing and hiking (see: Recreation). An approximately 42 mile portion of the lower river (from the confluence with the Wallowa River to the Oregon-Washington border) has been designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988.

The adjacent lands are a mix of public (federal and state) and private lands, varying by segment. The adjacent public lands are predominantly owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and managed as part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest with camping and day-use areas. Red Bridge State Wayside and Hilgard State Park are also located along this reach of the river offering day-use and camping services. Private lands are a mix of rural residential development with agriculture and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands (see: Management Setting).

An evaluation of the various natural, scenic and recreational features of the study area was done. This information gathered following research, interviews and on-site observations was compared with the scenic waterway qualifications (i.e. free flowing; pleasing to look at, primitive, rural-pastoral; large enough to sustain recreation use without harming the recreational and natural resources).

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a vote of the people in 1969, is administered under the authority of the State Parks Commission through the State Parks and Recreation Department (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). The scenic waterway program seeks to preserve, protect and enhance scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and cultural values possessed by each individual scenic waterway. The Scenic Waterways Act was created to strike a balance between protecting the natural resources, scenic value, and recreational uses of Oregon's rivers by designating them. The state program currently includes approximately 1,150 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 2).

The Commission's rules specifically outline the manner in which the Scenic Waterways Act is to be carried out. The Act and the Commission's rules generally require proposed changes of land use within ¼ mile on each side of the river to be evaluated for their potential to impair the natural scene. Property owners wanting to build roads, houses, develop mines, cut timber or do similar activities must notify the Commission in advance. Within one year of notification, the Commission

must decide if the proposal will impair the scenic beauty of the river. The Commission relies on its rules for each designated scenic waterway to make the determination. Other local and state agencies must comply with the Act; and the Commission is instructed to study other rivers for possible inclusion in the scenic waterways system.

Filling in the river, removing soil and gravel from the river or changing the riverbank in any way, regardless of the amount of soil or rock involved, requires special prior approval of the State Land Board and the Director of the Division State Lands. The Director of the Oregon Department of Water Resources is required to insure that new water rights issued within the scenic waterway will be used only for human consumption, livestock, fish, wildlife and recreation unless adequate flows can be assured to protect fish, wildlife and recreation. Dams, impoundments, reservoirs and some mining activities are prohibited within the scenic waterway corridor including tributary streams within the ¼ mile boundary.

The complete Oregon Scenic Waterways Act, State Statutes and Administrative Rules are available on the OPRD website at: www.oregon.gov/OPRD/RULES/Pages/waterways.aspx

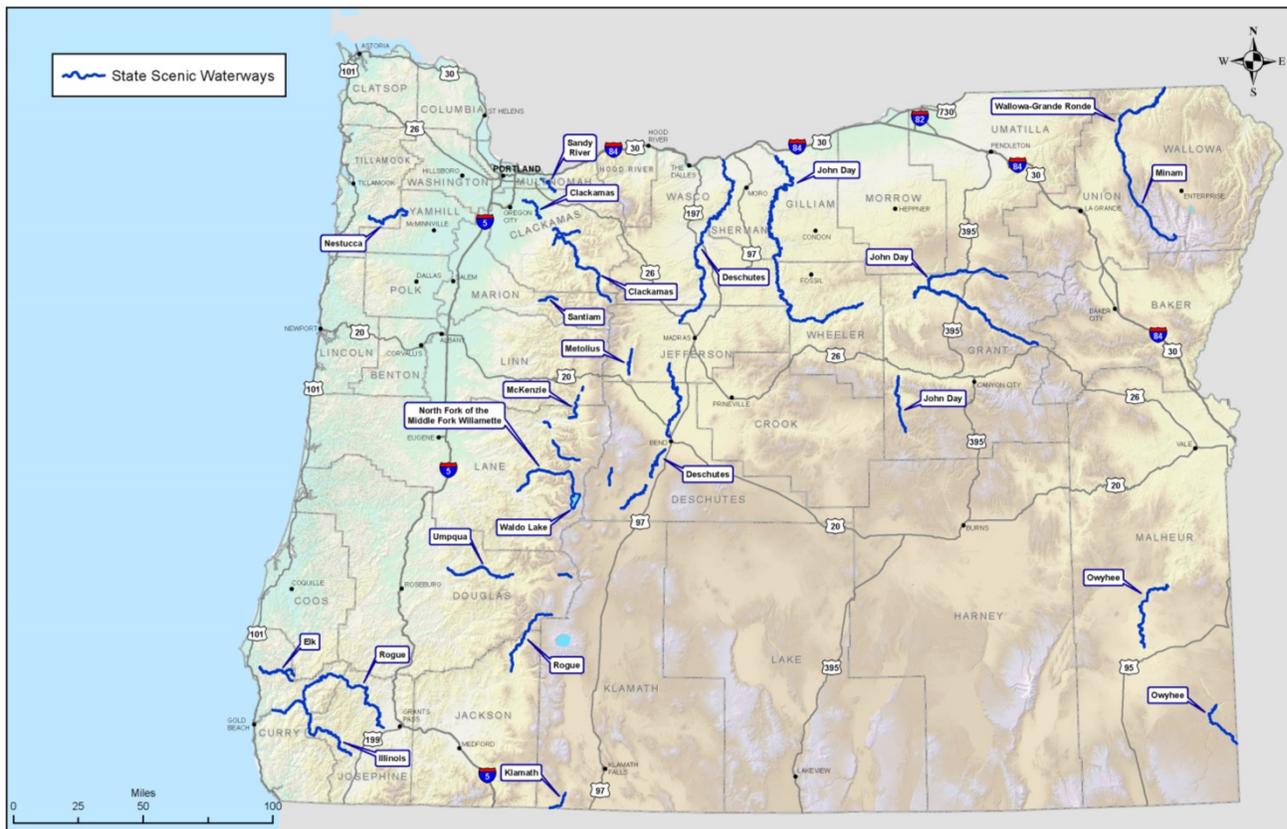


Figure 2. Oregon's Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Designation Process for New Scenic Waterways

The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act (ORS 390.855 to 390.865) establishes procedures by which new scenic waterways may be designated (Figure 3). The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is

directed to periodically study rivers or segments of rivers and their related adjacent land that may meet scenic waterway qualifications. With concurrence of the State Water Resources Commission, the Oregon State Parks Commission may recommend to the Governor designation of additional scenic waterways. Favorable recommendation is necessary before the Governor may designate a scenic waterway. The Governor may or may not choose to designate the candidate scenic waterway. Scenic Waterway designation by the Governor becomes effective the day following final adjournment of the next or current regular session of the Oregon Legislature. Scenic waterways may also be designated by popular vote through ballot measures, and the legislative assembly may also propose additional scenic waterways directly through the usual legislative process. The Legislature could (by joint resolution) act to void all, or part of, the Governor’s designation. ORS 390.855 establishes the three criteria for qualification which must be considered in the Commission’s study and report:

1. The river or segment of river is relatively free-flowing and the scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral or these conditions are restorable.
2. The river or segment of river and its setting possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality.
3. The river or segment of river and its setting are large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource quality or the recreation experience.

Before a river can be designated a State Scenic Waterway it must be found to meet these qualifications.

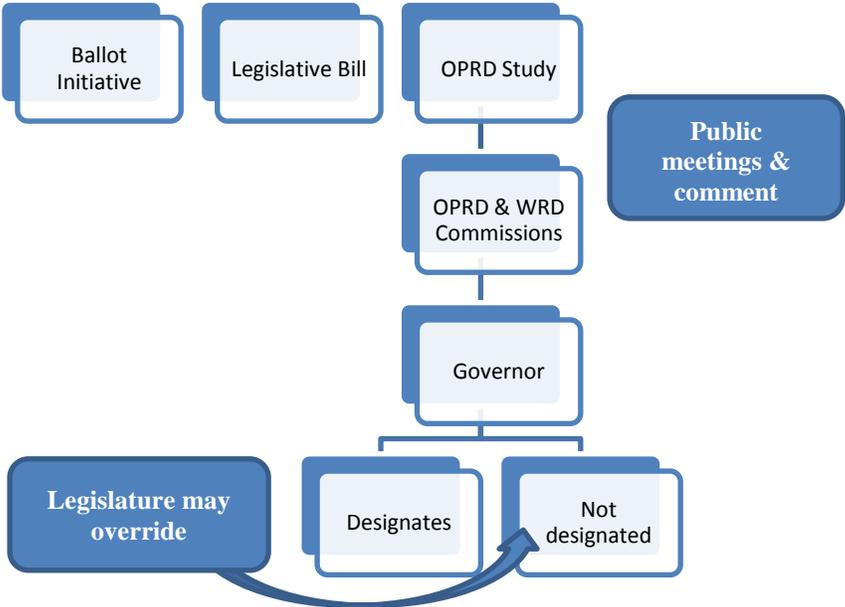


Figure 3. Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway designation options

Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas

Initial coarse level screening of Oregon's waterways indicated that this section of the Grande Ronde River *may* meet the criteria necessary to be considered as a state scenic waterway. The Grande Ronde River has been listed by the National Park Service (NPS) in the National River Inventory (NRI), a "listing of free-flowing river segments...that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance" since 1982 (National Park Service, 2014). Currently the lower portion of the Grande Ronde, which was designated at the federal level in 1988, is no longer in the inventory; however, the initial listing indicated the river possessed outstanding scenery, recreation, geology and fisheries (National Park Service, 2012).

The river was also listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987) in which it was listed as having "outstanding recreational resources" and in previous lists (e.g., Oregon State Park System Plans) developed by OPRD as a potential addition to the system (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1975). A large portion of the lower river (from the confluence with the Wallowa River to the Oregon-Washington state line) has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since the passage of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1988. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified by the United States Forest Service for the river are scenery, recreation, geology and fisheries (National Park Service, 2012). The ORVs identified by the Forest Service are consistent with the qualities of Oregon's State Scenic Waterway system.

Establishing New Scenic Waterway Management Plans

If the river segments studied in this report were designation as part of the Oregon Scenic Waterway System, the law requires OPRD to administer the area in order to protect and enhance the value which caused the scenic waterway to be included in the system. Management would be based on the "special attributes of each area" and give primary emphasis to protecting the scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The aim of the program is to maintain the scenic "status quo" condition of the area without "turning back the clock" on land developments. If directed to do so by designation, ORPD would classify the rivers, or segments of the river according to the level of existing development, into one or more of six possible classifications. Once the classifications are set then specific guidelines for development are established as state rules. The classifications have been established by the Commission and are in use on other scenic waterways.

The classifications and their general management direction are described as follows:

1. **Natural River Areas** are generally inaccessible except by trail or river with primitive or minimally developed shorelands. Preservation of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this classification.
2. **Accessible Natural River Areas** is reserved for relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by road or railroad. Management emphasis is to preserve the primitive qualities of the area.

3. **Scenic River Areas** may be accessible by roads but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Management seeks to preserve the undeveloped nature of the area.
4. **Natural Scenic View Areas** are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character while the opposite bank is accessible and developed. Preservation of the natural primitive qualities are sought after by management.
5. **Recreational River Areas** are readily accessible by road or railroad with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks. Management is aimed at allowing development consistent with what is present while protecting the view and other natural features.
6. **River Community Areas** are highly developed areas of commercial or residential uses in natural settings. Allowing development with an eye toward maintaining the natural setting is the aim of management.

The rules established for each classified river segment generally allow continuation of the use of existing structures or improvements. In fact, though some improvements would require notification/review/approval by the Commission, many others do not. For example, on some other scenic waterways, notification and approval is not needed for construction of new fences; maintenance of farm buildings, fences or outbuildings; laying of irrigation lines; crop rotation; removal of danger trees; construction of grain storage facilities under certain conditions; maintenance of existing residences and outbuildings; minor residential remodeling; construction of garages adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in home site landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road-building, construction of some new structures, placement of mobile homes, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities requiring approval. River classification and the rules or guidelines that follow determine exactly how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

If designation on the Grande Ronde River takes place, then further work will be done to specifically outline the details of how each river segment would be managed. Public hearings will be held and the OPRD and Water Resources Commission must approve the final management plan. The following is the “best guess” of the appropriate classifications and management direction that could be applied to each river segment. The river seems most appropriate to the “Recreational River Area” category which contains, mixed agricultural, residential and commercial development along the shore and adjacent lands. This type of area is often rural or pastoral in character and easily accessible from local roads. These areas are managed to protect the views from the river, allow development consistent with existing land uses and provide for a wide range of recreational activities within the scenic waterways. In general, development is allowed if it does not interfere with the natural scene from the river. On scenic waterways where the natural landscape is dominant, this means that development other than that requires screening. On other rivers where development is visible and dominant, development may be visible if it meets certain requirements for screening, density or use.

WATERWAY ELIGIBILITY FINDINGS

The approximately 29 mile long study area was divided into three segments. The Upper Section includes the Grande Ronde River from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Tony Vey Meadows. The Middle Section includes the Grande Ronde River from below Starkey (near Meadow Creek) to Red Bridge State Wayside. The Lower Section includes the Grande Ronde River from Red Bridge State Wayside to Hilgard Junction State Park. An evaluation for each segment was done to determine how well it met the scenic waterway qualifications. The criteria (ORS 390.855) were broken down into specific scenic, natural and recreational factors.

The evaluation (see: Waterway Characteristics and River Segment Eligibility for Scenic Waterway Designation) uses a combination of tools to help determine how well, if at all, the segment is eligible for scenic waterway consideration (e.g., free-flowing nature of the waterway; scenic quality, as viewed from the river; and natural and recreational resources, including the ability of the waterway and its setting to sustain recreational use).

Decisions made during the evaluation of each segment were based on research of natural resource and recreational data available for the study area. Maps, aerial photographs, eye-level photography and video, on-site investigations (including floating the river, where feasible) and interviews with experienced users and recreation and natural resource managers including residents, local government officials and state and federal agency personnel.

Waterway Characteristics

Cultural Resources

Ethnographic Context

The Grande Ronde River lies within the Plateau culture area. Distinguishing features of the Plateau include riverine (linear) settlement patterns; reliance on a diverse subsistence base of fish, game and root resources; complex fishing technology; mutual cross-utilization of subsistence resources among the various groups; extension of kinship ties through intermarriage; extensive trade links; limited political integration; and relative uniform mythology, art styles, and religious beliefs and practices.

The Weyiiletpuu (Cayuse), Imatalamlama (Umatilla), and Waluulapam (Walla Walla) are described as people who fished, gathered roots, berries, medicines, and other flora, and hunted on a seasonal round basis. Their winter villages were located along the Columbia River and several of its tributaries such as Butter Creek, McKay Creek, Umatilla River, Grande Ronde River, Imnaha River, Wallowa River, and Snake River. They spread out during the summer and fall through the Blue Mountains, into Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys, and as far as the John Day, Silvies, and Malheur rivers. There were a number of villages along the Grande Ronde River, including hunting and fishing settlements, root gathering areas, and base camps for hunting. With the introduction of the horse, the Cayuse adopted an equestrian mode of life, and seasonally traveled with the

Flathead and others in “going to buffalo” on the Plains. By the early historic period, stock-raising had become an important part of the Cayuse economy (Senn, 2007).

Historic Context

Contact between Native Americans and Euro Americans on the Columbia Plateau began with Lewis and Clark’s expedition, followed by other explorers and fur trappers. John Jacob Astor who formed the Pacific Fur Company was at the headwaters of the Grand Ronde River on December 28, 1811. The Pacific Fur Company representatives camped at the point where Five Points Creek joins the Grande Ronde River near Hilgard on August 4, 1812 (Senn, 2007). In his journal, dated September 14, 1827, Peter Skene Ogden, a Canadian fur trade and explorer, notes they had reached the Clay River, or what was commonly called Riviere deGrande Ronde. This name may have been applied because where the Grande Ronde River leaves the valley it is frequently very slightly yellow in appearance, or putty colored, due to valley drainage (McArthur, 1992).

Transportation has always been a key theme in the history of northeastern Oregon. The Oregon Trail began as a series of Native American trails, later connected by fur traders and then emigrants. Stage coach lines were established, followed by railroads, including the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company (OR&N). Hilgard, located approximately seven miles west of La Grande, was originally established on July 9, 1883 with a post office and the name of Dan. It changed on August 23, 1883, apparently named for Eugene W. Hilgard, Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of California. As the cousin of Henry Villard, builder of the railroad over the Blue Mountains, he was engaged to conduct an agricultural survey of the area in the early 1880s (Senn, 2007) and (McArthur, 1992).

In about 1911 the A.H. Strange Lumber Company sent representatives to Union County to look over timber lands. In August of that year the company formed the Mount Emily Timber Company to acquire and hold timberlands. Within two years the company held over 100,000 acres of prime timber. In 1925, they constructed a sawmill in La Grande, processing a daily cut of 150,000 board feet. The company also purchased the Grande Ronde Lumber Company logging railroad. The Grande Ronde river drainage remained a primary source of logs for the company, but it lost some importance as the company purchased other timberlands, mainly in the Enterprise/Joseph area. In 1955 the Valsetz Lumber Company acquired the Mount Emily Lumber Company. In 1960 the Valsetz Company sold out to Boise-Cascade (Taubeneck, 2000).

In the 1950s, the Mount Emily Lumber Company donated land forming two state parks along the Grande Ronde River. Red Bridge State Park is located at the Hilgard-Starkey Secondary Highway crossing of the Grande Ronde River. An area of 35.2 acres was obtained from Mount Emily Lumber Company in March 1951. An additional two-acre tract, an abandoned railroad right-of-way through the property, was a gift from the Boise Cascade Corporation in July 1961. The area was named Red Bridge presumably because Union County kept the bridge painted red long before the highway became a part of the secondary highway system (Armstrong, 1965).

Hilgard Junction State Park is located at the Starkey Highway junction on the Grande Ronde River. The first land obtained for this park was in 1951 and consisted of a five-acre lease from the U.S. Forest Service. A year later an adjoining one-acre tract was given to the state by Mount Emily

Lumber Company; in 1966, 79 acres was donated by their successor, Valsetz Lumber Company (Armstrong, 1965).

Natural features

Landscape/geology

The Upper Grande Ronde River flows out of the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon flowing north and then northeast through Oregon, eventually downstream to the southeast corner of Washington State before joining the Snake River. The Grande Ronde River watershed is located in the Blue Mountains physiographic province which is an uplifted, mountainous region with several large, north-trending, fault-bounded valleys and depressions. Major structural features include 1) northeast-trending folds and faults of the Blue Mountains uplift, and 2) cross-cutting northwest-trending fault zones that break the core of the uplift into a series of shallow basins separated by faulted ridges (Ferns et. al., 2010).

The valley walls adjacent to the Upper Grande Ronde River consist of various types of volcanic bedrock. At higher elevations, the Upper Grande Ronde Valley was occupied by the westernmost glacier that originated from the Anthony Lakes cirque complex. Studies by Pogue et. al., (N.d.) and Geraghty (N.d.) show that valley glaciers advanced from the top of the Grande Ronde River Valley downstream approximately two miles in two pro-glacial episodes. Following the cool and wet Pleistocene Epoch, the climate in Eastern Oregon became relatively warmer and drier. As glaciers retreated and levels of precipitation decreased, overall discharge and sediment supply also decreased allowing the Grande Ronde River to erode and redistribute alluvial material downstream forming small sections of terrace along the valley margin. Infrequent mass wasting episodes associated with fire, earthquakes, landslides and large floods also helped shaped the valley margins by forming small alluvial fans. These fans are generally comprised of gravels and sand with cobble material. The geology and processes associated with the changing climate during and following the last ice age resulted in a valley that contains relatively wider valley segments separated by narrow canyon reaches.



Geological formations along the river in the study area

Water features

The Grande Ronde River drains the northeastern area of the Blue Mountains in northeastern Oregon. The river flows in a generally northeastern direction, and is tributary to the Snake River (Hampton & Brown, 1963). Over the course of the study area (~30 miles) the elevation drops ~1,100 feet putting the average stream gradient at ~1.5%. The study area upstream of the Meadow Creek input can be characterized as largely confined, having slightly higher than average stream gradient. Stream width to depth ratios tend to be decreased given an increase in large wood presence and hydrologic complexity. The study area downstream of the Meadow Creek input can be characterized as having large sections unconfined with a less than average stream gradient. Stream width to depth ratios tend to be increased largely due to a lack of in-stream structure and simplified hydraulics (Bureau of Reclamation, 2014). Tributaries in the study area include Sheep Creek, Fly Creek, Meadow Creek, along with Beaver and Spring Creeks.

The upper river is free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, major diversion or significant modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. Exceptions include modifications made for the highway, roads, and historic and current agriculture and logging practices. The river is also, for the majority of its reach, naturally flowing (without dams or major diversion) from the headwaters in the Blue Mountains to where it meets the Snake River near the base of Hells Canyon (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). However, about seven miles below La Grande, a large ditch was built in the 1860's for agricultural purposes and currently diverts most of the river's water away from its original course. The river has somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow varies seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation and snow-melt.



River spanning large woody debris on the upper Grande Ronde River

The Upper Grande Ronde River is largely driven by snow-melt or rain-on-snow events. Typically the highest peaks in the hydrograph are around April and May, while low flow months extend from July through October. OWRD operates gaging stations near the study area but mostly for very short time periods and/or not within the study area. The USGS has only one gaging station on the Grande Ronde River located at Troy, OR. This site was not chosen given the distance downstream of the study area. Below is a hydrograph of expected monthly streamflow for the Grande Ronde above Haywire Canal. These values represent modeled natural streamflow (50% exceedance flow) minus estimated consumptive use. For a detailed description of the methodology used to develop these values, please refer to the report titled [Determining Water Availability in Oregon](#) (OWRD Open File Report SW 02-002).

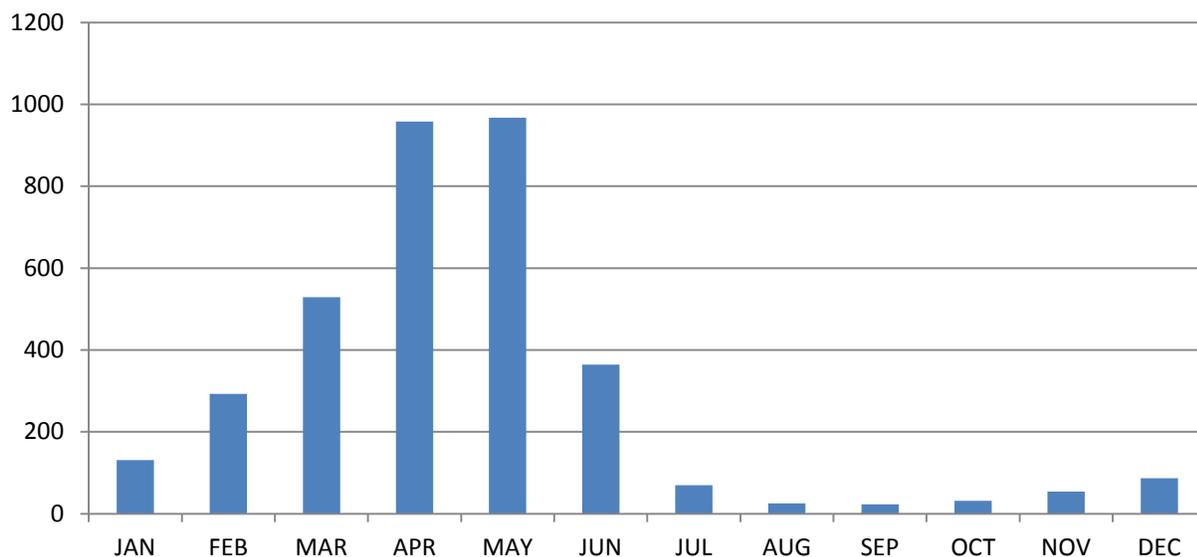


Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation for the Grande Ronde above Haywire Canal. Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS). Annual volume at 50% exceedance in Acre-Feet. Source: Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

Major historical events that impacted the Upper Grande Ronde River hydrology started in 1820's with the decimation of the beaver population by the Hudson's Bay Company and American trappers. In the 1860's Gold was discovered in Tanner Gulch and started a wave of placer mining and dredging. Around this same time period timber production kicked-off that over time saw the creation of dams, river side mills, and rail lines for transportation (Bureau of Reclamation, 2014). Stream restoration, including the placement of large woody debris, has increased, particularly along and within the upper river above the study area.

In 2000, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality developed a Water Quality Management Plan based on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) thresholds for the Upper Grande Ronde River (Department of Environmental Quality, 2001). The river through the study area is a 303(d) listed stream for Temperature, Habitat Modification, PH, and Sedimentation. The TMDL's established address salmonid fisheries concern for spawning and rearing.

Ecoregion

The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Grande Ronde River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The ecoregions in the vicinity of the study area, shown in red, are shown in Figure 5, below. The study area is within the maritime influenced zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion.

The *Blue Mountains Ecoregion* is described in the Oregon State Natural Areas Plan (ORNHC, 2010) as

“Landscapes include deep, rocky-walled canyons, glacially cut gorges, dissected plateaus, broad alluvial river valleys, and numerous mountain lakes, forests and meadows. Due to sharp elevational differences, the climate varies over broad temperature and precipitation ranges. Overall, the ecoregion is characterized by short, dry summers and long, cold winters. The flora is intermediate between the east Cascades and the western Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Montana. Species composition changes with elevation and longitude. Western juniper dominates the western portion of the region, sagebrush and grassland steppes dominate the entire eastern length of the region, ponderosa pine woodlands are characteristic at mid-elevations and mixed coniferous forests dominate at higher altitudes.

Before European settlement, Ponderosa pine savannas, basin big sagebrush steppe, native grasslands and riparian woodlands were widespread in this region. Today, many bottomland habitats have been replaced by irrigated cropland, juniper has expanded into many former shrub-steppe vegetation types, and ponderosa pine savannas have been cut or are being invaded by Douglas fir and grand fir.

The diversity in elevation, soils and climate yields diverse habitats and many endemic plant species. Bighorn sheep, elk and large mammal populations here are among the largest in the state. The variety in habitats, including low, mid and high elevation grasslands, shrublands and forests results in this ecoregion having more habitat diversity than all but the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion.”

The Maritime-Influenced Zone, of which the study area is a part of, is describes by Clarke and Bryce (1997) as:

- Directly intercepting marine weather systems moving east through the break in the Cascade Range at the Columbia River Gorge
- Having rain and snow delivered all by one of the seasons (e.g., summer), the moisture availability is sufficient to support forests at lower elevations than elsewhere in Ecoregion. A forest of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occurs and has a dense and diverse shrub layer beneath it.

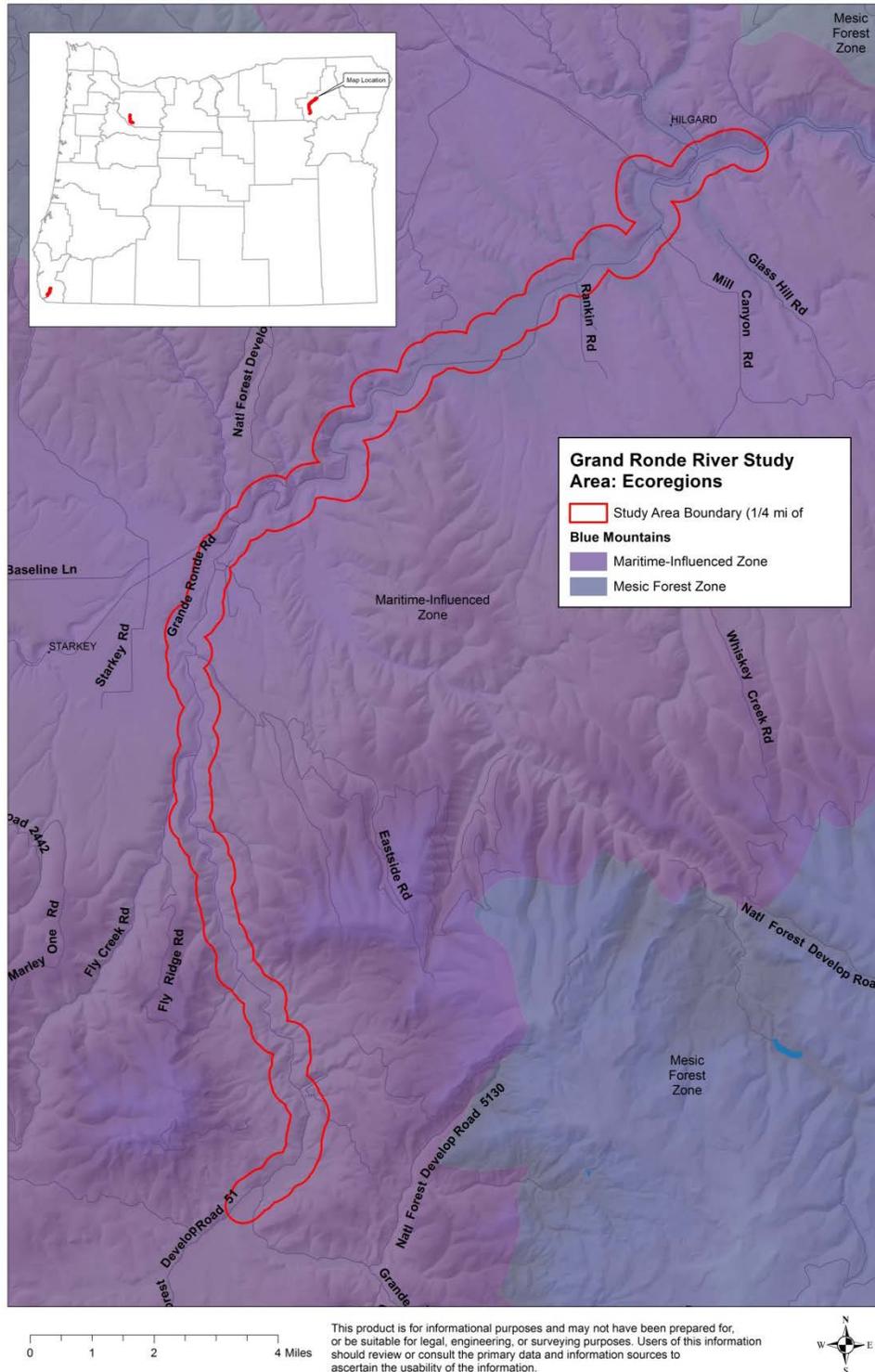


Figure 5. Ecoregions surrounding the Grande Ronde River study area

Vegetation

The gently rolling to steep and rocky topography of the Grande Ronde River provide a variety of different vegetation cover types common in the Blue Mountains ecoregion - ranging from open grassland, to shrub steppe, deciduous riparian forest, scrub-shrub wetland, and coniferous forest,

woodland, and savanna. Riparian vegetation contrasts strikingly with the surrounding arid landscape. This riparian vegetation is typically characterized by willows, black cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, wild rose, hawthorn, and mountain alder, woolly sedge, creeping spikerush, and rushes.

Upland forested vegetation is usually colonized by ponderosa pine, western larch, douglas-fir, snowberry, mallow ninebark, serviceberry, heartleaf arnica, bunchgrasses, weedy grasses, elk sedge, and pinegrass. Upland savanna and meadow is usually characterized by bunchgrasses, buckwheat, lupine, balsamroot, and sparse ponderosa pine. Some reaches of the waterways show substantial development in the form of roads, fences, and infrastructure. Evidence of farming and ranching is common.

Existing riparian conditions vary throughout the study reach. In confined reaches, riparian vegetation appears at greater density likely due to less disturbance and public land ownership. In unconfined reaches, riparian vegetation appears less dense and lacking in an abundance of age class variation and old growth trees. Some areas in unconfined reaches are devoid of riparian vegetation due to adjacent land use of domestic livestock grazing. The highway 244 grade which runs along the Upper Grande Ronde River for a portion of the study reach has had a significant impact on the floodplain and subsequent vegetation structure.

Existing upland conditions are less variable. Some forested areas appear over-stocked with younger age class timber, while some forested areas have either been through wildfire or prescribed fires and look more open and natural for this forest type.



Photo of the river and surrounding vegetation near Red Bridge State Wayside

At both Bird Track Springs and Starkey, vegetation summaries for the surrounding communities were developed as part of a Bureau of Reclamation Report (BOR, 2014) and are included here as they help summarize the vegetation types within the study area (Table 1-Table 2).

Both areas are comprised of a combination of evergreen forest, mixed forest, shrub/scrub and grassland/herbaceous communities.

Table 1. Vegetation Summary within a 30 meter belt width at the Bird Tracks Springs area (Source: BOR, 2014).

Vegetation type	Acres	Percent
Developed (residential/cleared)	0.6	0.9
Barren	0.5	0.6
Evergreen Forest	16.5	23.3
Mixed Forest	3.3	4.7
Shrub/Scrub	9.7	13.6
Grassland/Herbaceous	40.5	57.0
Total	71.1	100

The area close to Starkey has a larger percentage of residential/cleared area due to development in the area (Table 2).

Table 2. Vegetation Summary within a 30 meter belt width at the Starkey area (Source: BOR, 2014).

Vegetation Type	Acres	Percent
Developed (residential/cleared)	7.6	7.5
Barren	1.7	1.7
Evergreen Forest	10.3	10.2
Mixed Forest	26.8	26.4
Shrub/Scrub	7.2	7.5
Grassland/Herbaceous	41.8	41.2
Pasture/Hay	6.0	5.9
Total	101.5	100

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

There is habitat for a few at-risk, but unlisted plant species including *Lycopodium complanatum*, *Penstemon deustus var. variabilis*, and *Phlox multiflora* shown below in Table 3. The habitats present in the study area also support rare and/or listed wildlife species, described below in the fish and wildlife section.

Table 3. At-risk plant species documented in study area¹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>	Ground cedar			2
<i>Penstemon deustus var. variabilis</i>	Hot-rock penstemon			3
<i>Phlox multiflora</i>	Many-flowered phlox			2

¹ Source: ORNHIC, 2010;
State heritage rankings 1-4; 1=extremely rare to 4=concern.

Fish and Wildlife

The Upper Grande Ronde basin supports a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial species. The Upper Grande Ronde River supports habitat for Snake River Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout, as well as Bull trout (all species ESA listed Threatened). A significant amount of effort is paid to fisheries recovery in the Upper Grande Ronde River through habitat enhancement efforts by agencies, Tribes, and private landowners. The majority of the in-stream enhancement efforts are taking place on the river upstream of the Meadow Creek input. Upland wildlife roam and range throughout the Upper Grande Ronde basin. Notable species include Mule deer, Elk, Black bear, Cougar, and Bobcat. Deer and Elk hunting seasons attract hunters to the Upper Grande Ronde basin. An “Area of Known Wolf Activity” for the Mt Emily Pack is to the west of Elgin, north of I-84, along with a unnamed new pack in the southern portion of the Catherine Creek Unit, south of Union (given the range of wolves, it is not impossible for them to be in the area).

Other species known to occur in the vicinity of the study area include coyote, beaver, river otter, a variety of hawks, bald eagles, osprey, vultures, spotted frogs, Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*), common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), and mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Multiple golden eagles have been documented nesting in the study area. Beaver activity and lodges were noted during the site visits, along with observations of red-tailed hawks, Canada geese, common mergansers and mallards, various songbirds and signs of coyotes and elk.



Lewis's woodpecker
(Source: Wikipedia; CC BY-SA 3.0)

The Bird Tracks Springs (campground and day-use) property owned and managed by the USDA-FS provide good habitat for wildlife. The property has an unconfined floodplain, connected back channels, and a healthy and diverse riparian vegetation structure. Forest Service biologists consistently note the presence of the relatively rare and elusive Lewis's woodpecker on the property. The woodpecker is known to breed in relatively open habitat in low numbers along eastern Oregon rivers and streams.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Animal Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for a number of at-risk species. At-risk wildlife species are those experiencing population declines or are otherwise at risk. They include federal endangered, threatened, candidate species and species of concern; state endangered, threatened, and candidate species; state critical and vulnerable species, and species with a state Heritage rank of S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability), and S3 (rare, uncommon, or threatened). The list, shown below in Table 4 was determined by compiling documented species occurrences in databases maintained by ORNHIC, USFS, eBird, ODF, and ODFW, as well as potential habitat within the study area buffer determined from the Oregon GAPS vegetation project. Five species listed under the Federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 40 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area (Table 4). Several state and federally listed

species of concern are also known to inhabit the study area, including the harlequin duck and the fringed myotis, a species of bat (ORNHIC, 2010). None of these species were found during the course of the present study, although specific animal surveys were not conducted.

The Grande Ronde River includes multiple runs of at-risk anadromous fishes (Table 4), and is Federal critical habitat for resident bull trout and Snake River Basin ESU summer steelhead. Federal recovery plans for Snake River Basin ESU summer steelhead and Snake River ESU spring/summer chinook are in progress, and the recovery plan for bull trout is in draft form.

Table 4. At-risk fish and wildlife species occurrences in the study area¹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Occurrence	Federal Listing	State Listing	State Rank
<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	Western toad	Potential		SV CS	S4
<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Columbia spotted frog	Present	PS:FC	SC/SV	S2S3
<i>Scaphiopus intermontanus</i>	Great Basin Spadefoot	Potential	SOC		
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	Present	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	Present			S3
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Bufflehead	Vicinity			S2B,S5N
<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Barrow's goldeneye	Present			S3B,S3N
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common nighthawk	Present		SC	S5B
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV CS	S2S3B
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated woodpecker	Present		SV	S4
<i>Empidonax traillii adastus</i>	Willow flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV	S3B
<i>Falci pennis canadensis</i>	Spruce grouse	Potential		SV	S3
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	Present		SV CS	S4B,S4N
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Harlequin duck	Present	SOC		S2B,S3N
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted chat	Present	SOC	SC	S4B
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis's woodpecker	Present	SOC	SC	S2B,S2? N
<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	Mountain quail	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Flammulated owl	Vicinity		SV	S3B
<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>	White-headed woodpecker	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2
<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Black-backed woodpecker	Vicinity		SV	S3
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Pine grosbeak	Potential			S2?
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western bluebird	Present		SV	S4B,S4N
<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Brewer's Sparrow	Present			S3B
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great gray owl	Present		SV	S3
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed cuckoo	Vicinity	FT	SC	SHB
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Chinook, spring/summer Snake River ESU	Present	FT	ST	S1
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead Snake River ESU	Present	FT	SV	S2S3

<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Bull trout Grande Ronde SMU	Present	FT	SC	S2
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Gray wolf	Potential	PS:FE	SE	S1S2
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	Potential	SOC	SC CS	S2
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted bat	Potential	SOC	SV	S2
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired bat	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3S4
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	Potential		SV CS	S3
<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	White-tailed jackrabbit	Potential		SV	S4?
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis	Present	SOC	SV CS	S2
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged myotis	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	Potential	SOC		S3
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted turtle	Potential		SC	S2
<i>Crotalus oreganus</i>	Western rattlesnake	Potential		SC	S5

¹ FE: Federally endangered; FT: Federally threatened; FC: Federal candidate for listing; SOC: Federal Species of Concern; ST: State threatened; SC: State critical; SV: State vulnerable; CS: Conservation Strategy; S1: Critically imperiled in the state; S2: Imperiled in the state; S3: Rare, uncommon, or threatened in the state; S4: Apparently secure; S5: Widespread; B: Breeding; H: Historical occurrence; N: Non-breeding

The Upper Grande Ronde population of spring run Chinook was severely depressed to the point that recreational fisheries were closed in the mid-1970's (Carmichael et. al., 2010a) and resulted in an aggressive hatchery intervention program (Carmichael et. al., 2010b). Hatchery programs were also developed for summer steelhead. Hatchery supplementation is an interim measure to conserve these salmonid populations; recovery to sustainable levels will require addressing the primary limiting factors by restoration of high quality habitat (Carmichael et. al., 2010b). Restoration priorities include increasing instream flows, improving timber harvest practices, increasing large woody debris and structure, increasing riparian vegetation and improving off-channel habitats (BOR, 2014).

The Grande Ronde Bull trout SMU includes 12 populations resident to the tributaries surrounding the Grande Ronde. There are no hatchery programs to supplement the native stock, and the Grande Ronde core area identified in the Recovery Plan contains one of the five most stable bull trout populations in the recovery unit (US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2014). To promote recovery of this population, the Recovery Plan calls for screening of irrigation diversions, removing passage barriers, improving instream flow, and reducing introduction of new threats (USFWS, 2014).

Recreation

The Grande Ronde River, including the study segment under review in this report, was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having "outstanding recreational resources" for both fishing (e.g., salmon, steelhead and trout), boating (e.g., kayaking, rafting, drift-boating) and "other recreation" which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). While the entire study segment (up as far as Sheep Cr.) was included in the map provided in the survey, it is possible that many of the respondents were describing recreation on the more commonly used lower stretches of the river.

Access

Two primary roads, Oregon Highway 244 and USFS 5160 (Grande Ronde River Rd) provide access to the study area; along with associated USFS spur roads. Public access to the river is possible near Meadow Creek and at Bird Track Springs (on USDA-FS lands), and at Red Bridge and Hilgard Junction State Parks, although the access at both Meadow Cr. and Bird Track Springs afford very limited parking. Both Hilgard and Red Bridge can accommodate both vehicles and trailers, although there are no designated boat launch areas at any of these locations.

Focal points

The majority of recreation focal points, with the possible exception of Hilgard Junction and Red Bridge State Parks, are minimally developed (e.g., Bird Track Springs) and dispersed locations within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The only somewhat developed campgrounds (e.g., water, full restrooms) in the study area are at Hilgard and Red Bridge, both managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). These parks are also considered “primitive” by OPRD since most other state park campground offer utility hookups.

Hilgard Junction State Park, located between the banks of the Grande Ronde and I-84, provides approximately 18 primitive sites with water nearby, picnic tables, fire-rings and flush toilets. While the park does not provide utility hook-ups, it can accommodate self-contained RV’s and has one ADA-accessible site. The day-use area has an Oregon Trail interpretive shelter, horseshoe pits and access to the river. The park property at Hilgard, which is approximately 255 acres, is mostly undeveloped (except for the campground and day-use area and an area of the property leased to the Oregon Youth Authority) and has an annual overnight attendance of approximately 2,800 and day-use attendance of on average, around 71,300/year (Figure 6). The park is open seasonally, generally from April-October.

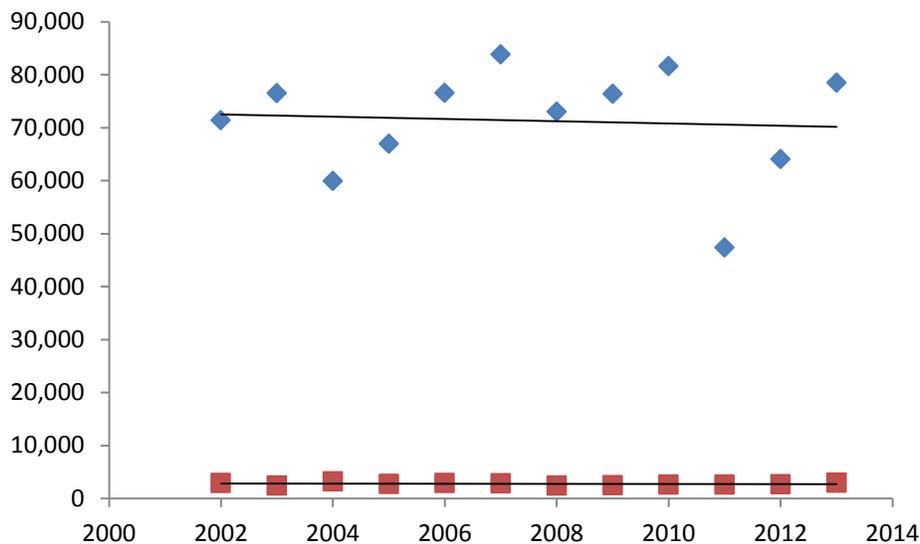


Figure 6. Approximate day-use (red squares) and camping visitation (blue diamonds) at Hilgard Junction State Park (2002-2013)

Red Bridge Wayside, located between the banks of the Grande Ronde and Hwy 244, provides approximately 10 walk-in tent sites and 10 sites that accommodate self-contained RV's. The first-come-first-served sites have water nearby, picnic tables, fire-rings and access to flush toilets. The day-use area has horseshoe pits, picnic tables and access to the river. The park property at Red Bridge, which is approximately 37 acres, is mostly undeveloped (except for the campground and day-use area) and has an annual overnight attendance of approximately 1,500 and day-use attendance of on average, around 20,800/year (Figure 7). The park is open seasonally, generally from April-October. Compared to other state parks with camping and day-use in the system, these are relatively low figures for both overnight and day-use (even given the seasonal nature of the park), and it has been described as being somewhat “under-utilized” given the facilities that are available at the site. The park is planning on hosting a “Lets-Go-Camping” event at the park in 2015 to showcase what the park has to offer.

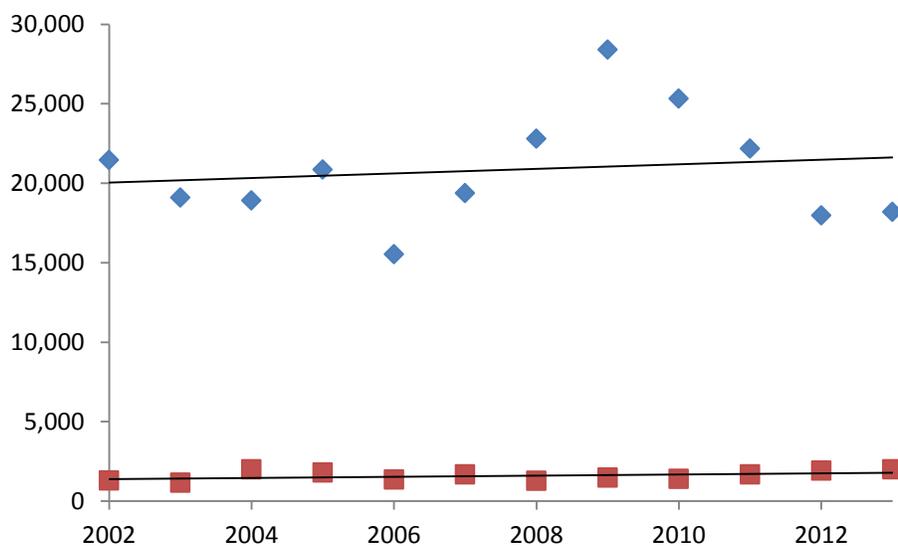


Figure 7. Approximate day-use (red squares) and camping (blue diamonds) visitation at Red Bridge State Wayside (2002-2013)

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest offers dispersed camping in the vicinity along with camping at Bird Track Springs, across the road from the river day-use area (both directly off State Highway 244). The campground at Bird Track Springs offers 22 tent/trailer sites with three that are ADA accessible. Many of the campsites will accommodate larger trailers or RVs. Individual campsite parking areas range from 25-80 feet in length (USDA Forest Service, 2014a). The seasonally open campground has an on-site host and facilities include campsites and a vault toilet. Popular activities include camping, hiking, scenic enjoyment, and wildlife viewing.

The Bird Track Interpretive Site is located along the Grande Ronde River off Oregon Highway 244 directly across from the Bird Track Springs Campground. It is popular with birders, photographers, and those wanting to view wildlife and plants during the spring, summer, and fall, and with snowshoers in the winter. The recreation site has one main trail (#1940) which is 1.2 miles long and five other smaller spur trails with interpretive displays which wind along the river and cottonwood trees (USDA Forest Service, 2014b).

Above the study segment there is a USFS recreation area with camping along the river (Spool Cart Campground), limited recreational fishing opportunities, and some dispersed/primitive camping and picnicking sites. Spool Cart Campground provides developed seasonal camping nestled in the forest along the river banks. The rather large (12) campsites include many sizeable enough for RVs (without hookups) and several provide direct trail access to the river. The Forest Service notes that the name comes from the fact that in the past “trains stopped here and left spools of cable; for loggers to transport to work sites using carts (USDA Forest Service, 2014c).” The abandoned USFS Grande Ronde Group Camp is also visible on the east side of the USFS road (NF 51).

Important recreational features within the study area are presented in Table 5, including access points and key locations for various types of water-dependent and water-based recreation along the Grande Ronde River.

Table 5. Important recreational features within the study area

Key feature	River access	Fishing	Boating/ floating	Major Rapids	Swimming/ wading	Camping	Other water-based recreation
Meadow Cr.	U	X	X				X
Red Bridge	U	X	X		X	D	X
Bird Track Springs	U	X	X		X	M	X
Hilgard Junction	M	X	X		X	D	X

X-present/possible; U-Undeveloped; M-Maintained (e.g., some facilities); Di-Dispersed; D-Developed

Types of use

The Lower Grande Ronde River (defined here as its confluence with the Willowa River downstream to Oregon-Washington border, 80.8 miles) is a designated State Scenic Waterway as well as a Federal Wild and Scenic River. River Management is a joint effort between the BLM (Vale office), OPRD, and the USFS. This section of river is used year round, but peak dates are April through August (Bureau of Land Management, 2011) and Table 6. Primary activities include rafting and kayaking (white water in late spring), fishing, camping, hunting, bird watching, and scenic enjoyment/relaxing (Table 6).

The Upper Grande Ronde River (upstream from Hilgard Junction State Park) is utilized primarily as a resident trout fishery, whereas the Lower River is a world class steelhead trout and resident trout fishery. The Upper Grande Ronde River is designated critical habitat for Chinook salmon, Steelhead trout and Bull trout for spawning, rearing and migration (Department of Environmental Quality, 2001). The Lower Grande Ronde River is designated critical habitat for Chinook salmon and Steelhead Trout for rearing and migration (Department of Environmental Quality, 2001).

Fishing season according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations (2014) is from January 1st – April 15th, then again from September 1st through December 31st. From the Stateline to Rondowa, fishing is open for adipose fin clipped Steelhead only, and only adipose fin clipped trout may be kept. From Rondowa upriver to Meadow Creek, fishing is open for adipose fin clipped Steelhead only. Both river sections allow for Trout fishing from May 24th to October 31st, five fish per day (minimum of eight inches in length, only one 20” or longer).

Little information is available about users of the area, except for anecdotal information from park and USFS staff. Types of use include: ATVs, mountain biking, horseback trail-riding, scenic touring/driving for pleasure, some fly fishing from the road, birdwatching, hunting, some dispersed camping, camping in designated locations on USFS and within State Parks. Some rafting/kayaking occurs but it is relatively limited due to lack of public access, distance, and the short season. The USFS describes the use at their properties as “light” and the river as a scenic river, not likely a recreational one due to low levels of use and lack of river access along much of the area.

During certain flows, in the spring, kayaks and rafts can float between Meadow Cr. and Hilgard Junction State Park. The reach is generally described as an area that is not that popular with paddlers and “gets little attention”, especially above Red Bridge State Wayside (Keller, 1998). The study area is categorized as a Class 2+ spring run with a variety of hazards, including barbed wire, the rifle range and downed trees (Palmer T. , 2014); Keller, 1998; WKCC, 2004). Flows of between 500-2500 cfs are recommended for boating. During lower-flows in the summer and fall, wading and some inner-tubing is possible (Keller, 1998) and (WKCC, 2004). During the study visit, during mid-April, the river was running around 500 cfs which did not require any portaging and provided an enjoyable float, even for less experienced boaters.

Table 6. Recreation use seasons within the Grande Ronde River study area

Recreation Use	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fishing												
Camping												
Rafting/Boating												
Hunting												
Birdwatching												
Wildflower Viewing												
Snowmobile												
Hiking												
Swimming												

Scenic resources

The view from the river and adjacent lands ranges from generally pleasing to quite excellent in a few locations along the area studied. Some reaches of the waterways show substantial development in the form of roads, fences, and other agricultural/ranching related infrastructure. Evidence of farming and ranching is common and in these areas help create a rural-pastoral setting. The 29 mile study area has a combination of gently rolling to steep and rocky topography which provides visual interest along with a variety of different vegetation cover types common in the Blue Mountains ecoregion. Vegetation types range from open grassland, to shrub

steppe, deciduous riparian forest, scrub-shrub wetland, and coniferous forest, woodland, and savanna (see: Vegetation).



Rafts on the Grande Ronde River during spring flows

Riparian vegetation, where present, contrasts strikingly with the surrounding arid landscape. Riparian conditions vary through the study reach. In confined reaches, riparian vegetation appears at greater density likely due to less disturbance and public land ownership. In unconfined reaches, riparian vegetation appears less dense and lacking in an abundance of age class variation and old growth trees. Some areas in unconfined reaches are devoid of riparian vegetation due to the adjacent land use of domestic livestock grazing. The highway 244 grade which runs along the Upper Grande Ronde River for a portion of the study reach has had a significant impact on the floodplain and subsequent vegetation structure; however, it is only visually prominent in a few areas. Upland forested vegetation; typically colonized by visually prominent ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir along with a mix of upland savanna and meadow create diversity in the landscape. Existing upland conditions are less variable than riparian ones. Some forested areas appear over-stocked with younger age class timber, while some forested areas have either been through wildfire or prescribed fires and look more open and natural for this forest type.

The river in the study area is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of some cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads, recreation and agriculture uses. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general remote and rural-pastoral feeling of the area.



The road as seen from the Grande Ronde River, in some sections

Developments along the river include the forest service road, state highway, I-84, along with several bridges, youth correctional facility, rifle range, state park campgrounds (at Red Bridge and Hilgard) and the minor developments (e.g., benches and trails) at the Bird Track Springs. Other cultural modifications include impacts from timber harvest and farms and ranches on private lands. The semi-primitive and rural-pastoral feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, interesting geologic features combine to create generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.



Rural pastoral setting as seen from the Grande Ronde River

During the study visit to the river, staff filled out field inventory datasheets to help document scenic quality. The methodology is based on those used by federal land management agencies (e.g., BLM, USDA-FS) to conduct scenic resource inventories and includes a description of various landscape elements, including landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and

cultural modifications. Along the study area, six locations were chosen that help characterize the river-scape and they are described below in Table 7-Table 11. The region of comparison for determining scarcity is the state of Oregon, particularly other riverscape views.

Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view near Tony Vey Meadows

The view as seen from the road is of moderate scenic quality; it is a pleasing view of the meadows, forested hills and meandering river in a rural-pastoral setting.



Landform	Meadow in a valley with view of the meandering Grande Ronde river, heavily forested hillsides, and filtered views of snowcapped peaks in the distance.
Vegetation	The immediate foreground is dominated by weeds and grasses with a mix of grasses, rushes and sedges in the meadow in the foreground and a mix of ponderosa, lode pole, western larch and fir on the hills in the middleground and background.
Water	Grande Ronde River meanders through the scene in glide riffle and pool-riffle patterns.
Color	Variable colors with dark and light greys and browns in the meadow, dark green forested hills, bright blue sky, white riffles on the water of a steel gray/blue river.
Adjacent scenery	USFS road, dense forested slopes.
Scarcity	Large meadows lacking shrubs and trees on the banks of the river due to land management, but contributes to the rural pastoral quality of the scene.
Cultural modification	Abandoned cabin/structure, lean to/camp structure, metal gate, USFS road in the immediate foreground, signs of grazing in the meadow. These features do not detract but contribute to the rural-pastoral setting of the view.

Table 8. Scenic resource inventory of the view of the river from the roadside near Starkey

The view of the river as seen from the road is of lower scenic quality; however, it is a generally pleasing view of the river, riparian vegetation and open-forested hillsides in a rural-pastoral setting.



Landform	Grande Ronde River prominent in the foreground with gravel bars, distant low hills, pasture, steep hill to the north with rock outcroppings.
Vegetation	The immediate foreground is dominated by weeds and grasses within the riparian, open forested hillsides, pasture river terrace, willow and mountain alder fully occupy the riparian zone.
Water	Grande Ronde River with active side channels; riffle glide pattern, prominent eddies.
Color	Variable colors , including grey of riprap in foreground with green grasses, greyish deciduous trees with some green-up from spring; bright green slopes in the background with contrasting exposed dark scree and dark green evergreens, brownish grey riparian vegetation
Adjacent scenery	USFS road, dense forested slopes.
Scarcity	Large meadows lacking shrubs and trees on the banks of the river due to land management, but contributes to the rural pastoral quality of the scene.
Cultural modification	Riprap and USFS road in immediate foreground, abandoned cabin/structure, lean to/camp structure, metal gate in the distance, signs of grazing in the meadow. Most of these features do not detract but contribute to the rural-pastoral setting of the view.

Table 9. Scenic resource inventory of the view near Meadow Creek

The view as seen from the river and banks is of moderate scenic quality; it is a pleasing view of the river, riparian vegetation and forested slopes in a rural setting along Highway 244.



Landform	Moderately steep sloped canyon, open scree and grass slopes interspersed with pine/fir forests; healthy riparian areas, variability in the topography combined with interesting lines in the forested slopes in the distance.
Vegetation	Riparian shrubs mixed with grasses and rushes; healthy stand of ponderosa pine with some fir, dogwood/alder/willow is well established in the riparian areas.
Water	Grande Ronde River prominent in the foreground has glides and gentle riffles, some eddies and bends in the river create interest.
Color	Some seasonal color from the dogwoods (red), variety of greens (light to dark) from grasses and conifers, river gravel and rock of various greys, green tint to water.
Adjacent scenery	Highway 244, timber management evident on forested (thinned) slopes.
Scarcity	Mature open forest interspersed with talus slopes and grasslands.
Cultural modification	Road and guard rail but not overly obtrusive These features detract slightly from the overall quality of the view.

Table 10. Scenic resource inventory of the view at Red Bridge State Wayside

The view as seen from the river and banks is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing view of the river, interesting geology (e.g., basalt rock outcroppings), riparian vegetation and open grasslands on the slopes in a park setting.



Landform Sandy beach with small rocks and cobbles in the immediate foreground on the banks of the Grande Ronde River which has a uniform (e.g., straight) and constant gradient and is prominent in the foreground. Steep forested slopes with basalt outcroppings along with grassy slopes with patchy pines interspersed create visual diversity and interest.

Vegetation Variability in the types including well established riparian vegetation, namely alder and willow. Mixed fir/pine on the north slopes, some mature cottonwoods and dogwood adds interest along with seasonal wildflowers, a mix of grass and shrubs in the understory and open grasslands on slopes.

Water Grande Ronde River with a ripple-run pattern, generally low complexity, small slackwater, a few eddies, pretty good water clarity and pleasing flow.

Color Mix of bright to dark greens in the vegetation, along with browns, opaque green water with some silt, red dogwoods, grey/bluish black and red rocks, dark grey basalt on pale green and brown and yellowish (from dead grasses) colors on slopes. Blue sky with white ripples the greenish water and some seasonal colors from wildflowers and cottonwoods provide interest.

Adjacent scenery Natural/park setting with dispersed recreational features some big cottonwoods.

Scarcity Eastern Oregon arid ponderosa with mature cottonwoods in good shape combined with steppe and ponderosa pine, open grasslands and rocky outcrops. The condition of the vegetation and relative isolation are notable.

Cultural modification Private property fencing is somewhat visible on the grassy slopes (but fits into the rural-pastoral setting) along with gabions in the immediate foreground on park property. Filtered views of the park's recreational amenities are mostly out of the view. These features do not detract substantially from the overall quality of the view.

Table 11. Scenic resource inventory of the view at Bird Track Springs day-use area

The view as seen from the river and banks is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing view of the river, riparian vegetation and forested hillsides in a semi-primitive park-like setting.



Landform	Grande Ronde River prominent in the foreground with vegetated benches in a wild park-like setting. Small bends in the river in both directions provide visual interest. Rolling hills with pine and grassy open understory with some large trees along the river. Some small basalt outcrops are visible in both directions
Vegetation	Multi-story ponderosa pine with cottonwoods. Grasses, sage buttercup, lichens on trees, riparian shrubs and lots of large downed wood and some snags provides visual interest. Open forest woodland with grassy understory.
Water	Grande Ronde River with a little bit of whitewater, small curves in the river provide interest, ripple-run pattern. Some slack water with eddies on the edges.
Color	Variable colors, including a variety of greens, browns, reds, with bleached grey logs, yellow buttercups, orange on ponderosas, some seasonal variation in the cottonwoods and wildflowers. Variety of blues in the river and sky provide contrast with the greens and browns of the vegetation.
Adjacent scenery	Park-like setting with an open forest, some larger trees. Forest Service day-use area.
Scarcity	Well preserved mature ponderosa and cottonwoods with some older trees. The condition of the vegetation in Eastern Oregon is notable along with the diversity in the landscape with big benches and mature trees along with a lack of visible grazing impacts.
Cultural modification	Rock dikes/jayhooks from older habitat/fishery related modifications to the river, possible enhancements of large woody debris. These features do not detract from the view.

Table 12. Scenic resource inventory of the view at Hilgard Junction State Park

The view as seen from the river and banks is of moderate scenic quality; it is a generally pleasing view of the river, riparian vegetation and steep forested slopes in a park-like setting with 1-84 in the adjacent scenery.



Landform	Grande Ronde River prominent in the foreground with steep slopes, a broader floodplain, forested slopes and intermittent grasslands, and impacts from the highway grade.
Vegetation	Mainly fir in dense stands, riparian shrubs and trees, upland grasslands.
Water	Grande Ronde River runs in a riffle-glide pattern with small curves and whitewater providing some visual interest. Wide/gentle floodplain of low complexity.
Color	Variable colors, including a variety of greens, browns, reds, and oranges, brown on power-poles with silver/white lines, some diversity in colors of cobbles along the banks.
Adjacent scenery	Park-like setting with recreational features, mature cottonwoods and timbered slopes. Other modifications include impacts from the bridge, roads, and associated signage.
Scarcity	Mossy areas on north slopes create some visual interest.
Cultural modification	Prominent power-lines in the foreground, bank hardening (e.g., rip-rap), along with significant modifications in the adjacent scenery. These features detract somewhat from the overall quality of the setting.

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout the lower two of the three study segments. The upper section (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Tony Vey Meadows) is generally inaccessible because of private property and lack of public access points. In the past, prior to habitat enhancements that added large woody debris to the river, it has been noted that this section was passable in the spring. During the site visits, it was found to no longer be safe or feasible given the number of portages that would be required due to the debris in the river. It is

possible to view the river from the river between Meadow Creek and Hilgard Junction State Park during a limited time-period during the spring. There are also several public access possibilities on public lands at Meadow Creek, Red Bridge State Wayside, Bird Track Springs day-use area, and Hilgard Junction State Park. Either the USFS road or the State Highway follows the river for much of the study area, although there are limited options for getting out of one’s vehicles. It is possible to enjoy a scenic drive along this stretch by vehicles (e.g., cars, bikes).

More photos that capture the scenery of the Grande Ronde River study area are available on the OPRD Flickr page at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/orstateparks/sets/72157646949323231/>.

Management Setting

Land ownership

The study area is an almost evenly divided mix of public (47%) and private lands (49%) with the majority of public lands managed by the USDA United States Forest Service (USDA-FS) as a part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, located in Union County, Oregon. Other public lands include those owned by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at Red Bridge State Wayside and Hilgard Junction State Parks and a few parcels owned by the county and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Private lands include a mix of uses including agriculture, most notably livestock grazing, along with some rural residential development and other farm uses (Table 13, Figure 7).

Table 13. Approximate land-ownership within the Grande Ronde River study area

Ownership type		Approximate percentage
Public	county	>1%
	state	5%
	federal	42%
	Total: 47%	
Private	private	49%
	Total: 49%	
Other*		4%

*Other may includes gaps, water, roads and other things not attributed to a specific owner in the tax lot data.

Land use

The majority of land-use in the study area is agricultural along with some forestry (including federal forest lands) and some rural residential and recreation uses. Livestock grazing occurs on much of the private lands within the study area. The rural residential community known as Starkey is located near the end of study segment 1, however, access to the river (except from the road) is not really feasible at this location given the predominance of private property within the lower part of this section Figure 8.

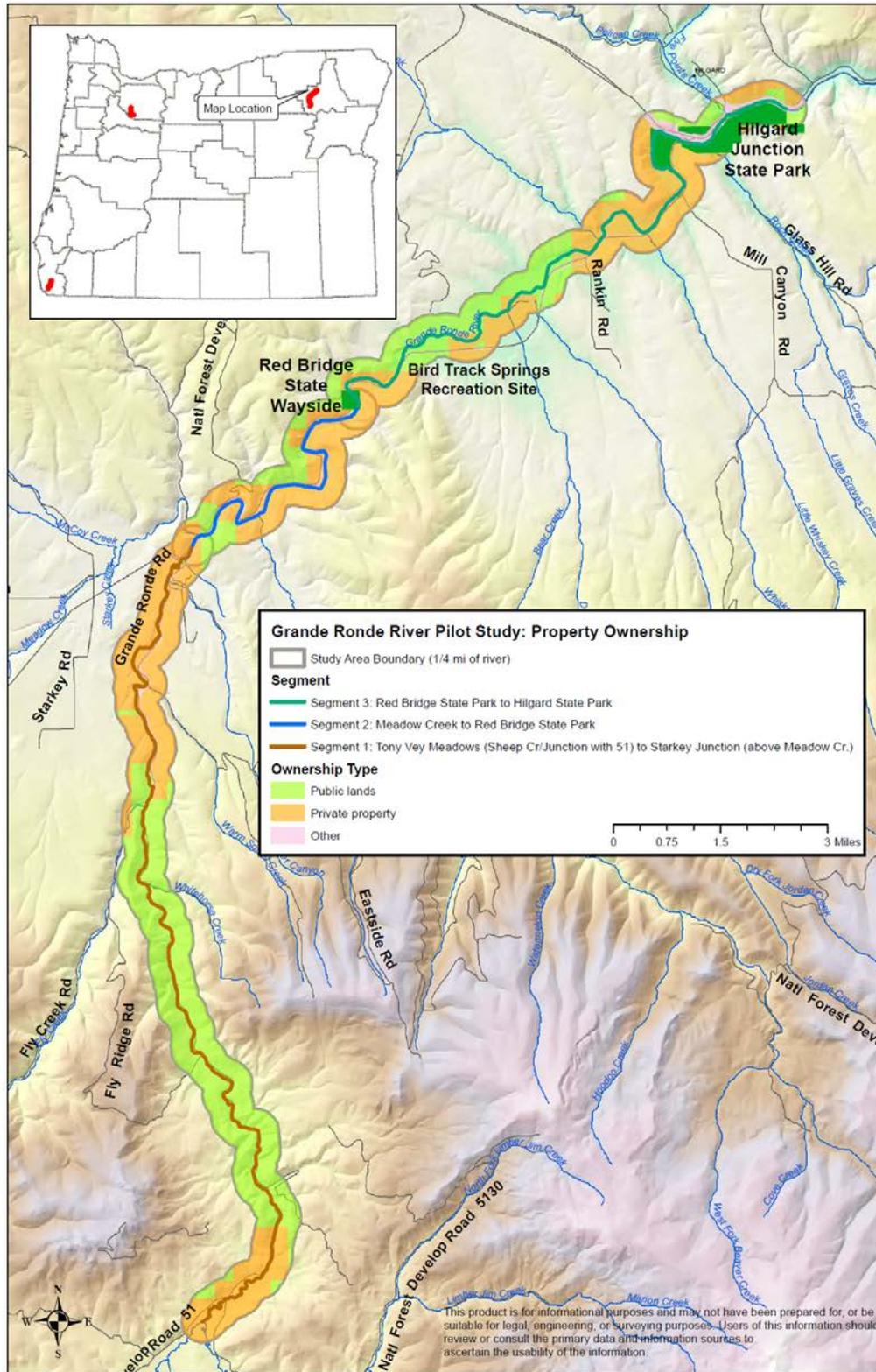


Figure 8. Approximate land ownership types within study area

Application of Waterway Eligibility Criteria

1) Upper Section: Confluence of Sheep Creek (near the junction with Highway 51) in Tony Vey Meadows to the confluence with Meadow Creek

The upper section of the study area **does not** meet all of the eligibility criteria set in statute (ORS 390.855).

Free-flowing: The first criterion that must be met is that “the river or segment of river is relatively free-flowing.”

The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of cultural modifications (e.g., rip-rap) made for the road, some remnant effects of suction dredge mining (mostly above the study area) and impacts from grazing and forestry on private lands. The river is also, for the majority of its reach, naturally flowing (without dams or major diversion) from the headwaters in the Blue Mountains to where it meets the Snake River near the base of Hells Canyon (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). However, about seven miles below La Grande (well below the study area), a large ditch was built in the 1860’s for agricultural purposes and currently diverts most of the river’s water away from its original course.

Scenery: The second criteria that must be met is that the “scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral, or these conditions are restorable.”

The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section ranges from relatively low (on the side of the road with no viable river access), but still pleasing to moderate and pleasing views of the river-scape with unique geology, variable colors in either a primitive-feeling, forested or rural-pastoral setting. The character of this section is a combination of rural-pastoral and primitive with only a few infringements on the naturalness of the corridor. The developments that do exist (primarily as the river runs through the Starkey) are so localized that their visibility does not detract noticeably from the naturalness of the area and generally contribute to the rural-pastoral character of the area. The exception is the road (State Highway 244) as it runs close to the river along much of this study segment with rip-rap lining it in a few spots. Features expected of a “rural-pastoral” setting include fencing, gates and other signs of grazing on private property. Above the study area, a bridge and associated rip-rap crosses the river near Clear Creek, where visitors can learn about the history of mining in the area and recent efforts to conduct habitat restoration. Other developments along the river in the general vicinity include remnant signs of old suction dredge mining activities (e.g., Aurelia mine off USFS Rd 5138), an old day-use shelter, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian’s Fish Acclimation Facility (which spans the river’s width) and a fish collection/monitoring station.

After the pastoral setting of Tony Vey Meadows where the river meanders through grazed meadowlands, the character of the river-scape changes quite quickly to become a narrow canyon with moderately steep forested slopes leading down to rivers edge. Interesting basalt outcroppings

are present intermittently along both sides of the river and provide some variety to the visual landscape and some diversity in vegetation (e.g., mossy covered rocks, lomatians).

The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, the Blue Mountains (seasonally snow-topped), and interesting geologic features combine to provide generally pleasing views of the surrounding scenery of the area. However, along most of this section, it is difficult to obtain views *from* the river itself due to poor access and floatability issues. However, Forest Service roads follows the river closely and most of it can be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road (although there is very limited parking). There are no obvious developed river access points on public lands in this segment; although there are some above the study area that could provide access if/when the river is floatable.

Recreation and natural resources: The two criteria that both must be met are that the river or segment of river and its setting must “possess natural *and* recreation values of outstanding quality” and be “large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource or quality of the recreation experience.”

At the time of the site visit, during which staff explored the upper portion of the river above the study area to look for potential recreational opportunities and constraints, the river was also very shallow in spots and would require carrying/dragging a vessel across rocks when not portaging. As you move down along the river, steep banks begin to make access difficult, with no developed or maintained river access points. While the “8 miles above Tony Vey Meadows” has been noted as being floatable in the past, things have changed considerably with an emphasis placed on fish habitat enhancement efforts (WKCC, 2004). While fishing might be possible, recreational fishing use, if any, is extremely limited in this upper-most section of the Grande Ronde River during most of the year. This segment includes dispersed camping, some ATV use, and hunting is possible along this section during the appropriate seasons. Occasional use of the roadways in the study area by biking enthusiasts has been noted by land-managers and Cycle Oregon had a route through here in the past.

Recreational boating of the upper river is very limited, requiring frequent portaging due to river-spanning obstructions (e.g., logs placed for habitat enhancement) and other hazards (e.g., woody debris) that have increased in recent years. If possible at all, kayaking (the river is too narrow in this section for rafts) would require very frequent portaging due to the large number of river-spanning obstructions (e.g., logs placed for habitat enhancement) and other obstructions (e.g., natural large woody debris) that have increased in recent years. At least in one spot, river spanning barbed wire fencing was observed and would present an additional hazard to boaters (visible from the road). During the site visit, a river spanning obstruction of large woody debris and logs was present immediately below what is described in the Soggy Sneakers guidebook as the “Stygian Steps” (WKCC, 2004). Opportunities to get out before reaching the debris are limited and the run would be short due to the barbed wire obstruction not far above the Steps.

The gently rolling to steep and rocky topography of the segment provide a variety of different vegetation cover types common in the Blue Mountains ecoregion. Riparian vegetation, where visible from the road, appeared generally less dense and lacking in an abundance of age class variation and old growth trees. Some areas are devoid of riparian vegetation due to domestic livestock grazing. The highway 244 grade has had a significant impact on the floodplain and subsequent vegetation structure. There are no listed plants that have been documented in the study area, although there are a few relatively rare species that may be found in the area. Several state and federally listed animal species of concern are also known to inhabit the study area, including multiple runs of at-risk anadromous fishes. There is Federal critical habitat for resident bull trout and Snake River Basin ESU summer steelhead in the area. The Grande Ronde Bull trout SMU includes 12 populations resident to the tributaries surrounding the Grande Ronde. The Grande Ronde core area is identified in the Recovery Plan as containing one of the five most stable bull trout populations in the recovery unit (USFWS, 2014). Restoration priorities for Chinook and Bull trout include increasing instream flows, improving timber harvest practices, increasing large woody debris and structure, increasing riparian vegetation and improving off-channel habitats (BOR, 2014; USFWS, 2014).

It does not appear that this section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values or that it is large enough to sustain *substantial* recreation use. The limited nature of the existing water-based uses in the upper study segment, combined with the lack of public access to the river (except visual access from vehicles or the roadside) indicate it may not meet the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the upper-river as critical fisheries habitat should not be overlooked; however the statute requires that both criteria be met.

2) Middle Section: Below Starkey (near Meadow Creek) to Red Bridge State Park

The middle section of the study area **does not** meet all of the required eligibility criteria (ORS 390.855).

Free-flowing: The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of cultural modifications (e.g., rip-rap) made for state highway 244 some impacts from grazing and forestry on private lands.

Scenery: The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section ranges from moderate and pleasing to more exceptional in nature in a few locations, far exceeding the minimum criteria of “generally pleasing.” Riverscape views include interesting and unique geology, variable colors in either a primitive-feeling, forested or rural-pastoral setting. This middle segment is a combination of primitive and rural-pastoral with only a few minor infringements on the naturalness of the corridor, primarily the road (state highway 244). However, the ability the access the view *from* the river is limited to a small area of public land near Meadow Creek which may, during a short season afford recreationists the ability to float the river and obtain these views.

Recreation and natural resources: Recreational opportunities include day-use pursuits (e.g., scenic enjoyment, bird-watching and other nature-viewing, hunting etc.) and both dispersed camping on USFS lands and possibly some seasonal recreational fishing and hunting opportunities, although it

is likely relatively limited given the small size of the public land parcels and lack of access in this segment.

Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafting) is possible throughout this whole stretch with a put-in just below Starkey, near the confluence with Meadow Creek and either a put-in, take-out or break-spot at either Red Bridge State Wayside or one can continue on to USFS managed Bird Track Springs day-use area. Boating is flow-dependent and therefore limited to a relatively short season, generally from sometime in March through late May. There are no developed boating facilities at either location. Parking is limited to a few vehicles on the side of the road near Meadow Creek. There is a substantial day-use parking lot available at Red Bridge State Wayside at the start of the next segment.

Natural resources are similar to those described for section 1, above.

It does not appear that this section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values or that it is large enough to sustain *substantial* recreation use. The limited nature of the existing water-based uses and lack of public access to the river or surrounding lands in the middle study segment indicates it may not meet the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the upper-river as critical fisheries habitat should not be overlooked; however the statute requires that both criteria be met.

3) Lower Section: Red Bridge State Park to Hilgard Junction State Park

The lower section of the study area **only marginally meets** all of the eligibility criteria (ORS 390.855).

Free-flowing: The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of cultural modifications (e.g., rip-rap) made for state highway 244, I-84, the state parks, and some impacts from grazing and forestry on private lands.

Scenery: The lower section of the study area along the Grande Ronde River (Red Bridge State Wayside to Hilgard Junction State Park) is primarily rural pastoral in character, with cultural modifications including ranches, state park campgrounds, a USFS day-use area and campground, the state highway, a rifle-range, a youth correctional facility and I-84. As the landscape opens up and is less constrained by sharp slopes, the views are of larger areas with extending ridgelines, hillsides interspersed with ponderosa pines.

Recreation and natural resources: Recreational opportunities include day-use pursuits (e.g., scenic enjoyment, bird-watching and other nature-viewing, hunting etc.) and both dispersed camping on USFS lands and at the USFS managed campground across the road from the river at Bird Track Springs along with Red Bridge State Wayside, along with some seasonal recreational fishing opportunities.

Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafting) is possible throughout this whole stretch with a put-in just below Starkey, near the confluence with Meadow Creek and either a put-in, take-out or break-

spot at either Red Bridge State Wayside or one can continue on to USFS managed Bird Track Springs day-use area or Hilgard Junction State Park. Boating is flow-dependent and therefore limited to a relatively short season, generally from sometime in March through late May. There are no developed boating facilities at any of the locations. There is day-use parking available at both Hilgard Junction State Park and Red Bridge State Wayside. Occasionally people have been seen on inner-tubes between Red Bridge and Hilgard.

Red Bridge Wayside provides approximately ten walk-in tent sites and ten additional sites that accommodate self-contained RV's. The first-come-first-served sites have water nearby, picnic tables, fire-rings and access to flush toilets. The day-use area has horseshoe pits, picnic tables and access to the river. The seasonally-open (April-October) park has an annual overnight attendance of approximately 1,500 and day-use attendance of on average, around 20,800/year. Compared to other state parks with camping and day-use in the system, these are relatively low figures for both overnight and day-use (even given the seasonal nature of the park), and it has been described as being somewhat "under-utilized" given the facilities that are available at the site. During the summer, visitors will come down to the river and swim and wade near the day-use and campground. There is a fair amount of use by hunters in the shoulder season. There is some fly fishing that occurs at Red Bridge.

The seasonal campground at Bird Track Springs offers 22 tent/trailer site and associated facilities. Popular activities include camping, hiking, scenic enjoyment, and wildlife viewing. The Bird Track Interpretive Site is located along the Grande Ronde River off Oregon Highway 244 directly across from the campground. It is popular with birders, photographers, and those wanting to view wildlife and plants during the spring, summer, and fall, and with snowshoers in the winter (USDA Forest Service, 2014b). The recreation site has one main trail and five other smaller spur trails with interpretive displays which wind along the river and cottonwood trees (USDA Forest Service, 2014b). Parking is limited to a few spots along the road, unless visitors walk across the road from the campground. The Forest Service describes the use at both of these locations as "light" with users generally being locals from the surrounding area. Occasional use of the roadways in the study area by biking enthusiasts has been noted by land-managers and Cycle Oregon may have had a route through here in the past.

The La Grande Pistol and Rifle Club owns and operates a firing facility downstream of Bird Track Springs. The active facility orients the firing direction toward the river where recreational users pass. There is a ~5-ft. tall set of earthen berms behind the targets that is built to protect direct line-of-fire from possibly injuring boaters. There is a riverside warning sign immediately upriver of the range, warning boaters of possible live fire. During the staff survey, the gun range was visible as boats approached the range and in use. The orientation of the range toward the river and the opposing high banks serves the purpose of the firing range given its proximity and location from Hwy. 244. This land use adjacent to this section of river affects its potential to "sustain substantial recreational use" or an outstanding recreational experience.

Active ranches within this reach pose potential conflict in recreation and adjacent land use. In certain years and at certain flows, the river course meanders through adjacent low-lying pastures.

This results from both natural occurrences (i.e. natural avulsion, capturing of high flow channels, log jams) as well as cultural alterations (bank stabilization). This could result in unintentional trespass by river users as river users.

Hilgard Junction State Park, located between the banks of the Grande Ronde and I-84, provides approximately 18 primitive camping sites and a day-use area. The park has an annual overnight attendance of approximately 2,800 and day-use attendance of on average, around 71,300/year (Figure 5). The park is open seasonally, generally from April-October. During the summer, visitors will come down to the river and swim and wade near the day-use and campground. Some tubing and swimming occurs on the river between Red Bridge and Hilgard. There is a fair amount of use by hunters in the shoulder season. Some erosion is evident on the riverbanks at Hilgard from recreational water-based use near the day-use and campground.

Natural resources are similar to those described for section 1, above.

It is not clear whether this section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values or that it is large enough to sustain *substantial* recreation use. The limited nature of the existing water-based uses in the lower study segment indicates it may not meet the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. Public access to the river is limited, for most of the year, to recreational facilities on public land at Red Bridge State Wayside, Bird Track Springs day-use area, and Hilgard Junction State Park. The importance of the upper-river as critical fisheries habitat should not be overlooked; however the statute requires that both criteria be met.

Overall the recreation opportunities on the river do not appear to have the potential to be popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, nor are they particularly unique or rare within the region. Several rivers in the region, including the lower Grande Ronde River, offer similar scenery and more outstanding recreation opportunities than this study area. Natural resources of national and state importance exist in the study area as there are quite a few rare and listed species known to occur or that have the possibility of occurring because of habitat and proximity to known occurrences.

PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS

On-going Scenic Waterways Program administration and the promotion of waterways with statewide significance requires cooperation and collaboration between OPRD, stakeholders, property owners, and the local community. When determining whether the Grande Ronde River would make a good addition to the program, OPRD reached out to members of the public to engage them in the assessment process and encouraged participation by offering multiple opportunities to provide input. The following methods were used to gather feedback on the study and to gauge public support for including the Grande Ronde River into the Scenic Waterways Program.

Stakeholder Input

Early in the study process, OPRD engaged with property and business owners in the study area. Government agencies and organizations which may have an interest in the possible Scenic Waterway designation were also contacted. OPRD found that stakeholders which own property along the Grande Ronde River were very concerned about the possibility of new regulations and felt that it could be significantly more difficult to develop their land with a Scenic Waterway designation. Property owners also felt that they were currently good stewards of their land and new regulations were not needed to protect this section of the Grande Ronde River. In addition, property owners at the meeting were concerned that if this river segment were promoted as a State Scenic Waterway, the waterway could attract individuals which do not share local stewardship values.

After reviewing possible screening requirements for Scenic Waterway designations, residents and business owners cited concerns about establishing additional landscaping in an arid environment. Although it was understood that existing development would be exempt from OPRD review process, several property owners expressed concern that the designation could lead to the adoption of additional land use regulations by other state, federal, and local agencies.

OPRD also reviewed preliminary study findings with US Forest Service (USFS), a large land holder in the study area, to obtain feedback on the potential designation. USFS staff noted that almost all recreational users within the study area are locals. Comments from both the public and US Forest Service staff indicated that following the clearing of ice from the river channel each spring, there are very few individuals which float the waterway during an annual 4-6 week window. Other than hiking, camping, and fishing at Red Bridge State Wayside Park and Hilgard Junction State Park, the only other observed recreational activity within the study area is wildlife viewing at the USFS Bird Track Springs site.

Written Comments

OPRD developed a webpage to provide information regarding the Scenic Waterway assessment process and to solicit input on potential waterway designations. The project website and an email address for submitting written comments were advertised in a news release and through a public notice in the local paper. At the publicized September 24, 2014 community meeting, comment forms were also distributed to members of the public. OPRD found that the majority of the submitted emails were generated through a national proponent campaign to express support for designating all three waterways. The majority of individual emails, letters, and community meeting comment forms show intense local opposition for including the Grande Ronde River in the State Scenic Waterways Program. Other written comments submitted by conservation groups and other individuals expressed support for new regulations which would protect the natural, scenic, and recreational values of the Grande Ronde River. All written comments that were received have been attached to this report as Appendix B. A summary of written comments in opposition and support of designating the Grande Ronde River into the Scenic Waterways Program has been provided below in Table 14.

Table 14. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Grand Ronde study area

Written Comment Type	Opposed	Support
Individual Emails and Letters	9	4
Community Meeting Comment Forms	18	1
Email Campaign	0	164
Total Written Comments:	27	169

Online Survey

From August 25th to October 15th, OPRD posted a link to an online survey for the Grande Ronde River study area on the agency's 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment webpage. The survey resulted in feedback from 140 respondents. Surveyed participants were asked about what benefits or problems they associate with including the Grande Ronde River into the Scenic Waterways Program. Through the survey, respondents could indicate support or opposition to one, two, or all three segments of the waterway being studied. Statewide survey results indicated that 34% of survey respondents were opposed to designating one or more of the waterway segments, and 66% of the respondents were in favor of the designation. Union County survey results indicated that 48% were opposed to designating the waterway segments, and 52% were in favor of the designation. The complete results of the survey have been attached as Appendix C.

Community Meeting

In advance of the September 24, 2014 meeting, OPRD sent out a news release to all media outlets in NE Oregon and published a public notice in the La Grande Observer newspaper. In addition, a personal meeting invite was sent to approximately 54 property owners, who are direct stakeholders within the Grande Ronde River study area. The meeting was facilitated by OPRD staff and was attended by approximately 55 members of the public. At the meeting, a short presentation was provided to describe the study process, preliminary eligibility findings, initial stakeholder feedback, and how the Scenic Waterways Program is managed by OPRD. Following this presentation, OPRD staff asked for questions and comments from members of the public.

During the meeting, OPRD staff fielded a variety of questions about what implications a new Scenic Waterway designation would have on properties along the waterway. Meeting attendees voiced general opposition to any government program which could create another layer of review, new regulations, or could generate additional expense for land and business owners who wish to develop their property. Community members cited another recent government program which placed woody debris within and along the waterway to improve fish habitat. Property owners indicated that this resulted in reduced public access to the river, formation of hazardous ice dams during the winter, and flooding of some area properties during the spring.

While members of the public indicated that they are concerned about environmental issues, they also stated that area property owners are capable of providing adequate stewardship of the waterway without additional regulations. Several property owners within the study area were concerned that, due to dry conditions, required screening vegetation under a Scenic Waterway designation would not survive unless it was located in the riparian area adjacent to the river. Several representatives of a gun club located along the waterway voiced concerned that a waterway designation could eventually lead to the adoption of new regulations by other local, state, and federal agencies, resulting in the possible elimination of their gun club use on the property. Community members in attendance were alarmed by the need to establish a minimum recreational water flow with a new Scenic Waterway designation, and were concerned that this regulation could prevent the issuance of future water rights to area farmers and ranchers.

OPRD found that all public comments received at the community meeting were in opposition to the possible Scenic Waterway designation. Attendees did not feel that additional protection of the waterway's existing scenic, natural, and recreational values were necessary. In addition, these community members did not feel that any measurable benefits could be achieved by designating the Grande Ronde River into the Scenic Waterways Program. A full transcription of the community meeting has been attached as Appendix A.

County Commission Input

To ensure that local government input was included in this report, OPRD requested feedback on the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterways study from the Union County Board of Commissioners. On October 15, 2014 the Commission held an independent public hearing to obtain feedback from interested citizens prior to responding to OPRD' request. At this hearing, the majority of those who testified were strongly opposed to the possible waterway designation. At the hearing, community members testified that new regulations would create additional burden for property owners due to the increased costs associated with mitigating scenic impacts. They also testified that with a designation, there could be increased visitation to the area, resulting in more trespassing and littering issues on private property along the waterway. In general, the opponents felt that a Scenic Waterway designation would provide no benefit to the local community. After further consideration at their November 12, 2014 meeting, the Union County Commission will adopt a resolution in support or opposition of designating the river into the Scenic Waterways Program. When the resolution is available, it will be attached to this report as Appendix B.

WATERWAY SUITABILITY CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study's eligibility and public input findings, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff has concluded the Grande Ronde River study area is not a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway's program. Staff are recommending to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission that these findings be considered when determining whether this section of the Grande Ronde River is suitable for recommending State Scenic Waterway designation to the Governor. A State Scenic Waterway designation is intended to recognize rivers which have outstanding scenic, natural and recreational values; reserved for the best of the best waterways in Oregon. While particular segments within river reaches exhibit significant scenic qualities, the summation of recreational, scenic and natural resources values throughout the reaches of study does not rise to the level of "outstanding" in a state-wide context.

All river segments in this study are limited in meeting the criteria that it must "possess natural and recreational values of outstanding quality" and be "large enough to sustain recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource or quality of the recreation experience". Both local community members and US Forest Service staff indicated that there is little hiking, camping, fishing or other similar recreational use other than at several designated State and federal use areas along the waterway. Public input also indicates that following the clearing of ice from the river channel each spring, very few individuals have been observed to recreate on the waterway during the annual 4-6 week float window. Based on staff analysis using the criteria as established in statute and with the information available during the period of study, the Grande Ronde River study area only marginally meets the program's eligibility criteria.

The Scenic Waterways Program is designed to provide stewardship of rivers with statewide significance by balancing the protection of that resource with the development interests of property owners. This report has documented that all participating direct stakeholders, which include residents and business owners within the study area, are strongly opposed to any new regulations which could impact existing or future use of their property. The analysis of community meeting comments and local stakeholder input clearly shows that new regulations for Grande Ronde River study area are not desired, or believed to be needed, for the protection of existing scenic, recreational, and natural qualities of the waterway. Public input also suggests that unless new program funding is made available to residents and business owners for area conservation, recreation, and development of mitigation projects, the program could create an economic hardship for property owners along the waterway. For all of the reasons identified above, OPRD staff finds that the Grande Ronde River study area has low suitability for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program.

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APPENDIX A

Grand Ronde Scenic Waterway Study

Community Meeting Transcription – La Grande Library

September 24, 2014

(Steve Kay, OPRD): Alright, we're going to get started. I'll try to speak loud enough for everyone to hear. Welcome to the community meeting, this is for a study of the Grand Ronde River for possible inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program. My name is Steve Kay, I am the Community Programs & Grant's Manager for Oregon State Parks. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to review the waterway assessment process with you. We're also going to be presenting preliminary findings for the waterway and provide you some information on what exactly a Scenic Waterways Designation is. So we're going to have a short presentation for you and then there's going to be lots of time for you to ask questions and provide comments on this study. So for those of you who aren't familiar with the Scenic Waterways Program, it's a State designation process, there's currently 20 waterways around the State that are designated. The waterways were all designated in the 1970s and 1980s and in Northeast Oregon there's section of the Minam and Willowa which are included in this program. There's been some recent interest in this program, renewed interest in this program and as a result the Governor's office has directed State Parks to take a look at three new waterways every two years for possible inclusion into the program, and this is a pilot year for this, the 2014 year. So we wanted to provide some geographical distribution around the State, so for this year the three waterways are shown in red, there's the Chetco River, down on the South Coast, the Molalla River in the Willamette Valley area and the Grand Ronde River in Northeast Oregon. The study area for the Grand Ronde consists of three separate segments, the first from Tony Bay Meadows to Starkey Junction, then from (inaudible) Creek to Red Bridge State Park and from Red Bridge to the Hilgard State Park. The public land is shown in green on this map and private

property shown in brown and we also have maps to the back if you want to take a closer look. So, following completion of the study, State Parks is going to prepare a report for the Governor's office for each river that we take a look at. In the report, we're providing findings on the waterway's eligibility based on certain criteria. First the waterway needs to be free-flowing, with no obstructions or dams; it must have water flows able to sustain at least a seasonal recreation use. The waterway must have significant scenic value as seen from the river, and the river must have natural values which can support recreational use of the waterway. This eligibility criteria is pretty straightforward. However, State Parks realizes that in order for a State Scenic Waterway to be successful, it needs to have local community support. So, in the report to the Governor's office we're not just looking at eligibility, we're looking at the feasibility also of including this waterway into the program. We're identifying issues and concerns, we're gaging public support, and we're doing this in a variety of ways. We've established a web page that's here on the bottom left hand corner that describes the study process; it lets interested citizens know how they can provide input. We've been speaking directly to stakeholders with different viewpoints to understand issues from their perspective. For tonight's meeting we sent out an invitation to all the property owners within the study area, community members that could not attend tonight's meeting still do have the opportunity to provide public input. We have an email address that's listed here for you to provide input, as well as an online survey that can be accessed through this web page. So although State Parks is required to take the little creek waterways during each biennium, it's important to understand that our Agency doesn't have a vested interest in a particular outcome and we're not advocating for new Scenic Waterway designations. Our role is to objectively evaluate the waterways based on a certain criteria and we want to facilitate discussions with the community to see if this is a good fit, and we want to make sure that there's multiple opportunities for public input. So, based on both the assessment of eligibility and the feasibility, the report that we're providing to the Governor's office will evaluate whether or not this could be a good addition to the program. So for the next portion of the presentation I'm going to turn it over to Laurel Hillman, she's a Natural Resources Specialist at Oregon State Parks.

(Laurel Hillmann, OPRD): Thanks. Hi folks. How's everybody doing? So I wanted to give you a brief overview of what the study process looks like and what we've done so far and then hopefully we can get some feedback from folks following this meeting on some of these eligibility criteria since you guys know the river better than we do. So, let me give you a little background on how we came to this particular river, you might have that question, is that we did a course level screening at the Statewide level of all Oregon rivers that aren't currently designated as State Scenic Waterways to look at some of the key criteria of whether free-flowing is their major dam or a large number of divergence on them, is it potentially scenic and is their potentially some level of recreation, so those are our major criteria. So that was done at a State Level and as Steve mentioned there was some filtering to have some geographical distribution and other factors that were evaluated to come down to potential other study rivers. What have we done so far? Looking at the Grand Ronde River study segment is that we've done a field visit and looked at the areas that you can get there via boat, looked at the river from the river since the criteria is the scene as viewed from the river and then driven the road and evaluated it along the whole study segment, documenting the existing river origins and assessing scenic quality and looking and identifying some of the existing natural, recreational features on the river, and something that is ongoing right now which is really important that we get the feedback from some folks in the room tonight is that we're having ongoing discussions with experienced users, people that recreate on the river, that live on the river and Resource Managers, Forest Service, State Parks, and other folks that hopefully people in the room here can help identify and help us determine, because it hasn't been predetermined, whether or not the river is in fact eligible, does it meet the criteria set in statute, having natural values, scenic values, and recreational values that are outstanding. So these are briefly what the criteria in the statute are, these are, not verbatim but pretty much, the river must be free-flowing, the scenes from the river must be pleasing and the river segment must have outstanding natural and recreational values, and the river must be large enough to sustain recreation use without causing harm to the natural values of the existing recreational experience. So, Steve promised that we would present some initial eligibility criteria so we're still working on that. But it does appear that the river study area has no existing dams or major divergent...feedback on that would be greatly appreciated...the other criteria that I mentioned before is

whether the scene from the river is pleasing. Has anybody in the room floated or boated or recreated on the banks of this section of the river? Do you find the view pleasing?

(Public): I don't see anybody boating down the area you're talking about.

(Laurel): Ok, that's important feedback that we'd like to get. I'm going to cover each of the criteria individually. So it's not a requirement that it is boated, it's river based recreation, and we're hoping to get feedback from folks...if you have things that are pleasing or not pleasing as far as the scenery that you know of the study segment we'd really appreciate that via feedback, public comment to help with the study. So here are some shots of the study section. Another criteria is whether or not the study area has outstanding natural and recreational values. So we'd love to hear from you about whether or not you think this section or set of subsections of the river have outstanding recreational fishing, boating, swimming, wading, that type of recreation.

(Public): (inaudible)...inner tube you're going to regret it.

(Laurel): It doesn't have to be year round recreation, it can be seasonal. Most of the existing scenic waterways don't have year round, some of them do, but most of them, a portion of them, don't have year round, boating potential, I'd have to look at that, as far as which ones do and do an analysis on that. It isn't a requirement in the statute that it is year round.

(Public): So you asked for comments on the river.

(Laurel): We're going to have a whole...

(Steve): If we can just maybe focus that on the end. (

Laurel): Almost the whole meeting is going to be a question and answer

(Steve): Yeah, we're not going to take very much of your time.

(Laurel): Yeah, this is almost done and then the whole rest of the meeting is answering your questions. So I did want to give you some background. So I really want to emphasize that we would like your input on any features, natural features, recreational features, and also your issues, concerns and opportunities

regarding this potential focus study. So Steve will talk some more about a designation, if it were designated, if it was found to be eligible, what that might mean.

(Steve): So, it's important to understand what could happen once the study is complete. So once the study is provided to the Governor's office, there could be a decision, there's actually three studies; a decision to designate one, two, three, or none of the waterways that are currently being studied. The Governor could make that decision when the reports are provided to him in January or he may refer that decision to the Legislature which would be meeting the first half of 2015 and they may make that decision. If a new waterway is designated, the next step would be to develop a management plan for the waterway. The management plan is for a quarter mile from the waterways, is the area that it would include, if a management plan were prepared, previously identified issues and concerns would need to be addressed and all existing uses within the waterway would need to be accommodated. The management plan would also be addressing existing recreation and scenic natural values associated with the waterway. So I'd like to now defer to the Water Resources Department Dwight French here who would like to present some more information on their agencies role in development of a management plan if that were pursued.

(Dwight French, OWRD): Thanks Steve. Again, my name is Dwight French and I work in Salem at the Water Resources Department. I've wanted to share with you what the Water Resources Department's role is if there is a designation. So the big thing we have to do if there is a designation of one, two or three of those river segments that we're talking about is develop flows for each segment that are representative of the recreational needs or values. It's interesting because the Department hasn't had to do this in a number of years so we're going back through our records, pulling out old reports to find out how our forefathers have been (inaudible). But what they have done in the past and what we plan to do if there is a designation (inaudible) is to investigate any flow related publications. So there are at least a couple out there that talk about recreational flows for Oregon rivers and we'll dig those up and see if that existing material will help us. We'll also interview any experienced river guides, there may or may not be for the Grand Ronde River. I know there are some river guides that do some work on the Molalla and the Chetco; and we'll coordinate this activity with State Parks.

We'll also have public meetings in the affected places and have a public comment period, both an oral and a written period. That way we're not just talking to experts. If anyone else has some information about what the flow should be we'll be happy to learn that as well. So then after that is completed, we'll make a recommendation to the Water Resources Commission; they're a volunteer group of seven citizens from around the State who serve in that capacity and the Commission will either approve those recommendations, modify the recommendations or not approve them. Eventually, because of the statutes, Water Resources Department has to put together flows representative that are related to the recreational values. If the Commission doesn't approve, what they'll likely do is to tell us to go back as Staff and do more work or collect more (inaudible). So one important thing that I want to point out is existing water rights are not affected. So when we identify those flows, and the Commission adopts some flows for each Scenic Waterway, if there are any, those flows will be subtracted from our water availability database that we use to help us determine whether there is new water available for our new uses. So in some scenic waterways these flow designations could have an impact on new permits. As you might be aware, the Grande Ronde River has been, in the Water Resources view, fully appropriated already. We haven't been issuing any new water rights on the Grande Ronde River. So, the flow designation wouldn't have any effect to whether or not new water right permits are issued. But, I wanted to share that part of the process so it wasn't a surprise if you hear about it a few months from now. Now Water Resources is getting involved in Scenic Waterways, so I wanted to share that. So, I'll be around as well if you have any questions. Thank you.

(Steve): In advance of tonight's meeting, State Parks did reach out to several property owners, business owners, organizations which may have a concern or interest in a possible designation. And what we're going to do is present the more common concerns to you and then we'll review certain aspects of the program which may address those concerns. So there is some common concerns and assumptions about the program, they include the designation could prohibit some existing development and activities, the designation could require additional permits at costs or add time to the existing review process; the designation could prohibit the removal of trees along the waterway; and the designation could regulate recreational uses along the waterway. So I think the best way to start to

address these concerns is to state what this program does not do. So with the State Scenic Waterway designation, State Parks would not review or regulate recreational activity that's contrary to State Parks mission. We're here to promote outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon. Addressing another assumption, all the existing development and maintenance of all the existing development is exempt from State Parks review. All ranching and all farm related activities, that includes things like grazing, constructing fences, crop rotation, those are all exempt from review. When property owners need to cut trees for firewood or remove hazardous trees, those activities are reviewed by State Parks. Not a lot of people have a good understanding of this but State Parks doesn't have jurisdiction on Federal land. So the Federal agencies may ask State Parks for comments if there's State Scenic Waterway designation that's overlaid over Federal land however they can make independent permit decisions about timber harvest or combining operations or anything that is proposed on Federal property. Now, for activities that wouldn't be reviewed by State Parks, if a State Scenic Waterway designation was implied, when new development proposals, like a new home or a new road is proposed, an application is submitted to the county. If the proposal is located within a State Scenic Waterway area, the county will notify State Parks and the review will occur to ensure that the development proposal is consistent with the adopted management plan for that area. By State law, land use applications need to be completed, the review for those need to be completed within 120 days. State Parks does not charge for its review during this process and typically provides a decision and comments back to the County within three to four weeks so that there's not a delay in the County's process. Through this process, new development is permitted as allowed by an existing zone. However, depending on vegetation and topography along the waterway there may be a condition of approval to screen the new development and as seen from the river's viewpoint, through the installation of new planning materials. And typically management plans require the screening to be established within a certain time period like five to ten years so that there is adequate time and reasonable time for the plans to become established. The screening process only applies to new development and that's so the existing scenic quality of the corridor are maintained. For timber harvest, for commercial timber harvest, harvesters would need to notify State Parks prior to tree removal, harvesters are already required to follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act rules

so there's a (inaudible) buffer that's already provided as part of existing laws within the State. With the State Scenic Waterway designation, the harvester could proceed as intended with the tree harvest after State Parks review. The management plan would require a reasonable time period for the harvested area to be replanted and the goal would be to optimize tree density and promote sustainable forest values through that replanting of that harvested area. So that's State Parks presentation for you tonight, we want to give you now a chance to speak. We want to make sure that we give everyone the opportunity to speak tonight. So just keep in mind that after you make a comment or ask a question we want to be able to allow your neighbors to do the same. Also keep in mind that there are probably folks in this room which have a variety of viewpoints. We need to allow the opportunity for all of those views to be expressed tonight. We're recording tonight's meeting and we're going to be forwarding the community's views to the Governor's office so he can gage public support and understand the issues and concerns that may be associated with this possible Scenic Waterway designation. We're going to have a less formal portion of our meeting where you can ask questions, make comments, then after we wrap that up there will be an opportunity for you to make a statement on the record. You can come up here and speak into the recording device, give us your name and address and we'll just make sure that we include your comments verbatim in this report to the Governor's office. So, with that we're going to open it up to questions, please raise your hand and we'll do the best we can to answer your questions.

(Public): Ok, where it says you can develop and.. (inaudible).

(Steve): Yes, new development is allowed per existing zoning.

(Public): (inaudible) ...you can come in and shut us down?

(Steve): No, existing development is grandfathered and not under review so that existing development would be retained with the Scenic Waterway designation. We would not be regulating that at all.

(Public): (inaudible)...if the designation is adopted would there be any additional restrictions on management of the highway...(inaudible)..or vegetation management along the river.

(Steve): So I'm going to have to refer that question to someone that processes permits and proposal requests for the agency to answer that question, but generally there are other examples where Scenic Waterways are adjacent to state highways; ODOT has us review their proposals, bridges and other things that need to be developed as far as highway infrastructure that are permitted and are approved. Would you like to add anything?

(Greg Ciannella, OPRD): Yeah, my name is Greg I work for Oregon State Parks and ODOT certainly has to file notification with our agency just like any other land owner would.

(Public): (inaudible)... now or under the designation?

(Greg): Well everything now was kind of grandfathered in so if the waterway were designated, then if ODOT need to do some kind of bridge maintenance or bridge development or something like that then they would come to us for notification.

(Public): Ok so (inaudible)

(Greg): That's correct. (Public): (inaudible)

(Greg): No, all that's exempt. Only something that's construction.

(Steve): Yes Ma'am.

(Public): You had made the comment that existing land uses, homes and (inaudible) are grandfathered in.

(Steve): That's correct.

(Public): What about landowners who want to add on to...(inaudible)...barns or garages...what happens to new..(inaudible)

(Steve): If there is a replacement dwelling or a new dwelling or a new barn a permit would be applied for through the county, we would be notified if there was a management plan which applied to this area, first in Scenic Waterway. Then we would review it and we would work with the property owner in screening that new structure.

(Public): So the grandfather is only for existing (inaudible).

(Steve): Yes.

(Public): So if my dwelling is visible from the river and they designate now, the designation goes in, you're not going to come in and tell me I have to put in new vegetation.

(Steve): No new planting would be required.

(Public): (inaudible)...garage or replace my dwelling.

(Steve): There's a special provision for garages, garages are exempt if a garage is added to an existing residence.

(Public): But other (inaudible) buildings?

(Greg): If it's a building that is associated with agriculture or ranch use then it's exempt. And your question, if you were to add on a garage that wasn't (inaudible), would you need screening? It depends upon the management plan and what classification that section of river gets and what is existing.

(Steve): Yeah and if everything aligned and it were required to screen we still take a look at the view from the river. So if there is a lot of riparian trees already existing, topography is such that it is not visible from the river there wouldn't be screening anyway, it wouldn't be required.

(Public): One other concern I have...(inaudible)...to include trees and vegetation on my property. We have a very short growing season...(inaudible)...and the natural wildlife that is out there, the deer and the elk, I have not succeeded yet and I have spent hundreds and hundreds, season after season, planting varieties of trees and vegetation with no success.

(Steve): Yes.

(Public): So what happens in that instance when I am being forced to screen my dwellings and I can't get the stuff to grow or to survive.

(Steve): If a management plan were prepared, we would come back to the community with a separate public process where we want to get input from folks on those issues and certainly be involving everyone that has property in that area. So knowing that you are having those issues we want to make sure that

they're addressed in the management plan so that type of thing can be accomplished. I'm not sure what the answer is, we don't know if we're going to have a State Scenic Waterway designation, so we're not taking the extra step of developing a management plan at this time but I see what you're saying, that is an issue that should be addressed.

(Public): You know I fear even by (inaudible) am I able to succeed in what I'm being required to do, are there penalties for that?

(Steve): We would not implement a program where you would fail. This is a program where when development proposals are reviewed, there's a lot of discussion, it's not a heavy handed program. So we work closely with property owners to come up with a solution that works for both sides. It's a little different that some other regulatory programs that you may be familiar with.

(Public): I had one other question, is there going to be any review fees or costs associated with the landowner of the property...(inaudible)

(Steve): There's no review fees with the State Scenic Waterway.

(Public): We're not going to get an extra fee or assessment or tax?

(Steve): No. We're under an unfunded mandate to take a look at three Waterways. We don't have funding for this program that's earmarked. So there's not State Parks police walking up and down the river corridor looking for problems. We're notified when the County notifies us and we work with property owners at that point.

(Public): (inaudible)...three or four government agencies, we're going to have one more to deal with now, something is wrong... (inaudible)...that's a real concern of mine. Another...(inaudible)...If you're driving down some scenic roads you can't see nothing. The trees are growing up so thick along the road you can't (inaudible)...you can't see either side...I couldn't see the river, I didn't know where it was...(inaudible)...so just a couple minor concerns.

(Steve): Sure. Yes Sir.

(Public): About 30 years ago, this side of McIntyre Road, they were thinking about putting a dam in, does your department have right as imminent domain to confiscate property or buy it cheap?

(Steve): No, that's not a policy of State Parks, we don't acquire property that way...(inaudible). Don't know how to address that issue exactly but no, imminent domain is not a park (inaudible). Yes Sir.

(Public): When I spoke with you a few weeks ago we talked about process and the designation comes about by a process with administrative rules. Can you explain to folks what administrative rule means in this process?

(Public): So there's a process that State agencies need to go through to establish administrative rules and typically administrative rules state how a program is implemented. And there are administrative rules which define the management plans for each of the existing State's Scenic Waterways. So if a new Scenic Waterway were added anywhere in the State, there would be work on behalf of State Parks to engage with the community, to get input on development of that management plan. There's a steering committee that's involved that reviews the rules. They're brought to our Parks Commission and there's a series of public meetings involved. So it's a pretty elaborate process, lots of chance for public input along the way.

(Public): I think what I was trying to get at as I'm told here awhile ago, part of the process years ago, when it was BLM, and yes there were lots of avenues for input, as there are with anything, but there's nothing in anybody's rules that's the input from any of us here. There hasn't been really any attention to it, only states that we will provide the opportunity, I've had a lot of opportunity but I haven't gotten much in stats and the administrative rules that would make this scenic basically means that it doesn't have to go through a vote or it doesn't have to go through legislature, is that basically correct, is that the decision will be..

(Steve): No, the decision is made by the Governor.

(Public): See, that's scary, I trust you guys. See the thing is we've been part of so many processes where we have given input...she asked about a house and making a change...I have to assume that the rules for the scenic stretch out here

would be similar to the rules that guide the scenic classification on the lower portion of the river. One of the things that comes up in there is that roofs, you cannot put a metal roof on your garage. Is this correct because it's in violation of scenic guidelines. And the comment that was made about vegetation, if you plant close enough to the river to get water then in the Spring the water would be high enough that whatever you planted is gone and so many of the things that sound so good when you say you are going to plant trees but your picture right there (inaudible)...25 feet and no brush along the river..(inaudible).

(Steve): I understand your concern about turning it over to the Governor's office for the decision, but if it did move forward, and it's a big if, but if it did then the responsibility for implementing the program would bounce right back to us. So we certainly want to promote good will between State Parks and these communities. So we would make sure that if we're moving forward, if we're required to by the Governor's office, in a way that engages you in the development of the management plan. So I hope you do trust me if we get to that point because I'll be looking to get your input again. As far as the vegetation issue based on the conditions out here, could you give some input on how you review other waterways in Eastern Oregon and how you deal with the issue on how you establish vegetation under conditions like that.

(Greg): Yeah, you know, the structure doesn't always have to be 100% screened. There's a lot of language and other scenic waterway rules and regulations that say 50 percent or 75 percent screening or by topography so it doesn't have to be always screened. I have worked with a variety of landowners in putting together a landscaping plan and it's my job to work with the property owner to implement something that's going to work for them and work for (inaudible) scenic value. I can feel your stress for establishing trees in this environment; I've worked as a Natural Resource Specialist for State Parks in this environment to establish trees in this country with deer and elk and beaver and it's really challenging. We used eight foot fences and it cost us a lot of money. So I can understand that and it's really just trying to work on developing a plan that's going to work for both parties.

(Public): One other thing that hasn't been mentioned with your (inaudible)...I'm sure you're acquainted with Red Bridge Park; about half a dozen times in the last

twenty years the ice has blown across Red Bridge Park out over the surface of the highway and the marks on the large trees that are back 30, 40 feet are not because cows are eating the bark, it's from (inaudible). And so even the private landowners are trying to do management or whatever their purpose may be, they have to take all of this into consideration because there are things, even though they sound good and we have pages and pages of documentation that says (inaudible)...in most cases and a lot of cases you just can't simply get there from here regardless of how good your intentions are. Yes, you'll do fences, you'll do landscaping, you provide all this and then she has to pay for it.

(Public): And tall fences are ugly, they're not scenic.

(Steve): Yes Sir. (Public): The Grand Ronde River is divided into three phases?

(Steve): There were three segments that were being (

Public): Ok now, is it possible that one of those segments might be thrown out completely... (inaudible).

(Steve): So that could be an outcome where we find from the input we receive that only one segment really makes sense or maybe none of the segments make sense. So certainly it doesn't need to be the entire study.

(Steve): Yes

(Public): I think you said the existing ranch and farming use, did you say that those won't change, they're grandfathered?

(Steve): Yes, they're exempt; they're exempt from the program.

(Public): So if someone has land and a designation already to run (inaudible) and they are not using it for that purpose now, and it does get designated into future, would that change?

(Steve): Those would not, still not be reviewed. Those are farm uses which are allowed in the State Scenic Waterway.

(Public): So it's not being used in that manner now, it wouldn't effect (inaudible).

(Steve): Right. Right. Yes.

(Public): To follow up on the question (inaudible) pistol range, so they're grandfathered in, but what about replacement of facilities or expansion of that use, does that fall under your review?

(Steve): If it's an expansion of the use, then yes, there would be a review and there would likely be some sort of screening requirement if it's seen from the river. I know that there's a burn along the range and I'm not sure if it's even possible to see it from the river. So we'd have to take a look at it in the review process.

(Public): Isn't one side of the range right on the river?

(Public): Both sides.

(Public): But I mean one on the river and (inaudible).

(Steve): Yes

(Public): So the one on the river side (inaudible) if you can float the river and see it.

(Steve): If you can, if there's a new structure, then yes. And the screening could happen anywhere between where the river is and the building so the screening might be where the bank is.

(Public): I'm wondering if this is a Scenic Waterway for public use and recreation...(inaudible) is that going to be something that's not allowed anymore?

(Steve): No, that's not something that's regulated. It's not one of the criteria for a Scenic Waterway.

(Public): We've been wiped out almost, several times, by flooding, if we get a building torn down or anything because of floods do we have to go through all these permits and everything to rebuild?

(Steve): Would you under the county? I'm not sure.

(Hanley Jenkins, Union County): So if it's something that requires a building permit, the building department is going to ask you to come to the county planning department to get zoning approval first.

(Public): (inaudible).

(Hanley): So (inaudible) are different. But for any building that needs a building permit, now there are exempt structures, most of your agricultural buildings that don't include a car or pick-up truck can get an exemption, but we also issue zoning authorizations for those as well from the State Building department. So remember that this is only a quarter mile on either side of the river, that the State is going to review land use applications and it will only be land use applications that have gone through the county, this process, and we send to State Parks. So if you have to come in for a building permit, the building department is going to send you to (inaudible) for zoning approval, usually it's just a sign off and if you're within that quarter mile and it's designated, we would send notices to State Parks.

(Public): What happens if you turn us down?

(Hanley): That would be, I'm not going to turn you down for Scenic Waterway designation, I'm going to turn you down if you don't qualify under the zone the property is in. The county is not going to regulate the Scenic Waterway designation, we just simply give notice to the State and the State regulates it.

(Steve): This gentleman.

(Public): Now if this is a designated Scenic Waterway, I assume you have plans to increase recreational access.

(Steve): State Parks doesn't regulate recreational use, we do have several State Parks that front the waterway and there could be additional facilities that are developed down the road at those locations but that would be the only locations that..

(Public): But you won't have any existing funding.

(Steve): Correct, for this Waterway program.

(Public): (inaudible) ..four parks.

(Steve): There's two.

(Public): (inaudible)...I've never seen all four full.

(Steve): State Parks has two of the properties. The Forest Service has the other two.

(Public): I'm saying you have plenty of parks out there and you don't have any existing funds. You want to come in, you want to create this Scenic Waterway, obviously you think it's worth preserving because it is pretty, but obviously you've done a pretty good job of (inaudible).

(Steve): Well, going back to my previous comment, I'm not asking for a State Scenic Waterway here. What we're doing is studying the waterway to see if it's eligible.

(Public): I'm just saying it seems kind of ridiculous.

(Steve): And thank you for the feedback, I appreciate that because that's why we're here. But State Parks has nothing to gain from a new Scenic Waterway designation. Now, there's benefits and there's obligations that go with the program. The benefits are that, it's preserving what is there now. If it's important to protect the recreational, natural scenic values associated with the river, if that's something that the community finds value in, then maybe this program's a good fit, but maybe it isn't. But, like you said, there is also obligations associated with the waterway, there's a management plan requirement. There's screening requirements for the new development; existing developments are all grandfathered. So, there's pros and cons.

(Public): Once it's claimed to be a Scenic Waterway the Forest Service can come in and (inaudible) their restrictions on it (inaudible).

(Steve): No, they do not regulate land uses on private land. The Forest Service does not regulate activities on properties which are under county jurisdiction.

(Public): Is there leased property from the Forest Service?

(Steve): No. (Public): Parks doesn't lease any (inaudible).

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): So this program was approved, given the bureaucratic red tape that goes with it, what benefit is it to the community? The river has been there for a

long time, hasn't changed significantly in a long time so I appreciate your studies (inaudible), what does it do for the community, the users within that community?

(Steve): So the benefits that I can put out there are; and you tell me if it is a benefit. What I've heard from the other locations is that if there is a desire to ensure that what's there now remains into the future, this is one way to help protect that goal because your neighbor or somebody along the waterway won't put up a development which dramatically impacts the waterway. That could happen as things stand, so that could be a benefit if you see that is one. The waterway designations are only provided to waterways which provide significant outdoor recreation experiences for citizens of Oregon. And in this case, it's probably more local, regional use that would use this waterway. So, it's a badge of honor, it can be used for promotional purposes, if there was a desire to create new opportunities for outdoor recreation associated with the waterway, if that was a desire, if you saw that as a benefit.

(Public): So other than that (inaudible) brochures.

(Steve): It would be promoted as a State Scenic Waterway.

(Public): So no significant improvements per se other than an attempt to maintain it in the state that it exists present.

(Steve): Yes, that's the goal of the program, is to protect what's there.

(Public): inaudible

(Steve): That could be a future study, certainly.

(Public): I have two questions if I could ask. Right now I went through the government permits to get (inaudible).

(Dwight): In a nutshell, once the Scenic Waterway is designated, the Water Resources Department will identify flows and those flows will be subtracted from our water availability database. So, almost by definition, it doesn't make it easier to get new (inaudible).

(Public): That was my question, how possible is it going to be to get that salt water pond because we're going to be catching that runoff in the Spring of the year, it would normally go into our Scenic Waterway.

(Dwight): Well see if this answers your question.

(Public): So we won't be able to get those in, that's what you're telling us?

(Dwight): Well, I don't think you can get those right now.

(Public): Yeah, I just got them, I got them last year, it took me two years to get them through. I have the permits (inaudible). But now if this goes through, you're telling me now that there's no one else along that river that will be able to get this pond in.

(Dwight): No, I didn't say that. What I said was, when you subtract flows from the Department's water availability database it doesn't make it easier. I think of water availability in terms of months. If there are months of the year when our water isn't available for new uses like storage and Scenic Waterway flows were subtracted from those flows then it might shrink the number of months where a new pond could be permitted; but I know that our Commission, because I gave them a presentation a couple months ago about the Scenic Waterway program and they're working on the study with State Parks, and our Commission told us as staff that they were concerned if any new flows were developed that eliminated opportunities for storage. So, I know that's one thing that we're going to be looking at, because our Commission is very interested in letting folks store water for future uses because a lot of time the Grand Ronde River and (inaudible) rivers in Oregon, there isn't water available in the summertime for new uses so a big way to meet future uses is to store water in the winter time when it's available so that you have some when it's not available. It's not going to make it easier, our Commission has told us that they are not interested in eliminating storage opportunities. You know, in reducing the number of moats, that can help.

(Public): Now, my other question is, I have farmland down by the river. I have a permit right now to take (inaudible).., it's a permitted item I've had for three years now. Now when this goes in, how hard is it going to be to get that permit and if it does, do you pull that permit where I can't do this work that I need to do when

that water jumps out of its banks and actually goes down into my field, are you guys going to be the ones that are going to be liable to pay me for the (inaudible).

(Steve): So mining operations are allowed under Scenic Waterway management plan.

(Public): It sounds like you need to get a permit to do that.

(Steve): So it still comes down to the screening requirements. So is it happening on the other side of the bank where you can't see it from the waterway, where you're moving gravel around?

(Public): Oh no, you'll see it (inaudible).

(Steve): It can be permitted under a Scenic Waterway management plan. I know mining operations are. So, that can be allowable use.

(Public): Ok, but if you're going to get this done in a reasonable amount of time, last time it took me three years to get this permit, by the time I finally got this permit through (inaudible), I had to renew it every year for three years now. (inaudible).. If I don't get my permit within the time I need it and it goes through my property, cause that's what happened the first time, are you guys going to be liable for that, because you're telling me no.

(Steve): So, you probably acquired a permit through DEQ?

(Public): No. DSL.

(Steve): DSL? So, that's a separate permitting process that we're not involved with.

(Public): But if this goes through, you're going to have the right to say.

(Steve): Our reviews typically take three to four weeks. That's how we turn things around at our agency. You know, each agency's different. I'm sorry you had a bad experience with DSL.

(Public): Just saying. Ok.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): You mentioned that the last (inaudible) designation came in the 1970s and 1980s , do you foresee that this program is being (inaudible) every two or three years?

(Steve): So none are being proposed, three are being studied currently during a two year cycle and we are intending to do another three for the next two years.

(Public): And as a follow up question if it looks like the proposal is going to go through and a management plan needs to be put together, how do I know...(inaudible).

(Steve): Are you a property owner or did you hear about the meeting tonight through the paper or how did you get involved?

(Public): I heard about the meeting through the Umpqua National River ..(inaudible).

(Steve): So, one of the reasons we have a signup sheet there is so that we can keep interested citizens in the loop on what happens next so if you give us your information there we'll certainly include you.

(Public): So let's say for example I really wanted to be part of the management plan as a team, is that something you have to be voted in for...(inaudible).

(Steve): If you are volunteering, we will take your name and we can add you to the committee.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): You asked for the definition as viewed from the river and then a quarter mile because various comments and a manager said well within a quarter of a mile and yet we talked about as viewed from the river, what am I missing here? There's a place along the river you can see for 15 miles.

(Greg): So what the Scenic Waterway corridor looks like, it's an administrative boundary and that quarter mile starts at the edge of the river and goes out a quarter of a mile on both sides. It's subjective, so I would say the ordinary high water mark, so right where you have that edge of vegetation and where it's submerged, right on the edge right there, and it's a quarter mile on both sides

and that's how we view it. So when we receive notification from land owners the first thing I do is that we have these really great mapping programs that allow us to put a person's address into a program and put this boundary over it and discover if in fact they are within a quarter mile. Does that answer your question?

(Public): It doesn't answer my question, is mine the same as his. You guys are saying if it can be seen from the river and then you're saying a quarter of a mile, so which is it?

(Steve): If there's an evaluation of whether or not there's a scenic impact, that evaluation is done from that edge of that high water mark, looking a quarter mile.

(Public): So you're standing at the edge of the river and you can see something, or someone wants to build a new building and it's not within a quarter mile but it still can be seen from the river.

(Steve): If it's beyond a quarter of a mile? Then we're not going to look in there.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): On the Forest Management Plan, if you own timber along the river you can only harvest a certain amount of timber, and I see here now you're including a quarter of a mile, are they taking a quarter of a mile from each side or what's the region there?

(Steve): No, you're still allowed to harvest the property according to the Oregon State law on Forest Management however we are also considering the replanting of that area to ensure that the scenic values are maintained and there's a certain time period that you are given to re-establish that vegetation. So it doesn't impact the harvest availability of that area.

(Public): You're restricted to a certain amount though and we saw a landowner (inaudible) be reimbursed for being in those trees.

(Steve): Oregon Department of Forestry is currently the one that regulates that. That's not part of State Parks or what this would require.

(Public): I'm not saying Oregon State Parks I'm saying the Forest Service there the ones that regulate but the landowner is the one that is shaving those trees

and that tree is money to him, he's not being reimbursed for it from anybody. Just like the quote said, government power, if I resist is (inaudible)...sharing of other people's property, and this is what I'm seeing right here. We're not going to be reimbursed for anything and everybody benefits from it. Do you know what (inaudible) means? I can't even say it. Wicked and not just. Sharing of other people's property.

(Steve): Yes. Did someone else raise their hand on this side? Yes Sir.

(Public): As far as the Forest Service stating what they're going to do..(inaudible).

(Steve): So if there was a Scenic Waterway that was created that included some Forest Service Land, we do not regulate it.

(Public): I understand that. Still, it's like an unknown. It's like it's an unknown what the next Governor is going to do when he makes an administrative ruling with what you're going to do, are you going to follow order?

(Steve): Well we can't tell the Federal Government what to do.

(Public): You mentioned that there was a possibility that once you did this the Forest Service, the Federal Government could make their own rule changes to deal with the Scenic Waterway.

(Steve): They have a Wild and Scenic classification for waterways which apply to their properties and they use that to manage waterways on Federal land. So that would be a mechanism, but that's not what is proposed here.

(Public): Well, it's an unknown, what I'm saying. My understanding (inaudible).

(Steve): I'm not sure about that. So the Forest Service has property adjacent to you. Yeah, I don't see this impacting that use from our standpoint because what you're doing is under the jurisdiction of the county on your privately owned property and the State Scenic Watery designation rules apply to Federal property not to private property.

(Public): One thing I'd like to see and it comes from the response you gave when I asked where is the high water mark, where do you view, you made the comment that, you didn't use the word nebulous, but subjective. Much of the land

use I've seen and heard in what's proposed here is rather vague and it depends upon the viewpoint of the individual as to what the definition is. Where's high water? As viewed from the river, what time of year? As landowners and land managers we do not normally run into problems with things that are defined. (inaudible)...what we do for the county for permits, it's coded and it's defined. It's not subjective. It's not based on somebody's definition or interpretation. Maybe part of what needs to be done from my point of view is that the language and the definition needs to be stated clearly enough that we're all playing with the same deck of cards.

(Steve): I agree, I think that some of the other management plans were written quite loosely and before coming to State Parks I was a planner in a small city so I know how it is to work with clear and objective standards. It gives more assurance to the property owner and to those that are reviewing development proposals. I see the benefit of what you're saying. If a new management plan were prepared we could address that issue, it could be very clear where the view from the river is as written into that management plan.

(Greg): You know I suspect that when the rule was written it stated from the river's edge and it's really hard to draw a hard line on the river because as everyone knows, rivers change. Their edges change, and so I think, I can only suspect here because I didn't write the rule, the river's edge was just something that everybody can understand what a river's edge is, but to draw a hard and fast line, you know, rivers move, just suspecting here why they wrote river's edge.

(Public): Most of that (inaudible) river didn't change itself, we changed the highway, and with the railroad (inaudible), matter of fact right there to the right of the pistol club, right there behind those burns you're talking about, that's a ditch because the actual river bed is now a (inaudible) channel..over in the middle of the (inaudible) , it's not actually the river (inaudible).

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): I understand what you're saying, (inaudible)...if this were approved, you would be able to demonstrate control or management only of a quarter mile from the river's edge, even though we might be able to see ten miles.

(Steve): Yes, the waterway designation would only apply to that quarter mile from the river's edge.

(Steve): Yes.

(Public): Secondly if this designation were to be approved, the Forest Service would then (inaudible), to change its operating procedures?

(Steve): No, I'm not suggesting that. The Forest Service looks at property that the Forest Service owns, the Federal lands. There's State Scenic Waterway designations and there's Wild and Scenic Designations. The Wild and Scenic are Federal designations, they can be applied to properties that cross jurisdictions. Just like a State Scenic Waterway can't; this one would cross jurisdictions, it shows on this map where it's public and private, but the State Scenic Waterway designations don't apply to Federal property.

(Public): But the mere fact that you have re-designated this stream, or river, could that simply not do anything to change their designations?

(Steve): Not unless they apply a Wild and Scenic designation, which would be an entirely different process.

(Public): Have you had that occur with previous designations, by the State of Oregon?

(Steve): I am not aware of any.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): Does wild mean, is it controlled or you just let the river go where it wants then.

(Steve): The Wild and Scenic designation is a Federal designation, they have their own criteria on how those are established, just like we have criteria for free flowing, scenic values and other things. But the Wild and Scenic, it's just what they call their designation program. It's a Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, a State Scenic Waterway.

(Public): You mean it can jump the banks and go.

(Steve): It has nothing to do with the wildness of the river, per se.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): What's the timeline of this if the Governor approves it?

(Steve): So, if the Governor decides to move forward with this then it could happen as early as January where there would be a designation but we wouldn't have a management plan. So, we wouldn't know how to deal with the issue until the management plan were prepared. I expect the management plan to take a year to put together and working with community.

(Steve): Yes.

(Public): (inaudible)...there are very few places you can even see the river, what's the use.

(Steve): The recreation is as used from the river which could be bird watching, it could be hiking, it could be picnicking, it could be fishing, it could be boating, it could be any outdoor recreation activity within that waterway.

(Public): (inaudible)

(Steve): Then that wouldn't be allowed; public access points are where that could occur.

(Public): So you're meaning that the public can traverse a quarter mile?

(Steve): No, I'm not saying that. No, I didn't say that. This would not allow the public to trespass on any private property.

(Steve): Yes Ma'am.

(Public): This is a question I was going to ask, I was going to ask you to define the criteria for a Scenic Waterway, at the beginning we talked about recreational use, and just plain talked about wanting to preserve what we have there..(inaudible)..I was going to make a comment that a lot of this river there's no real access to it. You could climb the (inaudible) if you wanted to but why would you, it's a steep climb you're going to go over (inaudible) and brush, and rocks, it's not really accessible, there's no hiking trails, it's not really a fishing

river, the only time you can really fish in it is about three weeks in the Spring. It's a very narrow window because when the river starts to subside and the snow melt off you've got about three weeks of good fishing and then it dries up to a trickle; you can't even float it, only about those three weeks out of the year. A lot of the river like John mentioned, you can't even really see it from the highway and a lot of this section of this corridor. So I have to understand what the recreational value is, you're not going to get out on a boat, or float, or canoe or anything, except for three weeks out of the year. You're only going to fish it three weeks out of the year. You can't even get down to it, how are you going to have a picnic on its banks; the banks are steep and full of brush. So I just don't understand the recreational value. Yes, it's beautiful, sections of the river are beautiful, beyond that I just don't get the recreational value for the public. And yeah, that's another question, what's going to happen to our property values? I'm very concerned about that, the resell value.

(Steve): It's possible property values could be preserved or increased if people felt that this was something worth value to maintain the existing qualities there. I can't predict what would happen with that. And your comments about recreation use, you know the river, you guys know the river, much better than we do and that's why we're having the meeting; to understand whether or not you do think it has recreational value and is the season long enough for a State Scenic Waterway designation. Does it not make sense for one section, two or none of them? So I appreciate those kind of comments, that's what we're here to learn.

(Public): (inaudible)...above, is closed down 60 miles from (inaudible) junction. You don't get through there five months out of the year. It's not possible, not even snowmobile. You try to snowmobile, there's no snowmobile trails. So that section of the river is not even accessible to anything for that part of the year.

(Steve): Right. And as we mentioned before, not all the Scenic Waterways are accessible all times of the year. There's a lot of them that are seasonal use.

(Public): My concern though is that this is going to be designated for the State and for anybody in the entire (inaudible) to enjoy the Scenic Waterway and we're going to live with whatever it brings to us, whatever this outcome is, good or bad,

for that use that has been designated for it and there is no real value there as a recreational use. That's my point, that's what I'm trying to (inaudible).

(Steve): Sure.

(Public): There's not even recreational use there to warrant the impasse that us property owners are going to have to live with.

(Public): Are you talking all three phases or just the first phase tonight? One, two and three?

(Steve): There's three sections.

(Public): Right, and you're talking about all three of them.

(Steve): We're talking about all three, yes.

(Public): And I think most of us are talking from about Hilgard or Meadow Creek up.

(Steve): On the area that does get recreation or doesn't get recreation?

(Public): One, Pony Lake Meadows to the start of the junction. Most of this conversation has been on that and some has been from there down to Hilgard Park.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): Do you have an estimate of how much this is going to cost the taxpayers if this is implemented?

(Steve): This does not cost taxpayers anything because State Parks is lottery funded, it's a lottery funded agency, there's no taxpayer money associated with this program.

(Public): What about the damage to this lady's property? You know, is she going to get reimbursed for litter and all that stuff?

(Steve): For litter?

(Public): Yes, just damage in general.

(Steve): From users?

(Public): Yeah, from your program.

(Steve): Well, this program doesn't encourage or discourage recreational use per se, I know there's some recreation use occurring now. But certainly this program is to educate people on what's allowed in the waterway area, and litter is not of course. So, I don't see this program encouraging that.

(Public): You're trying to encourage tourism.

(Steve): Well, that could be a benefit of the program, to encourage tourism.

(Public): To who?

(Steve): If the property owners felt that it was something that should be pursued, maybe it isn't. Maybe that's not something that you are interested in at all, and, that's fine. We're here to listen.

(Public): You know, someone brought up recreation, if you look on the map you can see various stretches of the public (inaudible) green, the green sections of, if in your travel it says you drive up that road, you will notice that in those areas the Forest Service has very carefully either used boulders or loads of gravel, or (inaudible), or signs, or wipers to actually stop the travel to the river. They take it literally from Sparkey Junction on out to Dave Meadows. There were some wonderful picnic places down on the river itself and they've been dumping boulders there, they've delaminated the access. One of the things you're pushing here, not you're pushing, but is recreation. I know there are dam few private landowners that will let folks cross their ground. To get to the river the private ground is basically the only place you can if you go down to the right of the Pistol Club or (inaudible) or (inaudible) , you have access but it's private property, trespassing. The Forest Service has eliminated recreation on the rest of it. The kayaking, the folks with the handy little spandex pants and their (inaudible), and use it maybe two, three weeks in the Spring, at most. Scenic value you go by your (inaudible), and tell people that you said people floated it, if they only look within a quarter mile there not going to see much. I think you will find that (inaudible), it lacks a lot of what you're after unless you look back away from the

river to see what landowners have done. (inaudible), not within a quarter mile but that's what the (inaudible) looks like.

(Public): (inaudible), and we had built burms to protect the river from our (inaudible). And we would like to build some more, protecting (inaudible). But I would say the back side of the shooting (inaudible) is not scenic. And yes, we do get floaters down there in the Spring of the year, you know, maybe a month, and we accommodate that. It's our policy to shut everything down before a floater goes through and generally two or three boats (inaudible), promoting recreation. But some of what you're promoting would inhibit our recreation.

(Steve): Well, the existing uses are not affected and if this would move forward, we would want to pay some special attention to this particular (inaudible). So, I think we want to make sure that the management plan can accommodate additional burms, if that is what you want.

(Public): If this were to come to a vote, having spoken to our members and we're about a five person club, I could almost guarantee you you'd get quite (inaudible) no votes. And I would like about (inaudible) comments to give to our (inaudible) so that they can put in their comments also.

(Steve): I can do that for you.

(Public) And one thought I had as this lady was talking about the trees that she paid to grow. This gentleman said we are not allowing any more water pipes. So, if she tried to plant trees along the river, but she can't get water from the river.

(Public): I wanted to reiterate what this gentleman has said about what the Forest Service has done above us, if you're trying to do a scenic beauty way, it is ugly. It is really ugly, they're throwing in all these piles of brush and junk (inaudible), then some of them are pushed down over the river. It's really upsetting to us having seen this happen, we don't understand why. There's been hundreds of thousands of dollars used to bring great big trees with the roots (inaudible) in the river which is a really good idea to make pools for the fish but the problem is it's such as small river that the trees will cross the land on both banks so there clear up above the river, all that happens is when the (inaudible) river comes down, pulls some of them down, it doesn't create pools for the fish like (inaudible) what

they wanted, there had to have been more effective and less costly ways of doing it because we knew (inaudible), and we do want to take care of our land, most of us are land owners and property owners and our families before us for generations but I just can't see especially from (inaudible) on up that that is going to be a scenic highway, there's just not a recreational (inaudible), there's just not enough to do. Straight down to the river and you literally have to crawl on your hands and knees to get down river (inaudible), and now we can't even (inaudible) to look down into the river. So, I think that portion of it, certainly wouldn't (inaudible). I think you would be better off designating the highway as a scenic byway.

(Steve): I'll talk to ODOT.

(Public): Have you been out there and just looked at it yourself?

(Steve): I have, yes. Yeah, I'm aware, I've seen that area too.

(Public): And something like that, whose liable when they do upstream work and (inaudible).

(Steve): That's a good question. I'm not sure.

(Public): (inaudible), because I was going to do it and they said if you do upstream work and it causes downstream damage and then you're liable, whoever performed the work. (inaudible), what they're referring to (inaudible), I'm sure it's getting the stream to move over every time and as your well aware of, all that gravel (inaudible), they were (inaudible) upstream, all the little meadows are being washed out.

(Steve): Yep. I see what you're saying. It does impact everybody downstream.

(Public): They put those logs and things in the river, from my understanding, for salmon habitat...(inaudible).

(Steve): I believe that was the purpose.

(Public): And I think the reason that they want access (inaudible), to have maybe a flat area for (inaudible) to enjoy the riverbanks or is it because they don't want

people out there disturbing the river. They don't want people out there disturbing the habitat, so if we're going to be a Scenic Waterway, what are we doing?

(Steve): Well, I'm hearing that that's probably not a good place for a Scenic Waterway.

(Public): You're contradicting, these agencies are contradicting. These agencies (inaudible) their own uses, you know, one is saying they want it to be a Scenic Byway or waterway, recreational use and the others are saying no, no, no, we don't want people in there, we want to preserve the river.

(Steve): Please keep in mind I'm not saying we want this to be a Scenic Waterway.

(Public): No, I know you're not proposing this or a proponent of it, I'm just saying you're gathering information.

(Steve): But knowing these issues, we will tell the Governor, we are recording this right now.

(Public): And please tell him we like involvement, we would like (inaudible) property and land owners, not just let us give our comments, I would like to see what a vote would look like (inaudible).

(Steve): That's a good point and at the end if you could make that statement into the microphone for me and give me your name and address I'd appreciate that. Is there anyone else that has a comment? I think I understand how the group feels basically.

(Public): One more question, if this goes in and becomes a Scenic Byway, as a property owner, do you let everybody float through there, as long as they're in the river, you know,..(inaudible), they say I'm going to pull off down here in this wide spot in the river, which might be on a private individual's property (inaudible), then jump back in, we have to let that happen?

(Steve): If there is a high water area, currently they could do that now, they're allowed to be there the public. So, this would change the area that they could (inaudible).

(Public): So the only thing that's going to make a difference (inaudible), a quarter of a mile.

(Hanley): So you actually own the land under the river because the river is not a designated (inaudible) screen (inaudible) State of Federal Government. Because if that was a designated (inaudible) screen, then they would have a right to be in the, stand on the channel or with any ordinary high water mark, ok, but it's not designated, it doesn't mean that it couldn't be, it just isn't currently designated.

(Public): But then no matter what, I've got to make everybody happy when they go through there (inaudible).

(Hanley): Well yeah, you can't impeded their ability to float by putting a fence across.

(Public): Oh yeah, I'm not worried about that part, that parts not the part that's irritating, I'm just talking about everybody telling me what I can do and what I can't do on my property.

(Steve): So, if there aren't any other questions, I wanted to give some time at the end for folks like yourself to come up, we're wrapping up here so if there aren't any other questions, I just wanted to give some opportunity at the end for folks that would like to make a comment on the record, to come up and then state their name, address and give a comment. This slide gives you more information to stay engaged with the process, so there's information here, our webpage is listed. We have the email address listed for you, my contact information is here so any questions that you have in the future that didn't come to mind tonight, please contact me, I encourage you to. My email address, my phone number is there. Certainly, really appreciate you guys taking the time to participate tonight in the study and we'll keep you informed on what's going on, on the webpage. So, thank you, good night, and we really appreciate you being here.

(Steve): So you can just sit down here and take five minutes or so to state whatever you would like to.

(Public): My name is Sharon Garritson. My husband Meryl and I attended the public meeting tonight on the Scenic Waterway proposal for the Grand Ronde River. We were here tonight with many, many, many of the land and property

owners that this designation would affect, and I speak on behalf of me and my husband and the other landowners in saying that we would really appreciate the opportunity to give a vote on whether or not we as landowners would support such a designation. Even if the vote was not binding on the Governor's decision we would still appreciate the opportunity to at least take a vote so the Governor could see the consensus. My address is 58200 Park Road, La Grande, Oregon, 97850 and again my name is Sharon Garritson. Thank you.

(Public): Bill Chatas, La Grande, Oregon, 5340 Baseline Lane. I've got property on the Grand Ronde River from Meadow Creek up and to me this is just another government taking without just compensation, more restrictive issues pertaining to what landowners are capable of doing or being able to do.



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Paul Plumb

Address: 3002 N F St

City: La Grande State: OR

E-mail: mtvman118@gmail.com

COMMENTS:

The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club, a 500+ member club, would object to the scenic river proposal on several grounds. Our area of the River is not scenic as viewed from the river. The river is only navigable about one month a year and is usually only floated by 2 to 3 dozen folks at most. These floaters are accommodated by our club by shutting down the range while they float by. The recreational value of our club and the range is enjoyed by literally thousands of shooters during the year. The IPSC and IDPA pistol disciplines have monthly matches with 30 to 50 shooters each month, with yearly events with over 100 shooters. The Muzzleloaders also shoot monthly with a yearly event of over 100 participants. The SASS Cowboy Action program also enjoys shooters in about the same numbers, as well as the Traditional Archery program. The clubs .22 programs host approximately 15-25 shooters each month. These programs run year round. They attract local Oregonians, but the large matches draw folks from all over the country which is a financial benefit for the town of La Grande as well as the club. The club's Bench Rest program has hosted shooters from all over the USA plus Canada. The club would not want to see restrictions that would jeopardize our existing recreational uses, or stop development of future opportunities. The club is also used by the Sheriff's dept., US Forest Service, & National Guard for training & qualifications, as well as our members on a daily basis for sighting in or just plinking.

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

APPENDIX B
Submitted Written Comments



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment - La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Roland & Karen Fulbright

Address: PO. Box 188

City: Pilot Rock State: OR
97868

E-mail: Karen.fulbright@centurylink.net

COMMENTS:

The upper Grande Ronde River is NOT conducive to scenic floating by rafts, tubes, or canoes. There is only a month or so of adequate water for floating and most of this is early in the year when it is too cold. The bridge at Red Bridge is way too low to allow floaters clearance when the water is high, and when the water is low, it is too low to float. The scenic value of the River below Red Bridge is not very good. Above there are too many obstacles to negotiate. That is why most floating on our River is done from Elgin to the Minam, and from there to Troy. You can ask the professional float companies where they prefer to operate if you need impute there. Also, I have some concerns about this designation having an effect on the on-going salmon recovery programs. I feel this section of the River is better suited to being viewed from the road. You can't float it, and there is no public access except at the existing parks.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Bary J. Baxter

Address: 2425 4th Street

City: Takeda City, Ore State: Ore

E-mail: Ph. 541-523-7264

COMMENTS:

My reason for objecting to the scenic river proposal is that on the lower segment of this river, from Red Bridge down, is NOT scenic. Some of the things seen from the river right below Red Bridge are buildings, such as dwellings, hay-barns, etc. It circles irrigated fields; it flows through a rifle range, then more hay-barns, then a pavilion for day use, then more fields with circle irrigation. It then passes some earthen barriers put around fields to prevent soil from washing away, then the boy's detention facility with its 12 foot high chain link fence and concertina wire. Below Hilgard Park to La Grande is where the vast majority of upper Grande Ronde River floating trips take place. There is easy public access at the park and not much besides trees and wildlife from there to La Grande.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: John Crockett

Address: 3175 College St.

City: Baker City State: OR

E-mail: jkcrockett@live.com

97814

COMMENTS:

The landowners, especially on the lower segment of the scenic river study, do NOT want this to happen. The restrictions applied could/would be detrimental to their rights to improve their land and/or buildings without undue hoops to jump through. If the improvements they propose in the future would affect the scenic view from the river, they would probably not be granted-not to mention that in farming, when a new building is needed, or repair to an older one becomes necessary it usually needs to be taken care of in a timely fashion (not after a year or so of permits, applications, and committees). It sounds like this will be a very BIG imposition on the existing land owners who are operating on a section of the river without public access, low river navigability, and very low use by the public.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Mike Jensen

Address: 2711 N. 2ND ST.

City: La Grande State: ORE.

E-mail: mjensen@EONI.com

COMMENTS:

The Grande Ronde River from Red Bridge down is just not scenic at all. It is almost all privately owned land. Hay fields, cattle grazing and various farm type outbuildings predominate. The upper part of the River from the forest boundary above Starkey is the most scenic area, but not from the river, as it really is not navigable by rafts, or inner-tubes. This segment is especially scenic as viewed from the road and should be left that way.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: KEVIN DONALDSON

Address: 2801 N. ASH

City: La GRANDE State: OR

E-mail: KEVIN.RFLYER@CHARTER.NET

COMMENTS:

The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club, a 500+ member club, would object to the scenic river proposal on several grounds. Our area of the River is not scenic as viewed from the river. The river is only navigable about one month a year and is usually only floated by 2 to 3 dozen folks at most. These floaters are accommodated by our club by shutting down the range while they float by. The recreational value of our club and the range is enjoyed by literally thousands of shooters during the year. The IPSC and IDPA pistol disciplines have monthly matches with 30 to 50 shooters each month, with yearly events with over 100 shooters. The Muzzleloaders also shoot monthly with a yearly event of over 100 participants. The SASS Cowboy Action program also enjoys shooters in about the same numbers, as well as the Traditional Archery program. The clubs .22 programs host approximately 15-25 shooters each month. These programs run year round. They attract local Oregonians, but the large matches draw folks from all over the country which is a financial benefit for the town of La Grande as well as the club. The club's Bench Rest program has hosted shooters from all over the USA plus Canada. The club would not want to see restrictions that would jeopardize our existing recreational uses, or stop development of future opportunities. The club is also used by the Sheriff's dept., US Forest Service, & National Guard for training & qualifications, as well as our members on a daily basis for sighting in or just plinking.

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Bryan Donaldson

Address: 2801 North Ash

City: La Grande

State: OR

E-mail: bryan.donaldson924@yahoo.com

COMMENTS:

A scenic river study on the Grande Ronde River was done a few years ago and it was deemed NOT suitable at that time. The upper River has not changed since then, except to possibly become less suitable. If the floating public really wants to see 'scenic' river, they go to the lower portion of the river below Elgin to Troy, or the Wallowa/Minam River area. I hope that the Governor and council have not already made up their minds that this designation should happen. Listen to the local population and what they have to say about our area-talk to the folks who USE the river before looking at a map and making an arbitrary decision that won't help anyone see our River!

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by October 20, 2014:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Dave Bingner

Address: 505 Benton Ct

City: LaGrande

State: OR

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS: Please do not burden the upper Grande Ronde with any more restrictive regulations. It is not needed and it will cost taxpayers more, and it could lead to lost revenue to local businesses.

I am against this scenic designation 100%.



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: MARK K. SMITH

Address: PO BOX 908 / 61963 West Rd City: La Grande State: OR

E-mail: Paladin@beaverstate.com

COMMENTS:

*What part of very low river flow do you not understand. Through the range, very low.
Mark*

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014:**

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

*11/20/14
6:51 PM*



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: ROBERT L COOPER

Address: PO BOX 2877

City: LAGRANDE State: OR

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

I AM TOTALY AGAINST THE PROPOSED SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION
FOR ALL 3 PHASES ON THE GRANDE RONDE RIVER

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014:**

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

10/15/14
L. S. O. P.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Paul Kennington

Address: 702 Aquarius Way

City: La Grande

State: OR

E-mail: p-kennington@hotmail.com

COMMENTS:

If a management plan is developed, I would like to volunteer to be part of the team that compiles the plan. I am an environmental program coordinator with ODOT and have known the Gr.R. river for 20+ yrs, so I have local knowledge + a vested interest.

Phz!



PUBLIC COMMENT

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: H.J. Hubbell

Address: 62829 Booth Ln

City: La Grande State: Or

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

I am strongly opposed to the scenic waterway.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Chris Hubbell

Address: 62820 Booth Ln

City: LaGrande State: OR

E-mail: ranch711@comi.com

COMMENTS:

I am opposed to this scenic waterway



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: LaVerna Locken

Address: 2904 FIR

City: LaGrande State: OR

E-mail: L Locken at FRONTIER - COM

COMMENTS: I have lived in LaGrande for 75 years. I see no reason for making the upper Grande Ronde a scenic waterway. There is only enough water maybe to float 2 month a year. The highway follows the river the whole way. The only thing to see is rocks, banks and cattle. ODFW doesn't stock trout. Or steal them anymore. With all the road closures we don't need anymore regulations.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014:**

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Tom Brown

Address: 59888 Upper Perry Ln City: La Grande State: OR

E-mail: dorisbrown43@gmx.com

COMMENTS:

I see absolutely no reason to make this stretch of river with a highway running beside it, designated a "wild + scenic" government controlled area.

I am opposed.

Tom E. Brown

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS: PLEASE SEE ATTACHED sheet sent from Mike Gibson
TO L.R.P.C.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014**:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

Jess

From: Mike Gibson [mailto:MikeG@mgmtargets.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:21 PM

To: La Grande Rifle & Pistol Club

Subject: RE: Emergency Request for Support during a Meeting TONIGHT that might effect the future of our range.

Jess:

I cannot make it on short notice and I doubt that others from out of town will also.

I am writing to remind you that your range serves a HUGE area. People from Boise come regularly, and people from the tri-cities come regularly, as well as from Baker City, Enterprise, etc.. Emphasizing that your facility every month hosts people from a 150-200 mile radius around LG is significant, and also that at least once a year people from Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Boise, and Salt Lake City come, too (i.e. all over WA, all over OR, No. CA, all over Idaho, into MT, UT and WY, and some from Canada as well. There are a hell of a lot more people who use the range regularly than will float the river.

If there is any additional support you need, let me know. Good luck!

Mike Gibson

From: La Grande Rifle & Pistol Club [mailto:jess=lgrpc.com@mail78.atl11.rsgsv.net] **On Behalf Of** La Grande Rifle & Pistol Club

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:00 PM

To: Mike Gibson

Subject: Emergency Request for Support during a Meeting TONIGHT that might effect the future of our range.

[Quoted text hidden]

GARY M. BULLOCK and ASSOCIATES, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1000 S.W. BROADWAY SUITE 2460
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

TELEPHONE: (503) 228-6277
FACSIMILE: (503) 228-6280

◆ Gary M. Bullock

- Joanna L. Dorchuck
Of Counsel
- ★ Arthur B. Fowler ∇
- Colin M. Murphy

◆ Admitted in Oregon,
Washington, Idaho
and California

★ Admitted in Oregon

• Admitted in Oregon
and Washington

October 14, 2014

Union County Planning Department
1001 Fourth Street, Suite C
La Grande, OR 97850

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE
Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301-1271

Re: Oregon Scenic Waterways Program – Grande Ronde River

To Whom It May Concern:

I represent Donovan and Patricia Hampton relating to contesting the State's consideration of including a segment of the Grande Ronde River from Hilgard to Sheep Creek into the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.

Mr. and Mrs. Hampton presently reside on a parcel of land bisected by the Grande Ronde River on a stretch of the river currently being considered for inclusion in the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.

Mr. and Mrs. Hampton and their family have resided on this land for nearly 100 years, putting it to use growing alfalfa and raising livestock. My clients are hard working people, often rising 4:30 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. in the morning to go to work. They live in homes within a quarter mile of the Grande Ronde River. In addition to these hard working people enduring the rigors of their employment, fulfilling the responsibilities relating to their crops and livestock and repairing damage caused by local wildlife, they have been required to clean up messes left by those using the river on their property already. Such messes have included trash, broken bottles, dirty diapers, and used toilet paper. Additionally, my clients have been required to endure loud and disruptive noise at all hours, even including gunshots. This is terribly disruptive to my clients' way of life and is only certain to increase with this portion of the river being included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.

Gary M. Bullock and Associates, P.C.

Union County Planning Department
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
October 14, 2014
Page 2 of 2

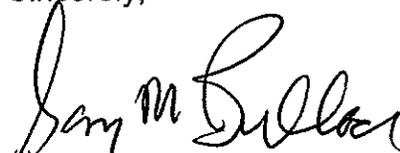
Despite this mess, my clients continue to work their land, tend to the dangers presented by fallen timber, and construct improvements on their land, all of which are required for them to utilize this land in its current state and results in the payment of additional taxes. In the event that the Grande Ronde River is included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program, my clients will be required to seek approval for construction of such improvements or the ongoing efforts required to maintain their current way of life. To impose the obligations on my clients to continually seek permits to construct new buildings for hay storage, barns, to manage the land they have tended to for the last 100 years, is nothing short of absurd.

I implore you to decline the inclusion of the Grande Ronde River in the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program, as it would pose a substantial and undue hardship on my clients and their neighbors.

In the event that the State elects to proceed with the inclusion of the Grande Ronde River in the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program, and my clients are required to continually seek permits or approvals relating to obtaining water for their livestock or for other living purposes; or for the construction or rebuilding of improvements on their land designed to facilitate their farming and livestock operation; or even for the removal of trees that may present a danger or other land management activities, I assure you that such will be met with fierce opposition.

My clients have never been told and should never be told what they are able to do with property that they have paid due compensation for and managed for the last 100 years. In the event that such rights are significantly imposed upon, legal action will be pursued in defending my clients' rights.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Bullock

GMB/dmh

cc: Pat and Donovan Hampton



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Les Henderson

Address: 2312 Adams Ave.

City: La Grande

State: OR

E-mail: ott.les@frontier.com

COMMENTS:

The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club has been on the Grande Ronde River Edge for many years. We have a membership of approx. 500 members. We have year round activities such as traditional archery shoots, blackpowder rounderous, cowboy action shoots monthly, small bore shooting almost year round, IDPA and IPSIC shooting monthly as well. Many people use the range for just shooting, sighting in rifle and practicing with rifles and pistols. Counting organized participation and families.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by October 20, 2014:

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

(over)

and friends using the range we have to count not hundreds, but thousands of people using the range that is within the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile corridor of the proposed park. The rifle range extends on both sides of the river resulting in shooters shooting across the river.

The few people that this will draw will surely cause conflicts, complaints, and legal fights. This could eventually shut down the gun club. Why destroy a recreational area that is already in place and brings in needed economic value to the area?

This looks like an attempt to justify parks and recreation bureaucracy to preserve their own jobs at the expense of a small community that is doing well without you.



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.

If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: DENNIS FULLER

Address: 2806 MINAM CT.

City: LACRAUDE State: OR

E-mail: FULLERAUTO@EON1.COM

COMMENTS: I AM THE MATCH DIRECTOR FOR GRPS, A PRACTICAL PISTOL CLUB THAT HAS A MATCH AT THE GUN RANGE EVERY MONTH. WE DRAW 30-50 PEOPLE EACH MONTH TO COMPETE AT OUR RANGE. WHAT WOULD YOU BE THINKING TO WANT AN ALREADY BEAUTIFUL RIVER TO BECOME A LAND OF NO USE. WE FISH THERE, FLOAT AND RECREATE IN THAT RIVER AND HAVE BEEN OPERATING A GUN RANGE FOR MANY YEARS, FOR MANY MEMBERS IN AND OUT OF THE AREA.

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014:**

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

(OVER)

REMEMBER, YOU WORK FOR PEOPLE
WE ELECT AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE
WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS
AREA. YOU WILL FIND NO ONE IN
THIS AREA THAT WANTS OUR RIVER
MADE SCENIC ~~IF~~. (NON USABLE) NOT
TO MENTION SHUTTING DOWN A GUN CLUB
THAT HAS SPENT MANY YEARS BUILDING
ITS SELF UP FOR A LOCAL PLACE
TO SHOOT & GATHER

DENNIS FULLER

FULLER AUTOMOTIVE

2301 JEFFERSON

LABRANDER, OR 97850

541-903-2713 DAYS

FULLERAUTO@EON1.COM

541-910-4535 CELL

Dennis J. Fuller



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment ~~La Grande Rifle Pistol Club Member Comments~~

If you wish to submit your comments by email, please submit them to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov by October 15, 2014.
If you prefer to submit your comments in writing, please use this form.

Name: Charles R. Ballou Jr

Address: 1800 NE 10th Unit 22

City: Hearst

State: OR

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

I own approx. 100 acres on upper Grande Ronde River, below Starkey Store I'm opposed to Scenic waterway. I raise Buffalo on my land this would take out 35 acres of it my place, Red Post 3/4 mile River → See Back

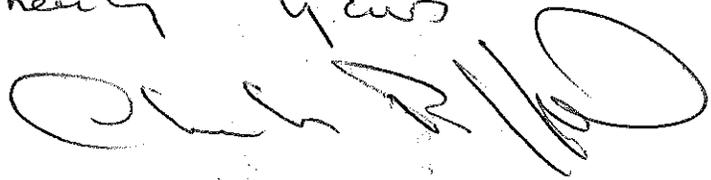
11/20/14
618101

If you are submitting this comment form, please return it to the address below by **October 20, 2014:**

Oregon State Parks
Attn: Steve Kay
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

I have upto 3 Small herds
of 20 animals. There is very
low water in this River from
July to Feb. 8 months out of
year. Except for Spring runoff
River is not floatable. Stream
is very fast & Dangerous
when High.

Sincerely yours





PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
W. H. Tsiatsos	53540 Baseline Ln, LaGr. Oreg 97850	
Darrel Plank	3002 N First La Grande OR	
Margaret Matter	635 Capitol St. NE; Salem, OR 97301	mmatter@oda.state.or.us
Robert J. [unclear]	P.O. Box 308, Seaside, OR 97138	
Sherri Steiber	69550 Haefler Lane Love, OR 97824	
Richard Hohstadt	65691 Booth Ln Coug, OR 97824	
Billa Donna Tsiatsos	53540 Baseline Ln LaGrande 97850	donna.tsiatsos@yahoo.com
DAVE BINGNER	505 BENTON CT LAGRANDE, OR 97850	
Mantha Bailey	209 Harrison Ave La Grande, Or. 97850	COLMADDOG@hotmail.com



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
Paul Kennington	702 Aquarius Way La Grande, OR 97850	p.kennington@hotmail.com
DENNIS HACKNEY	3012 ISLAND AVE LAGRANDE, OR 97850	DENNIS.A.HACKNEY@ORST.STATE.OR.US
Chris Hubbell	62820 Booth Ln La Grande OR 97850	ranch711@eoni.com
Jim Hubbell	62820 Booth Ln La Grande OR 97850	ranch711@eoni.com
Bill Rosholt	10108 Company Club Ln Island City Or 97850	brsolt@eoni.com
Veronica Wernweil, HEPC	Po Box 2768 La Grande OR 97850	Veronica@hellspringcn.org



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
FRANK TAGGART	1706 Z AVE LAGRANDE, OR 97850	_____



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
John Bennett	58303 Grande Ronde R. Rd Starkey OR. 97858	
Jeanne Bennett	" " " "	
Carole Halverson	58310 Grande Ronde Rd. La Grande	icynueranch@gmail.com
Bob DeLVE	" " " "	" " " "
Tim Mahan	10101 Wt Fanny Ave Island City OR 97850	
Harry L. Scribbs	10202 South Grandview Island City 97850	



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
La Grande Library
September 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
Randy Hampton	57119 OR HWY 244 LaGrande 97850	
GREG DEVRAINVILLE	67085 EVO RD, SUMMERVILLE, OR 97876	
Bill BOREN	2008 Oak ST. LaGrande OR 97850	
Mark Davidson	1106 K Ave LaGrande OR 97850	mdavidson@Union-County.org
Hanley Jenkins, IT	1001 4 th St. LaGrande OR 97850	hjenkins@unioncounty.org
Buck & Sharon Garritson	58200 Park RD, LaGrande	sbeisley@hotmail.com
Garth Shaw	67352 Hunter Rd Summerville, 97876	garthshaw@gmail.com
LES NAYLOR	Ag. service building, Island City	LES.NAYLOR@GTRVIR.ORG
LEE SANCOY	P.O. BOX 3385 LA GRANDE OR 97850	_____



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115
okeefe@americanwhitewater.org

September 29th, 2014

Jim Morgan, Stewardship Manager
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1271

Subject: Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment

Dear Mr. Morgan:

American Whitewater writes to express our support for designating the Grande Ronde River as a State Scenic Waterway. Many of our members have chosen to call Oregon home because of the outstanding whitewater boating opportunities in the state, including those that the Grande Ronde River provides.¹ Designating the Grande Ronde as a State Scenic Waterway will not only enhance the quality of life for those who recreate on the river, but will also bring economic benefits to local communities.²

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6,000 members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing thousands of whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has an interest in the Grande Ronde River. A significant percentage of American Whitewater members reside in Oregon, Washington and Idaho—a short driving distance from this river for recreation.

The Grande Ronde River meets the criteria for a State Scenic Waterway: it is free flowing, the river has exceptional scenic quality as viewed from the river, and the waterway provides an exceptional setting for recreational use. Designating the headwaters of the Grande Ronde will not only protect these values, but will also have a positive impact on the entire length of the river.

We look forward to working with you to protect this river for future generations. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the opportunities for whitewater recreation on the Grande Ronde River and the benefits that a State Scenic Waterway

¹ Our inventory of whitewater resources for the Grande Ronde River includes the following:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3079/>

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1512/>

² The Outdoor Industry Association reports that outdoor recreation generates \$12.8 billion in direct spending and 141,000 direct jobs in Oregon State. https://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/OR-oregon-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

designation would bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Keefe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Comments from DOGAMI

Vicki McConnell [vicki.mcconnell@state.or.us]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 11:35 AM

To: MORGAN Jim * OPRD [jim.morgan@state.or.us]; Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Cc: POLLOCK Andree; NIEWENDORP Clark; LYNCH Gary; GRIFFITH Sara * OPRD; BALZER Vaughn

Attachments:DOGAMI Comments_Scenic Wat-1.pdf (129 KB)

Please see attached letter with DOGAMI comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information that may be relevant to your decisions about these river reaches.

Regards,

Vicki S. McConnell, Ph.D., R.G.

^^

Oregon State Geologist
OR Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries
800 NE Oregon St.
Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232
971.673.1550 (office)
503.709.8529 (mobile)
www.oregongeology.org



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Administrative Office
800 NE Oregon St., #28, Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(971) 673-1555
Fax: (971) 673-1562
www.oregongeology.org

Date: October 14, 2014

To: Jim Morgan, Stewardship Manager

From: Vicki S. McConnell, DOGAMI Director

RE: Comments regarding the proposed State Scenic Waterways

As the geoscience and mine operation and reclamation regulatory agency for the state we have information and data about potential mineral resources, mining claims both federal and state, and locations of present and past mining activity. We submit the following information about the three river reaches being considered by OPRD for Scenic Waterway designation. Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification or to discuss whether we have more detailed information that will assist in your considerations. This information was compiled by Clark Niewendorp, DOGAMI Industrial Geologist, and Vaughn Balzer, Floodplain Mining and Water Quality Reclamationist.

Site 1. Molalla River

- There are no permitted DOGAMI mining sites on the Molalla river reach being considered.
- In the study area of the proposed Upper Molalla River scenic waterway, multiple claims have been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in two sections. Both sections are located near the Horse Creek Bridge; claim types are placer and closed.

The Upper Molalla River in Clackamas County (~13 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential*	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	No	
Crushed stone**	Medium	B
Limestone	No	
Clay	Low	B
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals [‡] (precious, base metals)	Medium	C
Coal	No	

Uranium and thorium	No
Geothermal	No
Oil & Gas	Unknown
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite, manganese, titanium, zirconium)	No

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed scenic waterway of the Upper Mollala River is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031 (see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are 12 rock sources (quarries, borrow pits) within the study area.

Each of the aggregate sites is a small surface burrow pit, low volume dig, operated either by the Bureau of Land Management or privately and locally used as a resource.

‡ A recreational placer gold mining corridor starts about 1.4 mi below the bridge located at Glen Avon and ends south at the Horse Creek Bridge, which is within the study area of the proposed scenic waterway. (In the early 1900s, gold mining was active near the head of Ogle Creek (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/clackamascohistorical/sets/72157632127499016/>) in the Headwaters of the Upper Molalla River. This area was and still is a likely source of the placer gold found in the recreational placer gold mining corridor.)

Site 2. Chetco River

- There is one DOGAMI Limited Exemption (08-0006) adjacent to the Chetco River reach being considered but it appears to be downstream and outside of the area potentially impacted by proposed wild and scenic designation.
- In the study area of the proposed Chetco River Scenic Waterway, multiple claims have been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in five sections, which cover the upper half of the area of study (segments 1 and 2). All claim types are placer; all are closed.

A portion of the Chetco River in Curry County (~14 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential*	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	High	C
Crushed stone**	Medium	B
Limestone	No	
Clay	No	
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals‡ (precious, base metals)	Medium	C
Coal	No	
Uranium and thorium	No	
Geothermal	No	
Oil & Gas	Unknown	
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite,	No	

manganese, titanium,
zirconium)

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed scenic waterway of a portion of the Chetco River in Curry County is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031 (see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are no crushed rock sources in terms of existing quarries or borrow pits within the study area. However, volcanic rocks do occur within in the study area and could be a potential resource.

‡ The entire reach of the river in the study area is known for its recreational placer gold mining.

Site 3. Grande Ronde River

- There is one DOGAMI operating permit (31-0061) within the middle of the Grande Ronde River reach being considered. This site would likely be visible from the river and within the area being considered for the wild and scenic designation. The 1991 application for 31-0061 references 1,300 acres but we do not have a surveyed boundary for this site. Further DOGAMI does not have any land use documentation for this site but there may be potential for expansion of the mine boundary. DOGAMI is aware of ODOT material resources within this reach that are below DOGAMI permit thresholds and as such are not covered under DOGAMI permits.
- In the study area of the proposed the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway, a claim has been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in one section, which is in the upper half of the area of study. This claim type is a placer and closed.

The Upper Grande Ronde River in Union County (~29 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	High	C
Crushed stone**	High	C
Limestone	No	
Clay	No	
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals‡ (precious, base metals)	Low	B
Coal	No	
Uranium and thorium	No	
Geothermal	No	
Oil & Gas	Unknown	
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite, manganese, titanium,	No	

zirconium)

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed Scenic Waterway of the Upper Grande Ronde River is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031 (see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are 5 existing rock sources, i.e., quarries and gravel pits, in the study area.

‡ Gravels in several tributaries of the upper portion of the Upper Grande Ronde River are known to contain placer gold.

Levels of Resource Potential:

<p>HIGH mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics indicate a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of the data indicate high degree of likelihood for resource accumulation, where data support mineral-deposit models indicating presence of resource, and where evidence indicates that mineral concentration has taken place. Assignment of high resource potential to an area requires some positive knowledge that mineral-forming processes have been active in at least part of the area.</p>
<p>MEDIUM mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics indicate a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of the data indicate high degree of likelihood for resource accumulation, where and (or) where an application of mineral-deposit models indicates favorable ground for the specified type(s) of deposits..</p>
<p>LOW mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics define a geologic environment in which the existence of resources is permissive. This broad category embraces areas with dispersed but insignificantly mineralized rock, as well as areas with obvious site limitations and little or no indication of having been mineralized.</p>
<p>NO mineral resource potential is a category reserved for a specific type of resource in a well-defined area.</p>
<p>UNKNOWN mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where information is inadequate to assign a low, moderate, or high level of resource potential.</p>

Levels of Certainty:

<p>A. Available information is not adequate for determination of the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>B. Available information only suggests the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>C. Available information gives a good indication of the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>D. Available information clearly defines the level of mineral resource potential</p>

References (not all cited in above text):

- Goudarzi, G.H., 1984, Guide to the preparation of mineral survey reports on public lands: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 84-787.
- LR2000, 2013, Land and Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 system website: Bureau of Land Management, www.blm.gov/lr2000/index.htm
- Ma, Lina, Madin, I.P., Olson, K.V., Watzig, R.J., Wells, R.E., Niem, A.R., and Priest, G.R., (compilers), 2009, Oregon geologic data compilation [OGDC], release 5 (statewide): Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Digital Data Series OGDC-5.
- Olmstead, D.L., 1989, Hydrocarbon exploration and occurrences in Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Oil and Gas Investigation 15, 78 p.
- Niewendorp, C.A., and Geitgey, R.H., 2010, Mineral Information Layer for Oregon, Release 2: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries MILO-Release 2.
- Niewendorp, C.A., Schueller, D.A., and Welch, T.J., 2008, Geothermal Information Layer for Oregon (GTILO-2): Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Digital Data Series, <http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/gtilo/index.htm>.
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, unpublished oil and gas drill hole files.

2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments

Veronica Warnock [veronica@hellscanyon.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 11:55 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Attachments:HCPC_Cmts_GR_Assessment_10~1.pdf (69 KB)

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

Hells Canyon Preservation Council supports the designation of all three of the waterways being studied as Oregon Scenic Waterways. These sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde are all well known and loved by Oregonians who enjoy floating, paddling, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, bird watching, study, contemplation, photography and other activities in and adjacent to these waters. On behalf of our 1000 members, we urge you to recommend the designation of these river segments as Oregon Scenic Waterways.

While we support inclusion of all three rivers into the program, we are the most familiar with the Grande Ronde River as it flows through the heart of the region we work to protect. A letter speaking to outstanding natural and recreational values of the Upper Grande Ronde is attached.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance as this process moves forward.

-Veronica

Veronica Warnock
Conservation Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
PO Box 2768
La Grande, OR 97850

541-963-3950

www.hellscanyon.org

Come feast with us! Celebrate the bounty of autumn at Hells Canyon Preservation Council's Fall Gala, a FUNdraiser in our hometown, La Grande, OR, on Saturday, Oct. 25th. For will-call tickets, email danae@hellscanyon.org. Tickets also available at the door. Delicious local foods. Live music. Inspiring talks. Amazing auction items. Good company. Enjoy quality time out and protect the environment all in an evening. More info at <http://www.hellscanyon.org>



October 15, 2014

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Steve Kay, Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted Via Email scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

Re: Upper Grand Ronde River Scenic Waterway Assessment

Dear Mr. Kay,

I am writing on behalf of Hells Canyon Preservation Council (HCPC) to state our support for designating an upper portion of the Grande Ronde as one of Oregon's Scenic Waterways. HCPC is a nonprofit conservation organization with approximately 1000 members based in La Grande. Our mission is to protect and restore the inspiring wildlands, pure waters, unique habitats and biodiversity of the greater Hells Canyon-Wallowa and Blue Mountain Ecosystems. Our members enjoy floating, paddling, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, bird watching, study, contemplation, photography and other activities throughout the Ecoregion including in and adjacent to the Upper Grande Ronde River.

Three upper segments of the Grande Ronde River beginning at the confluence of the Sheep Creek (near the junction with highway 51) in Vey Meadows and ending at Hilgard Junction State Park are currently under study for inclusion in the Scenic Waterways program. HCPC supports the designation of all three segments of the Grande Ronde under study as one of Oregon's Scenic Waterways. Our members value the fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities provided by the Upper Grande Ronde and many of our members regularly use this portion of the Grande Ronde for wildlife viewing, fishing, and private boating trips. Designation of these upper segments would ensure preservation of the habitat and recreational opportunities provided by this section of the Grande Ronde River.

Wildlife regularly use this river corridor and some depend on the associated riparian areas for part of their life cycle. The Upper Grande Ronde River watershed supports many threatened, endangered, and sensitive terrestrial vertebrate species including the Columbia spotted frog and Northern bald eagle. There is a sizable elk herd in the area that uses the river and has to cross it to travel between adjacent security habitat areas. The area also supports pileated woodpecker, pine marten, northern goshawk, and primary cavity excavator – all sensitive species. Designation

of the Grande Ronde study area as an Oregon Scenic Waterway would ensure that the free flowing character of these waters would be maintained in quantities necessary for these wildlife uses to continue into the future.

The Upper Grande Ronde also supports a productive fishery and provides spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River Basin summer steelhead, Snake River Basin spring chinook salmon, bull trout and redband trout. The summer steelhead, spring/summer chinook and bull trout are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened species. Large amounts of money and effort have been expended to restore fish habitat especially on Segment 1 (Vey Meadows to Starkey Junction) of the Grande Ronde study area. Scenic Waterway designation would be consistent with these efforts and help to ensure fish populations are maintained.

Recreational fishing on the study segments is common in the summer months and the number of private kayakers and rafters who use this portion of the river grows every year (use is concentrated in study Segments 2 and 3). Scenic Waterway designation of the Upper Grande Ronde would preserve scenic and aesthetic qualities from the river perspective and ensure the free flowing character of the river for current and future recreationalists.

It is our belief that the highest and best uses of the waters within the Upper Grande Ronde River are recreation, fish and wildlife uses. Designating the Upper Grande Ronde as a Scenic Waterways would ensure that the waterway is maintained quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses while protecting adjacent property rights and property values. We urge the department to recommend that the three upper segments of the Grande Ronde River under study be designated as Oregon's next scenic waterway.

Sincerely,



Veronica Warnock
Conservation Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
P.O. Box 2768
La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-3950
veronica@hellscanyon.org

2014 Oregon Scenic Waterways Assessment, Grande Ronde River

Adams, Todd [TAdams@idahopower.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 12:58 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Cc: OLIVER Sue

Attachments: Grande Ronde Scenic Waterw~1.pdf (146 KB) ; Maps for Comment Letter re~1.pdf (967 KB)

Idaho Power Company comments on the Grande Ronde River 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment as attached.

Please contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Todd Adams

Idaho Power Company

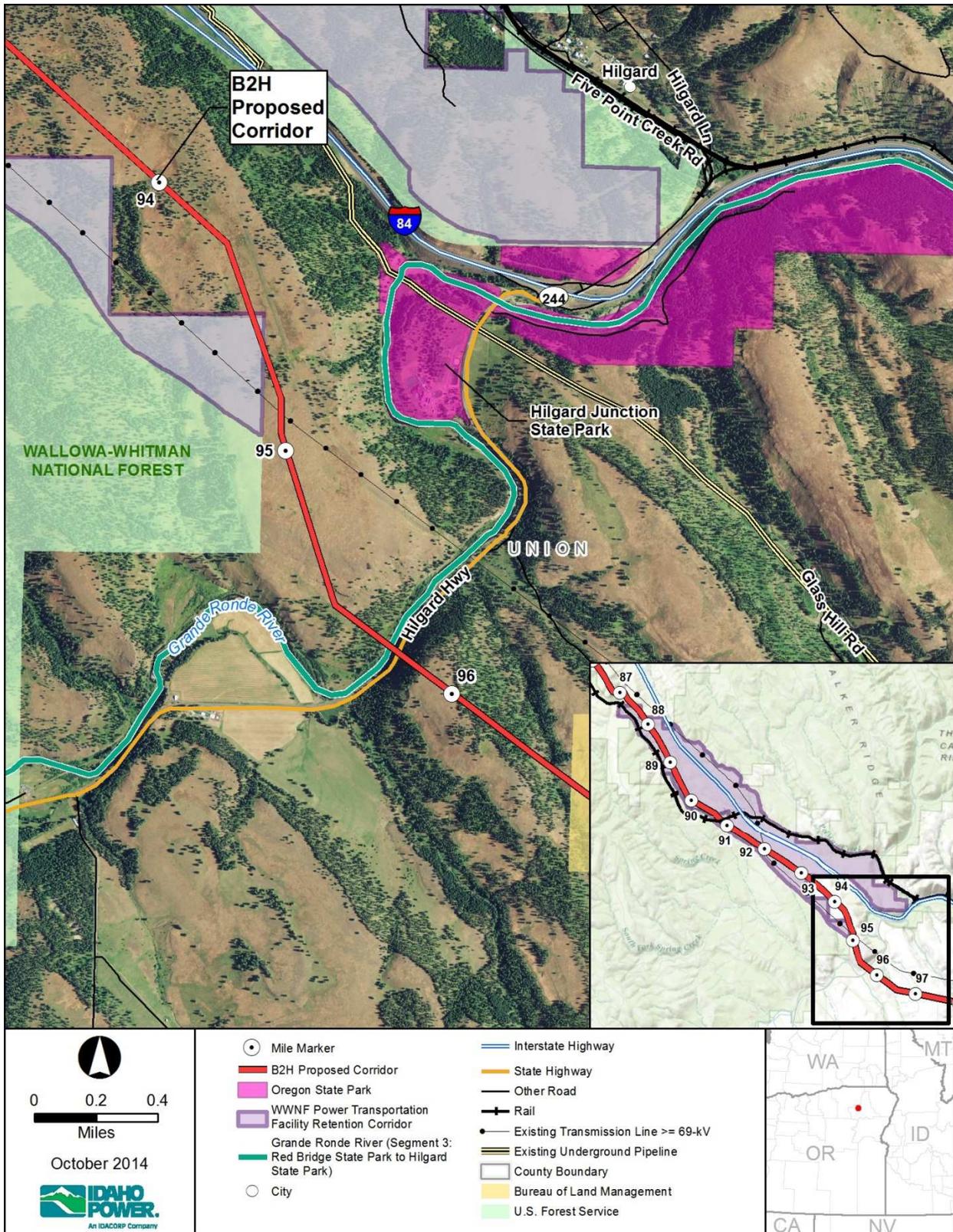
208-388-2740

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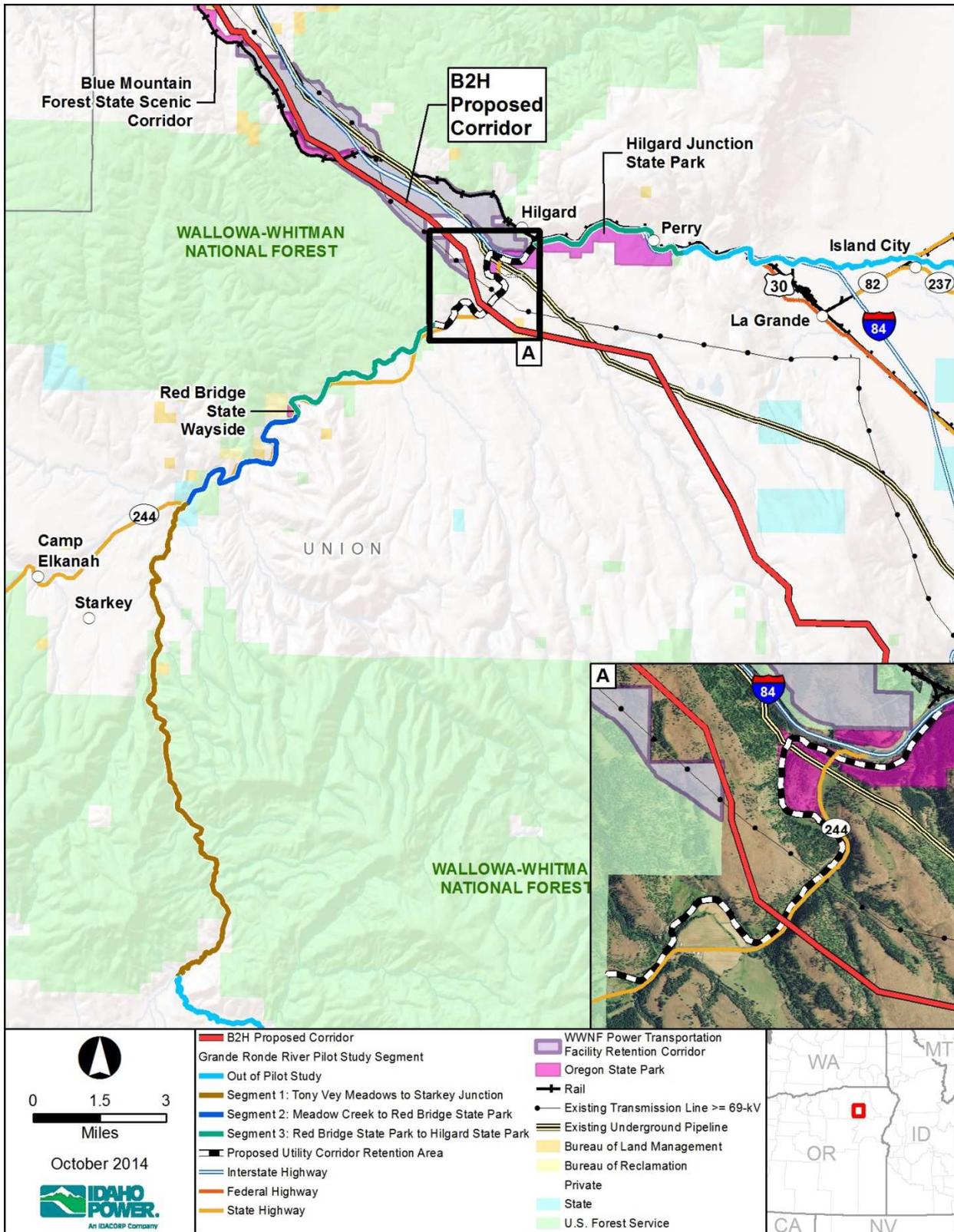
P:\GIS_PROJECTS\ID_CO_Power\B2H_TransmissionLine\MXD\MRG_Requests\B2H_GrandeRondeRiver_FullExten_08i11i_20141008.mxd

Figure 1 – B2H Proposed Corridor and Grande Ronde River Pilot Study Area



P:\GIS_PROJECTS\ID_CO_Power\B2H_TransmissionLine\MXDs\MRG_Requests\B2H_GrandeRondeRiver_08i11i_20141008.mxd

Figure2 – B2H Proposed Corridor Crossing Grande Ronde River



P:\GIS_PROJECTS\ID_CO_Power\B2H_TransmissionLine\MXD\MRG_Requests\B2H_GrandeRondeRiver_FullExtentExclusion_08111_20141015.mxd

Figure 3 – Proposed Utility Corridor Retention Area

October 15, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Steve Kay
Trails Programs and Services
Division Manager
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem OR 97301
scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

**Re: 2014 Oregon Scenic Waterways Assessment
Grande Ronde River – Segment 3 (Red Bridge to Hilgard State Park)**

Dear Mr. Kay:

Idaho Power Company (IPC) respectfully provides the following comments regarding the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) 2014 Oregon Scenic Waterways Assessment, specifically regarding the OPRD's assessment of the Grande Ronde River for potential designation as a State Scenic Waterway. IPC is generally not opposed to designation of the Grande Ronde River as a State Scenic Waterway; however, IPC is concerned about the designation of a portion of Segment 3 (Red Bridge to Hilgard State Park) (see attached maps) for the following reasons.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Power Transportation Facility Retention Corridor

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan¹ (WW LRMP) provides that "One Existing Utility Corridor [...] is designated in order to facilitate authorization of future utility rights-of-way. It lies along I-84 west of La Grande and presently includes several facilities." This corridor is referred to as the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Power Transportation Facility Retention Corridor (hereinafter, the WW Utility Corridor).

As shown in Figure 1 (attached), the WW Utility Corridor is located perpendicular to the Grande Ronde River, and specifically is located so that a linear utility facility entering or exiting the WW Utility Corridor cannot also avoid crossing Segment 3 (Red Bridge to Hilgard State Park) of the Grande Ronde River. This dynamic is illustrated by the locations of Interstate 84 (I-84), an existing Bonneville Power Administration 230-kV transmission line, and an existing underground pipeline, all of which cross the Grand Ronde River shortly after leaving the WW Utility Corridor (see Figure 2, attached).

The OPRD rules and statutes restrict potential development that may occur within a State Scenic Waterway. A State Scenic Waterway designation for the Grande Ronde River near the entrance of the WW Utility Corridor could create additional permitting difficulty and expense for

¹ The Forest Service is currently in the process of revising the 1990 WW LRMP as part of the Blue Mountain Forests Proposed Revised Land Management Plan (2014 Revised Plan); though not yet final, the 2014 Revised Plan appears to retain the designation of WW Utility Corridor as a utility corridor.

a new linear utility development. Additionally, if the new utility project is subject to the jurisdiction of the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), the Grande Ronde River would likely create a permitting barrier, because State Scenic Waterways are considered “Protected Areas” which must be avoided in accordance with the EFSC Protected Area Standard (OAR 345-022-0040(1) and (2)).

As a general matter, IPC is concerned that OPRD’s potential State Scenic Waterway designation of the portion of Segment 3 (Red Bridge to Hilgard State Park) of the Grande Ronde River near the WW Utility Corridor is in direct conflict with the federal planning direction that the WW Utility Corridor should be used to aggregate disturbance from existing and future utility facility infrastructure in a single path to across the Blue Mountains. Although impacts to State Scenic Waterways/Protected Areas may be permitted in certain limited circumstances, the creation of a Protected Area at the entrance to a utility corridor appears to put state and federal land management objectives squarely at odds.

IPC’s Proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

In particular, IPC is concerned about how OPRD’s designation of this portion of the Grande Ronde River as a scenic waterway might affect IPC’s pending federal and state permitting applications for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project), an approximately 300-mile-long, 500-kilovolt electric transmission line between Boardman, Oregon, and southwestern Idaho.

IPC is currently seeking federal Right-of-Way (ROW) authorizations from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). BLM is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act analysis for the ROW authorizations, and IPC expects that the BLM will issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the B2H Project in November 2014. IPC is simultaneously seeking state approval for the B2H Project. IPC submitted a preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC) to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) / EFSC in February 2013. IPC is currently in the process of amending its pASC, and anticipates submitting an amended pASC in spring 2015.

Over the last six years, IPC has engaged in a lengthy siting process, including community and stakeholder involvement, environmental and other resource studies and impacts analysis, and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, to develop a proposed route for the B2H Project that best balances the many siting constraints. Early in the siting process for B2H, it became clear that the WW Utility Corridor offered a unique siting opportunity because it would allow B2H to cross extensive National Forest lands and the Blue Mountains in a reasonably direct route and with the least possible impact to forestlands. Accordingly, the existing WW Utility Corridor became a key siting opportunity for the B2H Project and, ultimately, was a key driver in IPC’s identification of a proposed corridor. In May 2013, BLM selected this route as its “preliminary environmentally preferred alternative.” Siting the B2H Project in the WW Utility Corridor is consistent with federal land management policies.

However, as demonstrated by the Figures 1 and 2, the B2H Project exits the WW Utility Corridor and must cross the Grande Ronde River. If the Grande Ronde River is designated as a State Scenic Waterway, it will also be considered a “Protected Area” which must be avoided in accordance with the EFSC Protected Area Standard (OAR 345-022-0040(1) and (2)), and may present a permitting obstacle for the B2H Project. Additionally, IPC must present analysis of compliance with the OPRD rules and statutes regarding development within a State Scenic Waterway. Although impacts to State Scenic Waterways/Protected Areas may be permitted in

certain limited circumstances, the creation of a State Scenic Waterway/Protected Area at the entrance to a utility corridor will create a new permitting challenge for B2H. While perhaps not insurmountable, this permitting challenge will require additional analysis and agency review, and will likely create additional permitting expense and delay.

Proposed Modification to OPRD's Designation

In light of the potentially conflicting state and federal land management direction that may result from a State Scenic Waterway located perpendicular to a designated utility corridor, IPC requests that the OPRD narrow the area under consideration for designation as a State Scenic Waterway to exclude the Proposed Utility Corridor Retention Area (see Figure 3) near the entrance to the WW Utility Corridor. IPC believes this modification would be consistent with existing and proposed uses in the area. In the alternative, if Segment 3 of the Grande Ronde River is designated as a State Scenic Waterway, IPC requests that the OPRD collaborate with IPC to develop a management plan for the Grande Ronde River that will allow for the construction and operation of the B2H Project in the location currently proposed notwithstanding its status as a State Scenic Waterway/Protected Area.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about the B2H Project or IPC's siting process.

Sincerely,



Todd Adams
Project Manager

Encl:

PDF Maps of B2H Project Crossing Grande Ronde River Pilot Study Area

Cc:

Sue Oliver, Oregon Department of Energy (w/ Encl)

Don't add Grande Ronde River

steve lindley [lindleysteve@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 9:57 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Please accept this as my comment on the inclusion of the portion of the Grande Ronde River upstream from Hilgard that is currently under review for Scenic Waterway designation.

I don't know how much you actually heed any comment the public makes on these matters, but please don't designate this section of river as wild and scenic. From your office in Salem the Grande Ronde is a long drive, but for those of us who live and work here, it's part of our valley. Too many restriction come with the designation, and we just don't need that. If you guys want to add sections of rivers over on your side of the state to the list, then go ahead, but leave us alone over here.

Steve Lindley, V.P.

Steve Lindley Contracting, Inc.

66946 Miller Lane

Union, OR 97883

ph 541.910.3981

fax 541.562.9029

Fw: SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION OF THE UPPRE GRANDE RONDE RIVER.

Rocky R. Mink [rockym2@frontier.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 2:29 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Cc: Rocky R. Mink [rockym2@frontier.com]

To Whom Ever It May Concern:

As a Discipline Director for the LaGrande Rifle and Pistol club I do not like the idea of the State of Oregon demonstrating any more control over our property than they presently do. The recreation opportunities that we provide are many and varied and are partaken of on a daily basis by our membership. Although different than floating down a river.

I oppose this program TOTALLY!!!!!!

Firstly, the Upper Grande Ronde doesn't even meet OPRD's stated criteria in their Land Owner's Guide(pages 5 & 6).

OR. Hwy. 244 and US Forest Service Road 51, run adjacent to and within sight of the river for most of the length of the areas described.

These are both primary arterials for the State of Oregon, Union, Umatilla, and Grant counties with significant usage daily.

Secondly, the river is floatable now. Even though there is a narrow window of time for floaters to enjoy it, before the water levels drop in the summer.

However, certain parts of the river can be very treacherous even for the most experienced floater due to downed trees and other hazards along the way during high water.

Thirdly, Most of the public accesses to the river were blocked off or removed during the '70s and '80s. Due to the continuing issue of "Graffiti" garbage, litter, and Human Feces that were left near the river at these sights. I personally don't think we need to learn that lesson again. Do we?

Fourthly, this proposal will impose undue regulation and restrictions on all adjoining landowners big and small. Especially, the village of Starkey. All of which will serve no value except to a potential few

floaters. I believe this to be unreasonable, as well as unfair.

Lastly, I believe this proposal is a HUGE WASTE of both TIME and MONEY by certain State of Oregon Agencies, The Govenor, and OPRD in particular, with no significant benefits what so ever.

Rocky R. Mink

901 H Ave.

LaGrande, Oregon

Ph. 541 663-0560

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Grande Ronde River Scenic waterway designation

Pat [thermochick@eoni.com]

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 2:47 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Attachments: Wild and Scenic Designations.pdf (37 KB)

The attached letter is submitted on behalf of the Union County Cattlemen in opposition to the designation.

Pat Larson
Secretary, Union County Cattlemen

61931 Cottonwood Rd.
La Grande, OR 97850
October 12, 2014

Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept
Grants & Community Programs Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem OR 97301

RE: Wild and Scenic Pilot Study, Grande Ronde River

Mr. Kay:

On behalf of the Union County Cattlemen we are submitting these comments to inform the department that we do not support designating the Grande Ronde River as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Grande Ronde River has limited opportunities for recreation activities as described in the Parks and Recreation Department's initial review photos. We were surprised to see people floating the river in the photos when the river is at its spring runoff and no photos showing an attempt to float the river at other times of the year. The opportunities for this kind of recreation activity is extremely limited due to the limited volume of water in the river past the runoff. The river can easily be waded during the summer and fall seasons.

The management program goal to promote the waterway as a special place, enhancing tourism and economic development opportunities with outdoor recreation will not be met in this area. Some may perceive the resources along the river as outstanding, but outstanding is subjective and Oregon Parks lacks an objective method to make this assessment. We do not think there are unique scenic qualities of the Grande Ronde River compared to other areas of Oregon and tourism to the area is not drawn to river for a quality recreation experience. The obligation to develop a management plan to protect the existing natural, scenic and recreation values will be burdensome to the private landowners as well as the rest of the citizens of Union County, because the waterway is already regulated through the federal Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Division of State Lands, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Department of Agriculture. Adding another designation and management plan makes little sense and can only create new prohibitions in an area that is already over-regulated with little benefits and economic return to the communities.

The Grande Ronde River corridor should not be designated Wild and Scenic and we urge you to drop it for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Murchison, President
Jason Beck, Vice-president
Pat Larson, Secretary

COPY: files
Union County Commissioners

FW: Grande Ronde River

KAY Steve * OPRD

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:40 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

FYI

From: KAY Steve * OPRD
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Leslie Anderson
Subject: RE: Grande Ronde River

Good Morning Leslie,

I appreciate your comments regarding State Parks' study of the Grande Ronde River and it's possible inclusion into the State Scenic Waterways program. Your comments are valuable to understand the issues associated with this river. It's important to note that the Wild and Scenic River program is administered by the federal government, not State Parks. Also, State Parks is not proposing a State Scenic Waterway designation for the Grande Ronde River. Our role is to study the river for program eligibility and to make sure that citizens' comments like yours are fully understood by the Governor when we present our report to him in January. I will definitely make sure that your comments are included with this report.

To stay informed on State Parks' waterway assessment process, you can use this link:

http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Pages/Scenic-Waterways-Assessment-Process.aspx

In addition, I encourage you to fill out an online survey regarding the Grande Ronde River by scrolling to the bottom of the this Scenic Waterway webpage (the survey is open until October 15):

Thank you,

Steve Kay, AICP
Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0705
steve.kay@oregon.gov

****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE****

This email may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this email in error, please advise me immediately by reply email, keep the contents confidentially, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system.

From: Leslie Anderson [rbm@eoni.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Cc: KAY Steve * OPRD
Subject: Fw: Grande Ronde River

Good Morning.. would appreciate some feed back on this response

First of all let me tell you a true story... Back on 1/18/2011 we had great big chunks of ice in this river.. damaging chunks and logs floating down also... and it flooded our property.. Reason : Fish and wildlife and also the indian reservation.. bor... had lost a fish counting panel.. a big one that got stuck in the mud and debris in an earlier storm. BECAUSE OF THE FACT.. they changed the flow of the river with their fish counting station.. even brought in heavy equipment and used it in the water. which you know if I was to do that it would be a big NO NO. so because of this we suffered and flooded.. ok let me tell you about the help we received..

1. emergency services in town could not help .. only evacuate us.. We were also in the La Grande observer news...
2. Gretchen Sausen with f&w said we could get a permit if trees were in sediment to be removed.. and gave two other names Sarah Kelly in bend at dept of state lands, and Nadine Kraft at odfw . They appeared to be more interested in the salmon than us... and also Alan Childs from from the tribes.. which he never got back to us...

since then they also have been bringing in logs and dumping them like garbage on every extra spot they can find along the road... so next time the flooding will be much worse...

You know we don't want more govt in our lives....you can't control the wild horse, the wolves or the new medical Marianna.. this wild and scenic thing will only bring more crime here and trash and fences being cut.. then you will say well we aren't prepared to help you... You will destroy our way of life and safety....



Comments concerning possible listing of the Grande River as a wild and scenic river from Hilgard Park to Tony Vey Meadows

Lee Insko [leeinsko@hughes.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 10:50 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD; DAVIDSON Mark

Cc: jerosa60@gmail.com

I am a long time resident of Union County (46yrs), a retired college professor and administrator (27 yrs - EOU), and a part time cattle rancher (46 yrs). I understand the administrative guidelines under which the Wild and Scenic proposal is being made for the Grande Ronde River from Hilgard Park to Tony Vey meadows and I strongly oppose such designation based upon the following issues.

1. The upper Grande Ronde River has a limited drainage area, with limited heavy snow pack. Most of the snow pack is under 7000 feet and therefore melts early and quite rapidly which results in a heavy early spring flow that naturally drops to a much lower flow very early. There is a very limited time when safe recreational floating of the river is safe. Economic impact from such limited opportunity would not, in my opinion, offset anywhere close to the negative economic impact which result when a Wild and Scenic designation is placed on a stream.

2. It appears from the map furnished by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department that 30+ % of the land being impacted is in private ownership. W & S designation definitely places onerous restraints on this private property concerning personal economic development, directly impacting these individuals. If Oregon Parks and Recreation wishes to reimburse each of these land owners for recreational use of the land at the rate of \$5 per lineal foot of river bank, such an impact might be alleviated but the State has no history of such offsets. The result of State control of private land has a long term negative impact on the economy of the region. The argument that the economic input gained from recreational use would offset such private losses has been proven to be false. A study done by the University of Montana, where the impact of losing one small saw mill in Libby, Montana (less than 80 employees) needed approximately 1,000,000 recreational visitors to offset the economic impact of losing the mill. While the W & S designation would not have such a large economic impact, it has the potential for adversely impacting the ability of the Union County to properly fund schools, health care and law enforcement protection over the long term.

3. I believe that Wild and Scenic designation invites an outside clientele which has a mind set that any such designation gives the public wide freedom to use the land for all recreational purposes whether private or public. For the most part the State guidelines support such an attitude on the part of such individuals. The result has been nationally has been lawsuits challenging activities on such land. Now the private land owner must pay to defend himself while the environmental associated organizations can recover legal expenses under the equal access to justice federal legislation, even if that environmental organization loses all but one point in a multiple point legal action.

4. In general the long term impact of state and federal government regulations on rural, natural resource based economies has been devastating on the local viability of our communities. W & S designation or any move for more government control would further reduce the ability of our natural resource based rural communities to provide the services that tax revenues are supposed to fund. While W & S designation would not have a huge economic impact initially, it is just another attempt by the urban majority to exert their authority politically over the future of natural resource based communities and must be resisted whenever such government regulations make no long term sense to those areas being effected. There are presently in place sufficient regulations concerning management of waters of the state and the forest to make sure that areas like this portion of the Grande Ronde River are not ruined.

wild and scenic designation

John CollinsI [johncollins696@gmail.com]

Sent:Tuesday, October 14, 2014 3:31 AM**To:** Waterways Scenic * OPRD

I am always shocked by how government can come up with such programs that affect personal property rights and have such dramatic effect on the affected owners of the properties. this is just another grab by government to future control of a river that in my estimation does not meet the Wild and scenic designation. Union county zoning already provides for much of the land to be zoned Forest or rangeland with either 240 or 320 acre zoning. there is very little public land along the river until you get to the Dry Beaver Road. this once again is just a grab so the government can have future control of access and effect potential use of the irrigation water in the Grande Ronde valley.
Sent from my iPad

GRANDE RONDE RIVER SCENIC WATERWAYS (specifically from Sheep Creek to Hilgard Park)

October 15, 2014

William G. Tsiatsos
53540 Baseline Lane
La Grande, Oregon 97850

Please document in the OR Parks and Recreation records, this submission as a formal written communication in connection with the public meeting scheduled for October 15, 2014, to discuss the "Grande Ronde River being evaluated for designation." (as part of the Grande Ronde Scenic Waterways)

"Government power, if unresisted, produces iniquitous (wicked and unjust) sharing of other people's property."

(quote from an article published in the Observer by columnist George F. Will, called "GOVERNMENT THE LOOTER")

The Constitution of the United States - Amendment V

;.....nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.¹

According to this amendment the private land owner should receive just compensation from the government whenever they lose control of their land to government agencies through new projects. Everyone is required to live by the constitution of the United States.

The United States Government would subtly be taking away the rights of the private land owners with this new consideration by Gov. Kitzhaber and the Parks and Recreation Dept. to add a portion of the Grande Ronde River to its Scenic Waterways.

This objective evaluation by the Parks and Recreation Dept., needs to include these comments:

- Private land owners ability to manage their property within the scenic waterways designation will be inhibited by regulations from the Parks and Recreation Dept.
- The Grande Ronde River designation from Sheep Creek to Hilgard Park, does not have adequate CFS to allow navigation of any sort except during the Spring run-off, which for recreational purposes would be dangerous.
 1. The National Forest Service and other agencies, has put woody matters, boulders and debris in the river in the recent past that have caused obstruction which prevent this section from qualifying as a ***"free flowing waterway."***

2. The river gorge is narrow, rocky and treacherous in certain locations on this section.
3. Funds are being spent to create adequate fish habitat on this section. Is the suggested recreation compatible with the plan to enhance fish habitat.

The majority of land in Oregon is owned by the government, and they are unwilling to manage it effectively. The state should consider how they can utilize what they currently control to generate income to support our economy.

The waterway will inhibit the use of private land owners ability to manage their property for ¼ mile on each side of the river's bank.

What is the CFS criteria for the Parks and Recreation's use of the waterway? Would this criteria for the Parks and Recreation affect the rights of private land owner's irrigation, current and in the future?

Would land condemnation be a consideration in the future of this project?

Private land owners are committed to be good stewards of their property 365 days a year. Their goal is to maintain and enhance their land for future generations. Unlike the government agency, Parks and Recreation, who utilize their facilities at their discretion. A good example is the parks that are currently locked up for approximately 6 months out of the year.

In conclusion, it is our desire to maintain our private property without the interception of government agencies. We oppose the suggested designation of a scenic waterway in the Grande Ronde River area.

Respectfully Submitted by William G. Tsiatsos, October 15, 2014

NEDC Comments on OPRD Consideration of State Scenic Waterway Designation for the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers

Dashiell Farewell [dfarewell@lclark.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 8:01 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Cc: Marla Nelson [msnelson@nedc.org]

Attachments: 2014 10 15 NEDC OPRD Comme~1.pdf (146 KB)

To The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Attached please find the Northwest Environmental Defense Center's (NEDC) comments on OPRD's recent proposal in the 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment to designate The Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as Oregon State Scenic Waterways. NEDC appreciates your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dashiell Farewell

NEDC Law Student Volunteer



NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97219
Phone: (503) 768-6673 Fax: (503) 768-6671
www.nedc.org

October 15, 2014

Submitted via email to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
Attn: 2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: NEDC Comments on the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD)
Consideration of State Scenic Waterway Designation for the Molalla, Chetco, and
Grande Ronde Rivers**

The Northwest Environmental Defense Center (“NEDC”) submits the following comments on the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation’s (“OPRD”) 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment, which considers designating the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers as State Scenic Waterways. NEDC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. Given this mission, and the purpose of State Scenic Waterway designation to protect valuable waterways in Oregon, NEDC would strongly supports an OPRD decision to designate these three waterways as State Scenic Waterways, and NEDC encourages OPRD to do so.

Comments

I. The proposed designations would further the purpose of the State Scenic Waterway Act.

The purpose of Oregon’s Scenic Waterway designation is to protect valuable waterways in Oregon. The designation aims to strike a balance between protecting natural resources, preserving the scenic value of the rivers, and promoting recreational use and enjoyment. NEDC supports these aims and as such supports OPRD’s proposal to designate the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as State Scenic Waterways.

If approved, these Scenic Waterway designations would be the first such designations in 26 years. These rivers are bountiful resources. NEDC firmly believes OPRD should not only designate these three rivers as State Scenic Waterways, but that

those designations should only be the first of many. A State Scenic Waterway designation provides strong protections to Oregon's vibrant yet fragile river ecosystems that would otherwise be put in jeopardy by potential development and infrastructure projects both on, and around the rivers.

OPRD rarely designates rivers as State Scenic Waterways. By increasing the number of these designations, OPRD would be taking a very positive step forward toward a more comprehensive environmental policy that achieves real impacts. Designating rivers as State Scenic Waterways is good for the health and vitality of the bounteous and diverse ecosystem that thrives in and around the rivers. It is also good economic policy because it encourages tourism and serves as excellent publicity for Oregon's waterways. Finally, it is good for the reputation of the state more generally, demonstrating that Oregon takes seriously its role as steward of its river resources and the multitude of life those waterways support. In short, it is sound policy to designate rivers as State Scenic Waterways. OPRD has NEDC's full support in proceeding not only with the three designations currently under consideration, but also with more designations in the future.

II. Designating these rivers under the State Scenic Waterway program will have meaningful impacts.

Oregon's rivers, including the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde, sustain dozens of species of fish, including Chinook salmon (Oregon's State fish), steelhead trout, and mountain whitefish. Birds include blue herons, egrets, and many species of ducks and geese rely on clean, well-preserved waterways for food, and build their nests on or near the banks. Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep need the rivers for fresh drinking water. Many species of frogs, toads, and turtles live in and around the rivers as well. Without adequate protections for the rivers, all of these species are put in jeopardy. With a State Scenic Waterway designation, these species and their habitats are much more likely to thrive in those waterways. This is good for the overall health and robustness of the environment. These rivers are an invaluable, irreplaceable source of life, and their protection is essential to preserving Oregon's biologically rich and diverse ecosystems.

Of course, the positive impacts of State Scenic Waterway designations for these rivers would extend to the many thousands of people who use and enjoy these rivers year round as well. Nature enthusiasts, campers, hikers, boaters, fly fisherman, and birdwatchers would all be much more likely to visit the rivers, confident that Oregon is taking steps to preserve and protect the waterways. This will allow for the most enjoyable and positive experience possible for visitors. Those who already use and love the rivers will be confident that their enjoyment will continue for many years to come if they know the rivers are protected by a State Scenic Waterway designation.

Oregon is justifiably famous for its outdoor opportunities for locals and visitors alike, and for its vibrant and diverse ecosystems. If OPRD wants to encourage and promote the use and enjoyment of the Oregon's parks and outdoor recreational activities, both by Oregonians and by visitors from around the United States and around the world, NEDC is confident that designating the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as

State Scenic Waterways would be a very beneficial step in achieving that direction.

Conclusion

In sum, it would be very beneficial for OPRD to designate the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers as State Scenic Waterways. NEDC encourages and supports OPRD in proceeding with these designations. OPRD has, up to this point, been reluctant to designate rivers as Scenic Waterways. NEDC strongly encourages OPRD to change that stance, beginning with these three rivers. By designating rivers as Scenic Waterways, OPRD will serve the state as whole. These designations would have numerous beneficial results, from preserving and protecting the vibrant ecosystems that thrive within and around the rivers, to increasing tourism, to demonstrating that Oregon is a progressive advocate for environmental protection of its natural resources that other states can look to for guidance. Not only would the ecosystems sustained by these rivers benefit immeasurably from a Scenic Waterway designation, but Oregon as a whole will benefit as well.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dashiell Farwell
Student Volunteer

Scenic Waterway - Grande Ronde River

Carol Grubbe [cgrubbe@live.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 10:32 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

I support designating the Grande Ronde River beginning near Sheep Creek - around the junction with Highway 51 and ending with Hilgard Junction State Park as a Scenic Waterway.

I believe the above area meets the criteria of the free-flowing nature of the Grande Ronde River, the scenic quality of the river and the many natural and recreational resources found at this location.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carol Grubbe
3108 North 4th Street
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 786-8110

COMMENTS ON GRANDE RONDE RIVER SCENIC DESIGNATION

Sharon Beck [becow@alichel.com]

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 2:12 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

We oppose the designation of the upper Grande Ronde River as a recreation/scenic classification for the following reasons:

1. The land over which the river runs is predominantly in private ownership.
2. There are obstructions in the river to accommodate other uses of the land.
3. Such designation has the potential to disrupt present use of the land and/or cause conflict between land owners and recreationists.
4. Any public plan developed by the state to preserve and/or "protect" river values has a high degree of risk to subjugate private property rights.
5. The scenic, fish and wildlife values in the river are substantially protected presently and by its nature the present owners use is unlikely to change.
6. Because the governor "wants" 3 river segments studied for designation each biennium is far from a good reason for designating them scenic/recreation and going through an expensive, and contentious planning process.
7. Most of the year the river is too shallow to float a boat which restricts use to spring runoff times. That use at that time is not disallowed presently.

Sincerely,

Bob and Sharon Beck

64841 Imbler Road

Cove, OR 97824

541-963-3592

Proponent Email Campaign for the Chetco, Molalla and Grand Ronde Rivers

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'd like to offer my support for the inclusion for the Molalla, Chetco and Grande Ronde rivers into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Each of these wild, free flowing watersheds are unique and precious public resources that deserve to be valued foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

The Molalla is one of only two free flowing rivers in the Upper Willamette watershed. Its emerald green waters flow out of the Table Rock Wilderness through a corridor of public land that is frequented year round by hikers, bikers, equestrians, rafters, kayakers and anglers. The river itself is home to a recovering population of threatened wild winter steelhead. These wild fish spawn and rear within much of the mainstem river captured within the ORPD's currently proposed Scenic Waterway segment for the Molalla.

The Chetco River is at the heart of Oregon's Wild River Coast. Undammed and free flowing from its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to the Pacific, the Chetco's rugged beauty, cold and clear water and abundant wild, native fish make it a destination for travelers from across the country and an invaluable community resource, right out the backdoor from Brookings, OR. I support the inclusion of all three segments listed in the planning maps, from the Chetco Gorge in segment one near the terminus of the National Wild and Scenic section, downstream through the South Fork Chetco confluence to Alfred Loeb State Park in segment three. Hikers, bikers, boaters and anglers seek out these segments of the Chetco for their remarkable beauty and recreational benefits. These parts of the river are also home to wild fall Chinook salmon, winter steelhead, searun cutthroat and threatened coho salmon.

The Grande Ronde River is an iconic eastern Oregon watershed and a recreational focal point for Oregonians and outdoor enthusiasts. Flowing out of the Blue Mountains, the Grande Ronde's cool and clean headwaters are enjoyed by rafters, hikers, hunters and anglers as well as the threatened populations of spring Chinook, steelhead and bull trout that call these streams home. I support the inclusion of all three segments listed in the planning maps, from Tony Vey Meadows, through the angling deadline at Meadow Creek in segment two, downstream to Hilgard State park in segment three. Each of these sections display the kind of exceptional recreational and aesthetic values Oregonians seek to protect and enjoy long into the future.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on the OPRD's 2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments. The Molalla, Chetco and Grande Ronde are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be the perfect way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Warmly,

Brad Lucas
North Vancouver, BC
V7m3m1

Craig Langer
Bend, Oregon
97701

John Gwin
Boise, ID
83702

Charles B Hammerstad
San Jose, California
95120

Ramsey Gregory
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95758

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98108

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Clay Newton
Portland, Oregon
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Henry Newhouse
Florence, Oregon
97439

BE IT REMEMBERED, that at a regular term of the Union County Board of Commissioners, for the County of Union, sitting for the transaction of County business, begun and held at the Joseph Building Annex in the City of La Grande, in said County and State, on Wednesday of said month and the time fixed by law for holding a regular term of said Court, when were present:

The Honorable	STEVE MCCLURE	Chairman
	MARK DAVIDSON	Commissioner
	WILLIAM ROSHOLT	Commissioner

WHEN, on Wednesday the 12th day of November, 2014, among others the following proceedings were had to-wit:

IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING)	
DENIAL OF STATE SCENIC WATERWAY) RESOLUTION	
DESIGNATION FOR A SEGMENT OF)	2014-13
THE GRANDE RONDE RIVER)	

WHEREAS, ORS 390.855 instructs Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) to periodically study candidate waterways or segments thereof for inclusion in the Scenic Waterways program;

WHEREAS, OPRD identified a segment of the Grande Ronde River from Hilgard upstream to its confluence with Sheep Creek as a candidate stream segment for Scenic Waterway program inclusion;

WHEREAS, candidate stream segments must be able to meet three general criteria- free flowing nature, scenic qualities viewed from the river and natural and sustainable recreational use;

WHEREAS, OPRD held a public information meeting on September 24, 2014 and Union County Commissioners held a public hearing on October 15, 2014 to solicit public input on the proposed eligibility and designation into the Scenic Waterway program for the subject stream segment and no one commented or testified in support;

WHEREAS, comments and testimony in opposition to the subject designation have focused on the stream segment not having scenic qualities or sustainable recreational values.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, STATE OF OREGON;

SECTION 1: SCENIC RIVER CRITERIA NOT MET

The Union County Board of Commissioners finds that the segment of the Grande Ronde River from Hilgard upstream to its confluence with Sheep Creek does not possess scenic qualities viewed from the river nor does it include sustainable recreational use opportunities.

SECTION 2: RECOMMEND DENYING SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION

The Union County Board of Commissioners oppose the proposed Grande Ronde River segment inclusion in the Oregon Scenic Rivers program.

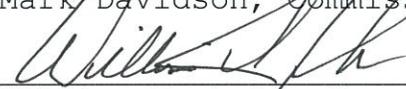
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of November 2014, by a vote of the following members of the Union County Board of Commissioners voting therefore.



Steve McClure, Chairman



Mark Davidson, Commissioner



William Rosholt, Commissioner

APPENDIX C

Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Study ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

Data were obtained from a questionnaire (questionnaire is included at the end of this appendix) administered to any member of the general public interested in providing comments to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on the potential addition of the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System. Those interested in providing comments were directed to complete the questionnaire on the SurveyMonkey internet website (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/>) during a period from August 20 to October 15, 2014. The total number of completed surveys was 140. Survey results are not generalizable to any larger population, but simply a method to provide those unable to attend a public meeting the opportunity for public comment.

Results

The first question asked for the respondent's zip code. Table 1 shows that 91% of respondents lived in Oregon, 5% resided in Washington, 3% were from Idaho, and 1% were from California. Among respondents, 63% were from Union County, 9% lived in Multnomah County, 5% in Lane County, and 4% from Willamette County.

Table 1. Respondent location of residence

State	Percent
Oregon	91
Washington	5
Idaho	3
California	1
Oregon County	
Union	63
Multnomah	9
Lane	5
Wallowa	4
Baker	1
Clackamas	1
Deschutes	1
Grant	1
Marion	1
Umatilla	1
Benton	1
Hood River	1
Jackson	1
Marion	1
Yamhill	1

The next question asked respondents if they support or oppose the addition of the Grande Ronde River corridor (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program. The majority (66%) of respondents supported the proposed Scenic Waterway corridor addition, while 34% opposed the addition (Table 2).

Table 2. Support for proposed Grande Ronde River corridor Scenic Waterway addition

	Percent
Support	66
Oppose	34

Respondents who opposed the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway addition (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park), were then asked if they would support or oppose three shorter sub-sections of the overall Grande Ronde River for Scenic Waterway addition. Table 3 shows that shortening the proposed corridor would have little effect on overcoming respondent opposition to this Scenic Waterway addition.

Table 3. Opponent support for proposed Grande Ronde River corridor Scenic Waterway sub-sections

River Segment	Percent Support	Percent Oppose
River Segment 1: Tony Vey Meadows (Sheep Cr. Junction with 51) to Starkey Junction (above Meadow Cr.)	9	91
River Segment 2: Meadow Creek to Red Bridge State Park	2	98
River Segment 3: Red Bridge State Park to Hilgard State Park	2	98

The remainder of the report includes verbatim open ended responses to a number of questions related to the potential addition of the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Open-Ended Comments

What is your primary interest in the Grande Ronde River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

- I regularly recreate in this part of the Grande Ronde River. I appreciate its value for fish and wildlife habitat. I enjoy viewing eagles, elk and other wildlife along the Grande Ronde River.
- Feasibility How much private land will this scenic designation affect?
- As a rafter of the Grande Ronde River I am very interested in the health of the river. A Scenic Waterway designation with help the river stay healthy I believe.
- I use the area for recreation, shooting, and live in La Grande.
- I am a 30+ year resident of LaGrande, OR.
- Clean water, non-motorized recreation, fishing.

- I live in La Grande, I use the rifle range, I fish for salmon, and I own a sporting goods store which relies upon those currently using the Grande Ronde.
- Preservation of scenic rivers, wildlife and plant species diversity for future generations so that they can enjoy them as we have been able to do. These sections of the Grande Ronde River seem to be a good candidate for the State Scenic Waterway System.
- I would like to see this section of the Grande River considered as and made a Scenic Waterway.
- Recreational.
- How it will affect the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club
- I have floated parts of the Grande Ronde River and I think preserving it...especially not allowing live stock to ruin the riparian area is important. Great family activities available along the river.
- Preservation of a scenic waterway and overall conservation of water.
- Protection
- My wife and I often go birding along the Grande Ronde River corridor.
- Government regulation(s) and the adverse effects of these on local economic development and how such an effect trickles down and hinders local communities to provide adequate services in education, health care and law enforcement.
- As a Discipline Director for the LaGrande Rifle and Pistol Club I do not like the idea of the State of Oregon demonstrating any more control over our property than they presently do. The recreational opportunities that we provide are many and varied and are partaken of on a daily basis by our membership. Although different than floating down a river.
- I am a member of the public. I am also a Certified Professional Soil Scientist. Protection of the waterway through this proposal will benefit the soil and resources upon which we all depend.
- I've lived NE Oregon for over 20 years and love the GRR. I feel it should be protected for all to enjoy. If the Waterway will protect fish, wildlife, river quality then I'm all for it. Too many rivers are used and maintained poorly, which results in pollution, fish kill off, bank erosion and poor habitation for wildlife.
- Segments 1, 2 and 3.
- That it does not become a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars for little or no benefit to the public and the local citizens and adjoining landowners.
- Recreation.
- I work in college outdoor programming at Whitman College and we utilize the river to go on day and overnight kayak and rafting trips for students. Personally, I also raft and kayak on the river and want to see the natural beauty, wildlife, quality and quantity of the river itself protected so that it can be used far into the future.
- River protection from over grazing. Riparian areas need to be protected to maintain stream health for both biotic and abiotic factors. Maintain river water from proper river health will help retain much needed water, especially for the future.
- To preserve and restore to natural habitat
- Clean, cold water
- I am lover of the Grande Ronde River and of protected waterways everywhere. I live along the river corridor and visit the river often to swim, fish or cool off on a hot summers day. Long live cool clean water!
- To save as much beauty as possible for use now and by future generations.
- Beauty, maintain this area and habitat for various species.
- I find that this proposal is not in the interest of the people of Oregon. This river system has and does dry up at certain times of the year and is not a viable water way for any water sports for at least nine months out of the year. Anyone who spends time in this area during the fall can very plainly

see that parts of it dry up. It simply is not in the best interest of people from out of this area to tell them that this is a scenic water way when in fact it may not be when they get here. Some of these people only get one trip a year and it would be a disservice to them bring them here under the pretense of a scenic water way.

- In 1985 when I first came to Union County looking for a place to move to, we camped somewhere in section 2 or 3. I fell in love with the long stretch of river that is uncluttered by development. The existing ranches seemed to fit in perfectly, and the stretches without homes were so peaceful.
- Recreation
- It is near where I live.
- Seeing that the area proposed as a Scenic Waterway is not over-run with development, that the ecological services provided by the Grande Ronde River above Hilgard continue, or are enhanced, and that the fish, wildlife, and plants are protected against rampant development.
- Preserving water quality, maintaining a scenic and wildish river for appropriate recreational uses and habitat for native animals and fish.
- To protect natural habitat both in the river and the bordering riparian area.
- I would like to be able to walk or bike along the waterway and enjoy the natural vegetation, as well as watch birds. Native plants should be protected and restored to the waterway.
- I live in the Grande Ronde Valley and love the nature of the area. Clean water is an essential ingredient for recreation and wildlife.
- Protecting the scenic quality of the upper Grande Ronde River
- The protection of private land use. Without more restrictions.
- Member of the public
- As a land owner we strongly oppose. Years ago there was an annual river rafting event on the Grande Ronde River that was discontinued because they discovered it was too dangerous and people injured and suffered from hypothermia. The liability was too great to have this rafting event continue. There were too many unknown problems associated with being on the river. Too much trash was left behind.
- The river is the life blood of the Grande Ronde valley agriculture and thus the economy of the area and the state. The scenery has not changed for generations nor will it into the future. Government intrusion into private rights will in no way benefit the values of the river.
- My interest is to consider if another designation or plan is needed for the protection of the river.
- Assuring a balance is in place to protect private property uses and where possible without conflict enhance public use and enjoyment.
- Member of the LaGrande Rifle and Pistol Club
- Protection of Oregon's rivers.
- I am a long time member of the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club and help host many events at the range each year.
- To protect landowners right to their property.
- I would like to see the Grande Ronde listed as a SWW.
- We have enjoyed the upper Grande Ronde River, but I think of a river as a body of water that I could swim in and boat in , do a little fishing but if one were to go there they would see that the Grande Ronde River is far from that . A side from the spring run off the river is flat a little stream , in fact if I were to roll my pants up to my knees and walk down the middle to Hilgard and except for a few holes along the way I would never get my pants wet . I have never seen a fisher man on the river in all these years except in the spring when the steelhead can make it to maybe Red Bridge , at the same time you may see a rubber boat in the same area . The question is is the Grande Ronde River protected and we all know that there are pages of regulations covering everything for the river from

head waters to Wildcat Creek. I would submit that you would be far better off to spend your time on a river other than the Grande Ronde!

- I do a lot in the Starkey area and am a shooter and outdoorsman. I believe this is just another way to for the west side pencil pushers to take more freedom from ME. I think they should find rivers on their side of the state and close them!
- The Grande Ronde River is a beautiful, pristine and vital tributary of the Columbia/Snake River system, and is most worthy of any studies and protections it can be afforded.
- We don't want to see a change of any kind made to the property owners on the river.
- I live here and use the river and adjacent land regularly.
- Land use ruling on our private property rules seem strict. A very small group of people float the river. Seems like a lot of government waste of funds again for a very small group of people. Where are my rights to use it as I want too.
- How it will impact our local rifle and pistol club access to our current property.
- This is not a good plan at all... 1. the river is not good for navigating... 2. can't even get a slow speed sign here in Starkey from ODOT... people go by here at 65 miles per hr...3. no law enforcement up here.. no cell service.. no medical.. anyone getting hurt has to rely on town people.. more trash... by crime... river needs to be moved the other way and deeper holes put in for the salmon.. dumping of limbs on every pull over space is ugly. And trees being dumped in river cause more flooding..
- Rafting
- The Grand Ronde River is close enough to where I live in No. Idaho that I visit it whenever I can. Scenic Waterway designation gives protection to unique, pristine waterways that need to be saved from future development and degradation.
- Future Integrity of the river and anadromous fish runs. Free flowing water and riparian habitat.
- I do not want to see the state of Oregon proceed with another misguided plan that would encumber local citizens with regulations and restrictions that will not serve any reasonable purpose. This is a WASTE of taxpayer dollars/
- I've lived and worked in Pendleton for two years as a natural resource professional. I am aware of scenic values in eastern Oregon and interests/concern of conservative landowner's in Oregon.
- I am a landowner on the Grande Ronde River.
- I am a whitewater boater
- Paddling.
- safeguarding habitat
- I live in La Grande and use the Grande Ronde River for fishing, belong to the rifle club, etc.
- As a supporter of protections for our nation's waterways, I would like to back the state of Oregon in their efforts to protect the Grande Ronde from impacts due to the presence of dams, mines and logging projects.
- I am an avid fly fisherman, and I also work for a river restoration nonprofit that works hard to augment flow in the upper Grande Ronde River in order to support the recovery of endangered salmonids. We specifically have a reservoir release agreement with the City of La Grande from Beaver Creek into the upper Grande Ronde.
- Protecting the river from dam development.
- Insure wildlife health and longevity.
- Restoring wild fish runs.
- I personally enjoy outdoor recreation including hiking, wildlife watching, fishing, and camping and have spent time in the area. I own and operate a bed & breakfast in Northeast Oregon that is largely dependent on visitors who also engage in such activities. I also appreciate the benefits of high water quality for those in the watershed and downstream.

- I have paddled from Troy to the confluence with the Snake a few times and support protecting the entire watershed
- Keeping the river protected so we can kayak on it safely.
- Environmental conservation and occasional boating.
- Fishing and hunting
- Protecting the river for wildlife and low-impact river use. No motorized boats and scenic waterway laws should be in effect.
- Fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- Preserve public lands from use by motorized vehicles and road building; maintain scenic beauty for rafting and kayaking. I am a kayaker and love floating the Grande Ronde and appreciating its undeveloped beauty.
- Aquatic habitat and recreation
- Private lands adjacent to the river. PRIVATE landowners should not have to consult with some committee on how to use THEIR OWN PRIVATE LAND!!! I watched this fiasco on the John Day River!!!
- I raft and kayak the Wild and Scenic section below Minam to Troy. I am concerned with the water quality, specifically the Nitrates added from cattle ranching and farming.
- I do not want it to interfere with the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club property and the activities that are so important to me there.
- I am familiar with this section of the Grande Ronde River and would like see it included in the program.
- I visit the area 2 times a year.
- Much of the Grande Ronde River riparian zone is degraded, and the flow is diminished. I support restoration and protection.
- kayaker/ recreational user
- The Grande Ronde River is an important river for anglers and whitewater paddlers.
- To protect and maintain the integrity of the Grande Ronde River ecosystem.
- I support inclusion of the Upper Grande Ronde River in the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program because it will keep the river in its free-flowing natural state and it prevents it from being diverted, dammed or mined. I love the river.
- The protection of healthy waterways is so important. If we have the opportunity to give special protection to a local river, I will support it.
- Fishing; camping; protection as a sensitive and vital part of the northeast Oregon ecosystem, especially its significance in the wildlife corridor of the Blue Mts.
- I canoe the red and blue sections of the Grande Ronde River during spring runoff. I camp nearby at other times. My grandchildren and I fish in the Grande Ronde.
- Biodiversity conservation
- Protecting the river from development, especially in the riparian zone. Also, there's a problem with cattle now in that zone at various points along the river. Finally, the salmon and steelhead runs are in the process of being rebuilt, so this designation might enhance that process.
- I appreciate fisheries that the Grande Ronde River supports and would like to see these protections strengthened.
- As local residents that have visited the area often to camp, fish, hike, and bird watch. We are concerned about its future.
- Our beautiful Grande Ronde River needs all the protection it can get!
- This is where our family spends weekends riding motorcycles, quads, fishing, camping and floating the river! Leave it as it is. Government has taken enough of our country away!!

- Protection of the free flowing nature of the Grande Ronde River.
- maintaining open access to public lands
- Protecting another part of Oregon riverways for fish, habitat, recreation, and beauty.
- I believe we should give special attention to the Grande Ronde River because it has outstanding qualities such as awesome scenery, great recreational opportunities, and protection of free flowing river attributes.
- I support protection of this river area.
- Seeing the river protected against further degradation by human activities and protecting it for all species transit corridor, habitat & refuge, and for intrinsic natural values.
- I am interested in protecting this stretch of river for the scenic values as viewed from the road and parks and also from the water itself as a rafter.
- Keeping the area as natural as we can.....
- I want to see the Grande Ronde River protected from threats such as damming or mining, and uses that would affect the fish habitat.
- protecting the environment
- Recreation (non-commercial), and preserving this water for future generations.
- To protect fish and wildlife and surrounding forest. And to preserve the scenic beauty and wilderness character that remains.
- The Grande Ronde River is a wild and beautiful treasure. To preserve the water quality, healthy fish populations, recreation opportunities, and natural resources is wise, prudent and will be fruitful into the future.
- Public safety
- For more than 30 years my family and I have hiked, biked, and birded in the region.
- Interested citizen
- Where ever we can support the preservation of our natural ecosystems we are in total support and we spend time every year hiking and touring the region....And have done so for 25 years
- My right to access public land
- To STOP it!
- We hunt fish, cut wood and mushroom and huckleberry there
- To stop more restrictions by our government
- Recreation
- Want substantive year-round flows that support native fish species and promote healthy watersheds, floating, fishing, and addresses the TMDL limits currently identified.
- Retreat/recreational use, more control becomes less access.
- Seeing the area remain open access to all users and not entered into any type of protectionist programs.
- Recreation and industrial uses.
- Preservation of water quality.
- Recreational use.
- I live in the proposed area.
- I am a natural resource manager in Northeast Oregon.
- Provide informed feedback on the character of the river proposed for addition to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program.
- My primary interest is to protect our home and those of our community from another Government entity.
- The Scenic Waterway program helps protect the quality and accessibility of our waterways.

- I've fished for trout on the Grande Ronde River. It's spectacular and worthy of protection and conservation.
- I enjoy fishing the Grande Ronde River.

Please state why you support or oppose the Grande Ronde River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

- This special river deserves the protection offered by the Oregon Scenic Waterway designation.
- See above statement. Plus I would hate to see it get degraded further than it is already.
- The governor and Salem politicians want to fix something that is not broken. The governor would be better off getting control of his lady friend rather than trying to control our home. Eastern Oregon is doing just fine. We would be better if the government agencies would just go away and take their management plans, road closures, and other forms of intrusion into the lives of people who are quite satisfied with the culture as it is absent interference from people who are clueless about this area. This is not a wild or scenic area. It is hardly a river part of the year. Locally, we call it the Grande Ronde Trickle. The area is built up and being used by people who are making good use of the land and it is not being degraded. We do not want a bunch of recreational users from the valley who expect a "Wild and Scenic" experience to come to this river and start complaining about all the things that they do not want in scenic areas. It will be just another government control action which does nothing but increase the hostility previous and current government actions keep inciting.
- The river does not qualify. Gov. Roberts declared the system highly degraded. DEQ declared the river polluted and degraded. ODFW and associates have littered waterway with man-made log and rock structures and annually fence and conduct man made channelization projects in the system.
- It preserves/protects important resources for future generations
- This river is basically a trickle during the summer. It has recently had extensive work by the Indian Tribes and various US Government agencies to enhance the river system for the recovery of salmon. Salmon spawn in mid-summer in the proposed area of this river. The point is: Why invite more people to tromp thru salmon Redds (nests) and destroy habitat in the river bed. People will try to float it at this time of the year when the river is just a trickle. The recovery work being done will be destroyed.
- Adding these sections of the Grande Ronde River to the State Scenic Byways would help us to preserve clean water, diversity of wildlife and plant life for future generations as well as set it aside for protection and enjoyment for the present generation.
- The area has great scenic value, good wildlife opportunities, and would be valuable to preserve. There are several good bird-watching areas along the section concerned.
- A beautiful quiet stretch of the Grande Ronde River. I've camped & gone picnicking in this area. Great for families.
- The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club owns property and has a shooting range on the river near Rankin Road.
- As above...recreation and preservation
- It is a magnificent waterway - let's be proactive in taking care of it.
- I want to see it protected for generations to come and for habitat for fish and wildlife
- Good bird habitat and on-going efforts to restore the river fisheries (temps and flow).
- State and federal government regulations and the resulting legal actions by environmental groups have negatively impacted our schools, health care and law enforcement without serving any positive goals that aren't presently achieved under present laws.
- NO real benefit to the local community. That does not already exist. We do not need more State government telling us what to do or not to do.
- Acting now will help preserve current resources.
- It's best for the river and all that use it. Rivers need protection.

- The Grande Ronde River has turned into an agricultural runoff sewage system. It is a shame, such a beautiful area, which, in addition, sustains highly valued wildlife (for hunters) and highly valued wildlife (for nature lovers).
- Firstly, the river itself doesn't meet OPRD's own criteria (pages 5 & 6 or the LOG. OR). HWY. 244 and US Forest Rd. 51 run adjacent to the river through almost all of the described area. Secondly, there is a very narrow window of usage. When the water is high enough to float there are numerous areas that are VERY treacherous to even the most experienced floater, downed trees in the river, etc. Thirdly, almost all of the public accesses were removed during the '70s and '80s due to the issue of 'graffiti', garbage dumping, litter, and human feces that was consistently left next to the river at these areas. Lastly, this proposal puts undue regulations and restrictions on the adjoining landowners for no reasonable benefit.
- I object to the inclusion of the portion of the Grande Ronde River flowing through the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Property because it will adversely affect the management and use of club property in providing recreation opportunities for the 500+ club members. It is an example of "Taking" without remuneration and will remove management of our property from club control and place it in the hands of a bureaucracy which cares little for the club membership and the recreational goals of our organization.
- See above statement.
- The best health of a river and riparian system is to protect the entire watershed.
- Support because it is the right thing to do.
- Clean, cold water
- See number 2 above! I am fully in support of protecting, acknowledging and preserving waterways everywhere. There is also educational value in declaring a Scenic Waterway. People who take the river for granted may sit up and take more notice of the jewel we have in our little corner of the world.
- We must act now to save scenic spots.
- I believe it is vital to preserve Grande Ronde River for various habitats.
- Please see the above statement, it very plainly states the truth of this proposal and the disservice it would do to visitors of this area.
- The beauty of the upper Grande Ronde River warrants this status.
- This is a beautiful part of the Grande Ronde River and should be recognized as such.
- Scenic beauty and tourism
- See question number 2.
- I already stated above as my primary interest in the pilot study.
- I support it to protect it as a natural habitat and to provide recreational opportunities such as fishing, birding, and rafting.
- The Grande Ronde River deserves Scenic Waterway status.
- I think the river deserves the designation and it may help it from further degradation. It is important to wildlife.
- The GR River, especially the segment marked in green, has great potential for fish restoration, recreation and beauty. It's great to simply sit and enjoy the river or pedal a bicycle along the road that parallels the river. It deserves designation and protection.
- Land use restrictions
- It protects existing property rights and property values while also protecting the natural free flowing qualities of the Grand Ronde River
- Strongly oppose. We do not want to put up with the trash, broken glass and loud disrupting noise associated with a lot of people that will prevent us from sleeping. We used to have an outside toilet

on our property that was tipped over and bottles were broken and messes left that we the land owner had to clean up. We can no longer go in the river barefoot because of this. There are too many unknown problems that we can foresee. This will end up being very costly to the property owner. Will the landowner be subject to being sued because someone has injured themselves or drowned? What other rivers are open for rafting and recreational use, and what other problems have they had? We did not pay for the property for someone else to use and abuse. Where will our stock water come from? Are you going to close our livestock out? How will this affect the salmon run in the spring? Will landowners have to deal with others hunting and fishing unlawfully on their property? There are bridges along this Scenic waterway that are very low when there is high water, which is the only time the river could be floated; this could be disastrous for rafters.

- Absolutely NONE of it is necessary. See my "interest" in GRR
- The designation is not appropriate for this part of the river and there is little or no return to the community to create the designation. I am concerned about the private property along the river and think that is a primary concern. There seems to be little or no regard for a new plan on the river. We already have the river area protected through numerous plans.
- Oppose in Red and Blue sections as private land uses will be drastically changed and public access is limited for a lot of this area, and should remain so.
- Loss of Control by private property owners.
- added protection
- Seems that while taking control of the BANKS of the river away from the folks who have been living and working along it for the past 50+ years it will NOT provide any more reasonable access to folks who actually use the river. This makes absolutely no sense to me.
- We don't need the government to control more of our lands. Most all local landowners are already working with agencies to create and enhance wildlife habitat.
- The Grande Ronde River is an important river for ESA fish, recreationalists and the E. Oregon economy.
- I fail to see how more regulations can possibly help the people enjoy the Grande Ronde River more than they do presently.
- I don't like people from outside of this area making decisions that affect what residents here do. They don't have any interest other than locking up our forests and rivers that we enjoy.
- same as above
- The river doesn't meet the requirement that you are looking for.
- Leave us alone, go screw up your side of the state some more. Most of the adjacent land is private, the rest belongs to us the people, not you the government. You couldn't manage a hot dog stand. The river is fine as it is, if you step in it will be royally screwed. There is nothing scenic about a river that dries up to a trickle in August. Go turn the Willamette into a scenic river and piss off the people of Portland. Once again, leave us alone. Clear enough?
- See above
- It will adversely affect our club's property and its activities.
- Loss of access and freedoms to enjoy current improvements along the river.
- Make it a scenic highway instead of from Hilgard to LaGrande??? That is where water is deepest. In summer one can count each and every rock. Not a good river for boating or floating..
- The Grand Ronde River is worthy of protection into perpetuity.
- Protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- I have no problem with anyone who wants to float this section of the river. I do have a problem with this "viewshed" business. It seems TOTALLY inappropriate to me.

- I am concern that the addition of the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway would cause timber landowners to harvest timber within the 1/4 mile horizontal distance from the river out of fear of losing rights to harvest timber if the river is adopted as a scenic waterway. Many of these landowner do not plan to harvest but would to prevent their timber rights be being taken by the government.
- You are wanting to take private land from people who have worked hard their whole lives, this means generations and decades, to first keep their land... secondly pay the taxes...beautify this property... thirdly make it into a heritage for OUR generations to come. It's no different than if someone came to your home and wanted to camp in your back yard because they liked the way you had cleaned it up. NO DIFFERENT.
- Protection of the river
- The Grande Ronde is a beautiful river. I used to spend a large part of my summers doing forest research in the watersheds above Tony Vey Meadows, and it's a special place to me. I have paddled from Minam to Troy, and while it isn't included in this study, that is a very nice place to paddle.
- The Grande Ronde is an amazing river
- This area is not appropriate for this designation. It is private land used by ranchers and local people, it crosses land owned by the La Grande Rifle and Pistol range and will result in conflicts between people who expect a wild area when exposed to rifle shots across the river. This "river" is not a free flowing river. It is currently little more than a trickle and should not be held to the restrictions of the proposed designation.
- I support because as a professional ethnobotanist, I am very cognizant of the threats that dams, mines and logging pose to the long term ecological health of a watershed.
- I feel this reach is both beautiful and important from an ecological perspective.
- I support granting the Grande Ronde the protection that falls under the State Scenic Waterway program.
- The Grande Ronde is a special river that supports runs of anadromus fish in the upper Columbia basin. The more protection you can provide this river, the more fishery can recover. The stronger the fishery, the better it is for the local economy.
- Protect water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife uses. Flows required for recreational use would be maintained.
- Want wild fish protected.
- I enjoy recreating in the area and my business is in heavily dependent on visitors to Northeast Oregon who are drawn to our scenic areas, abundant wildlife, and healthy landscapes.
- I have paddled from Troy to the confluence with the Snake a few times and support protecting the entire watershed
- Keep nature protected so to be able to paddle it in the future
- To conserve the natural river for future generations.
- I oppose this proposal because I do not think it is in the whole public's interest to lock up this real estate to satisfy the egos of a vocal few people. The management of the area has gotten along just fine for the hundred years without adverse impacts. This proposal is without public benefit and will cost the public. The few private land owners will be deprived of some uses of their property and will thus loose certain benefits of ownership and be deprived of some values and this incur uncompensated losses. In short, this proposal should die quietly.
- The more protected water, the better!
- Preserve public lands from use by motorized vehicles and road building; maintain scenic beauty for public interest.
- I support this to preserve habitat, water quality, recreation and to prevent dams or other ins tram structures.

- PRIVATE LAND should not be controlled by ANY government entity!!!
- I support the proposal because these river sections are beautiful and the proposal would help protect water quality, especially downstream on the Wild and Scenic section. I raft this section and in past years was concerned about the presence of foam apparently caused by high Nitrates pollution.
- I am worried that it will shut down or otherwise limit the use of our range and I will lose an important part of my enjoyment of the area.
- I support the study, support the whole length shown because I would like to see more habitat protection, limited development & recognition that this scenic river deserves protection much as the John Day and other Oregon rivers.
- For the river to play its ecological role and to stay healthy, with healthy populations of native species and riparian areas, requires this status. Humans are poor managers and do not make good substitutes for nature.
- I am supportive because of the potential for this designation to protect the Grande Ronde from damaging development. I believe the river's greatest value is in the sort of characteristics that would qualify it for designation as a Scenic Waterway. My main interest is in habitat protection for wildlife, including both aquatic and terrestrial species.
- keep view-shed pristine
- Rivers need to be protected from activities that compromise water quality.
- This river segment is a vital resource for wildlife, fisheries, and recreational use.
- I want to see the river protected for wildlife, fishes, and people to recreate in and around.
- See answer to No. 2.
- With so few protected streams in N.E. Oregon, we absolutely must conserve the few we have left from the pollution and degradation resulting from cattle grazing and logging.
- to protect water conditions
- This a beautiful, natural stream with outstanding views, a mixture of wildlife and lovely flora. It should be protected.
- Would help protect this river of great importance to our state's people, fish, and wildlife.
- Support all for riparian zone restoration and protection, salmon and steelhead enhancement, water quality protection, late season flows protection, minimize irrigation withdrawals, etc. .
- To enhance the fisheries on the river, and protect habitat.
- We believe this designation will help protect wildlife including anadromous fish habitat.
- I support, this lovely river has been messed with enough and needs more protection from chemical run-off and over grazing of riparian areas.
- Government is closing down all of the land that we recreate on. One of our family members is disabled and their only mode of transportation is a motorized wheel chair or quad. If you close this area then you have stopped our access! Leave it alone!!
- Support for protection of free flowing river, fish and wildlife protection, and water quality.
- Additional designations are not proven to improve the areas. Designations increase administrative costs.
- The more river we can get into this program, the better for the greater fish, habitat, recreation, and beauty for Oregonians.
- The Grande Ronde is one of Oregon's outstanding rivers. I support designation of its entire course.
- It's a great place for connecting with a minimally disturbed natural area. They're becoming too rare for wildlife and people.
- This is a state & regional treasure that has been significantly altered by historical uses. It needs protection now to secure its health & well-being for the future.

- All three segments are lovely and offer different beauties. Tony Vey Meadows shows the then-small river in an open setting, then it is in a more forested area, before opening into hay ground and back into more forest.
- Beautiful area...pristine in fact that needs to be protected for the generations to come. Just makes sense!
- Same as above.
- I want it protected from development that would hinder its natural state.
- See above.
- I support this proposal because it would be a valuable addition to preservation of a free flowing river and its streamside habitat for all living things.
- There are plenty of waterways that are neither scenic, nor in the Scenic Waterway Program. A resource isn't a resource if you trash it - take care of this natural gem.
- The river is only a small creek in the summer months. There is a large amount of slimy moss that grows as the water level drops and temperature rises. This creek is ugly right now. If you drive up HWY 244 you will see old moss on rocks out of the water. The water is so low you could never float down it even in an inner tube. Why would anyone want to preserve this ugly section of the creek?
- Too many of the rivers in NE Oregon exceed 303 limits. It's time to protect some of them.
- I'd like to see the river maintained in as natural a state as possible to enhance wildlife habitat and scenic values.
- Please see above response. We love this natural place and want to see it kept or enhanced back to its natural condition
- It is an unnecessary restriction on public access to public land
- There is enough taken away from the people as it is
- We are being saved to death, too many restrictions now and the Forest Circus want to close all motorized travel. I am 68 years old and have put more footsteps in these mountains than 90% of the city dwellers wanting to make it all wilderness again. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH leave the people that live here and utilize our public forest and streams the hell alone.
- We are over regulated by our progressive infested state and federal bureaucracies.
- I think these waters deserve and would benefit from this protection.
- Because I live here, and private land owners seem to be irresponsible and unresponsive to ensuring a public waterway is healthy for me and my family.
- Leave it be. As stated above, the more designations equal less access. The area is already remote and it needs to stay that way.
- Future restrictions are counter-productive to local resident use of the area.
- The status of the river today is quite sufficient for maintaining water quality for fish and wildlife. No need to make the scenic waterway status.
- I support because the Grande Ronde: 1) is important native fish habitat 2) has high scenic value 3) is used a LOT by fishermen, hikers, birdwatchers, hunters, picnickers, photographers, bicyclers, etc. 4) provides habitat for many kinds of wildlife and birds 5) brings tourism dollars into the local economy 6) deserves protection!
- My friends, family and I are very passionate about keeping the GR clean, free-flowing, and natural.
- Too many restrictions for home and land owners, including reduced home values. Much of the land in this area is ranch land, and existing property owners do not want their uses restricted and/or changed. Only PARTS of the river are scenic, accessible and fishable. There are no trails to access the river for enjoyment. Most of the 51 road is in horrible shape and not conducive to a "scenic" route. River dries up to a trickle late spring/early summer. Road closure in winter prohibits accesses to much of the route. Do not want increased traffic on rural road. We already have too

much wildlife road-struck as it is. Increased traffic will increase this as well. We live in the area and cannot get services, such as our road plowed, why would we embrace this? Who is going to maintain the roads with the increased traffic?

- The Grande Ronde River has been heavily impacted and altered by human activities since European settlement. Channel morphology, hydrologic function, and aquatic habitat features have been negatively affected by logging, grazing, mining, and road infrastructure. As a result biotic components have been suppressed and eliminated in some cases. Unfortunately this reach of stream channel is largely degraded and has a large degree of departure from a properly functioning system. A "scenic" designation of this reach may take away from the wild and scenic system in Oregon as a whole, as well as future restoration opportunities. Other than the fact that it is free flowing, this reach of stream is neither wild or scenic in its current condition.
- For the most part, this section contains scant values considered to justify putting into the state system. Due to historical management actions, I consider most of this section of river as "non-functional". Please consider the past actions that have marginalized stream function, esthetics, recreational opportunities and fish/wildlife values. This river segment has experienced extreme modifications through splash dams, placer mining, railroad logging and roads within its corridor to create a greatly simplified system that is a far cry from its pre-disturbed state last seen in the first half of the 1800s. While perhaps over time some recovery will occur, its present state is anything but "outstanding". Possibly the most liberal interpretation of the OSWS act would allow for inclusion of Segment 1, but even that is a stretch.
- One of the reasons given for this program is to limit and protect the river from "activities (that) include cutting of trees, mining, construction of roads, railroads, utilities, buildings, or other structures". There are already Government entities in place to limit and oversee all of these. There can be no building, septic, roads, etc. without stringent oversight and approval from the DEQ, Building Department, County, State, and others. This new program would be a waste of taxpayer dollars and most likely hurt the very people that positively steward and protect the river already.
- Protection and improvement of this river system. Support for the Grande Ronde Tribe in their efforts to maintain the waterway.
- Additions to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program increase recreational economic development opportunities while enhancing natural resources conservation and protection.
- I believe in the protection of this amazing area

What benefits do you see if the Grande Ronde River segments were added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- Protect the free flowing river and the surrounding lands, forests and other vegetation and habitats.
- See above statements.
- This will not provide a benefit. It will create hostility, complaints, damage to the fishery in the river, damage to the cattle operations along the river, cause conflicts with people getting out of their boats on private land, problems with livestock which use the river, problems with the shooting range that extends across the river, problems with the local economy which benefits from the current uses being made of the river.
- None. The Government cannot claim the system is degraded for over 30 years and then miraculously declare it wild and scenic when it fits a political agenda.
- Healthy eco systems for future generations, recreational tourism
- Absolutely none.
- Adding these sections of the Grande Ronde River to the State Scenic Byways would help us to preserve clean water, diversity of wildlife and plant life for future generations as well as set it aside for protection and enjoyment for the present generation.
- Larger amount of river preserved for bird, fish, and other wildlife habitat. The scenic value is important for tourism and recreation.
- Protection of this part of the river
- None!
- Mainly recreational area.....preserving the riparian area, no cattle grazing.
- It brings them to the attention of the populace, including government and will provide some protection, as I understand it.
- protect the beauty of the area
- Great scenic drive with watchable wildlife and potential for better fisheries with good access.
- None - with proper permission everything that could be done under this designation can be done now.
- NONE ----- MAKE SOME STATE AGENCY, STATE EMPLOYEE OR GOVERNOR'S LITTLE HEART FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE.
- Clean water, fish production, wildlife habitat, recreation, beauty
- A river cannot be divided up into sections without part of it being damaged.
- Economic, short term, from tourism and economic, long term, from renewed ecosystems which promotes forest health, water systems health, public (including mental) health. It's the right thing to do.
- NONE that don't already exist. People can float the river now if they choose. Without OPRD or any other OREGON state agency intervention.
- I see no real benefits of inclusion of the upper Grande River in the scenic rivers program
- More river protected as 'scenic' is a good thing always.
- A healthy riparian system (river and adjoining areas) will benefit fish and wildlife and well as provide recreational use for the public. It's important to protect what we have. If it's lost it might not be regained.
- Clean, cold water.
- See number 3 above! Educational value, public awareness, clean water, eco-tourism. Protected water is a huge benefit to the entire planet.
- Saving it for future generations to enjoy.
- Maintain habitat for species and for geological and archaeological value.

- I see no positive benefits to this proposal at all.
- Adding all three segments makes the stretch of river more prominent as a scenic waterway.
- Besides helping protect the fine qualities of the Grande Ronde River by restricting increased sediment and debris, it will bring local awareness to the Oregon Scenic Waterways System and the beauty of this river.
- It would help keep the area scenic.
- Enhanced tourism, protection of valuable resources such as water, fish, and other wildlife.
- Supportive habitat for fish and animals recreational use for appropriate non-motorized activities an intact waterway/system.
- It would promote tourism in the area and protect the river's natural environment
- Grande Ronde River receives recognition and attention for scenic value
- Fish and other aquatic life will be enhanced. The beauty of the river will remain. It is a very scenic section with a road for folks to travel and enjoy it rather passively. Some are not able to get into back country to find such stretches of free running water.
- Fish restoration, more opportunity for recreation, maintaining the scenic quality of the river, a plan to keep cattle out of the river
- None
- It will be maintained in a free flowing state and its waters protected for recreation, fish and other non-consumptive uses.
- I see no benefits. Only problems!
- None that are positive. Negative would be wresting control from private landowners and spending money unnecessarily on perceived improvement or protection.
- There are no possible benefits to the designation.
- None
- None
- Added protection
- None
- NONE
- Protection of flows for fish and recreation.
- None
- None
- None
- NONE!!!!!!!
- None
- None for our local people.
- Down below Meadow Creek at least 5 other streams run into it... not up here in Starkey. And people may have more safety down there. That is if you care about that.
- Fishery and water quality protection, with recreation a close second.
- Since decision were made not to breach 4 Snake River Dams to favor fish passage, that came with stated intentions of putting all the "other" management tools to work. Habitat was one of the big 4-H's. This means the quality of habitat in the upper tributaries are crucial to maintain and enhance to favor spawning for anadromous fish. All ancillary specie of other fish and wildlife will also benefit. So, it is time to hold policies to the fire and walk the talk.
- No benefits to those landowners that adjoin the river.
- Over the long term, preserve scenic resources for all Oregonians, but at the expense of landowners.

- Absolutely no benefit. First the water only runs high enough to fish/swim/float in the spring time. This is the only time water is running enough to use. So why would you want to hurt the people who own the land for a month MAYBE two months in the year.
- Multiple
- Protection for scenic opportunities. A secondary priority is angling.
- protection of natural resources, habitat, scenic beauty
- None
- At least limited protection from degradation of the natural resources in the area.
- Receiving the additional protections and consideration afforded as a State scenic waterway would dovetail nicely with all the other efforts occurring out there (tribal restoration, BPA Wildlife program, etc.)
- No dam development.
- Maintain the river in its free-flowing natural state. It would not be irresponsibly diverted, dammed or mined. Protect water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife uses. Flows required for recreational use would be maintained. Preserve the rivers scenic and aesthetic qualities for those who fish, float, picnic along and otherwise use the river. Wildlife that can be viewed along the river corridor, include mule deer, black bear, rocky mountain elk, mountain goats, bobcats, mountain lions, river otters, and bald eagles. The upper Grande Ronde also provides exceptionally high quality habitat for spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. Protect private property rights and property values. Existing water rights would not be affected. Land owners are able to make any legal changes to streamside lands after a cooperative consultation with Oregon Parks and Recreation. This encourages responsible development.
- The area's outstanding cultural, ecological, and economic values would be preserved for current and future generations. Outdoor recreation is among the most reliable and sustainable anchors to the local economy. In addition to the important cultural and ecological values the designation would draw attention to the area and demonstrate the state's commitment to conserving our natural resources.
- Protection of water quality for entire stretch of river
- Preservation.
- None!
- Inclusion would help maintain the river in its free-flowing natural state. It would not be irresponsibly diverted, dammed or mined. Protection of water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife uses is of the essence. Flows required for recreational use would be maintained.
- Preserve public lands from use by motorized vehicles and road building; maintain scenic beauty for rafting and kayaking
- Improved or maintained habitat, recreation and naturalness.
- NONE... it has flourished just the way it is without governmental interference!!!
- Better water quality and recreational fishing. Possibly recreational boating.
- There are recreational benefits & environmental benefits.
- Such designation would protect water quality, natural processes, and wildlife and adjacent lands. It would also be good for recreation and for the economy associated with recreation.
- General protection from irresponsible development activities, protection of water quality, protection of property values.
- Protection of water quality, flow and fish.
- Water quality and stream flow would be protected and maintained for all historical uses.
- Preserve the rivers scenic and aesthetic qualities for those who fish, float, picnic along and otherwise use the river. Wildlife that can be viewed along the river corridor, include mule deer,

black bear, rocky mountain elk, mountain goats, bobcats, mountain lions, river otters, and bald eagles. The upper Grande Ronde also provides exceptionally high quality habitat for spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead.

- Protect the water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife. This should ensure good future management even if increasing pressures to divert the water or possibly mine the area.
- In addition to the reasons stated above, the protection of the Grande Ronde will be a definite and positive attraction for others to become advocates for the protection of our natural world, producing the obvious results as well as others like the economic benefits to northeast Oregon, another cog in the wheel of reversing the effects of global warming and the spiritual benefits derived from connecting to the natural environment,
- Will preserve good camping and canoeing, and appropriate hunting.
- Biodiversity conservation, public recreation, and local economy.
- Support all for riparian zone restoration and protection, salmon and steelhead enhancement, water quality protection, late season flows protection, minimize irrigation withdrawals, improved fishing and rafting, etc. .
- Fisheries habitat improvement.
- Wildlife habitat protection and perhaps enhancement
- As stated above
- NONE!
- Protection of the river's resources for now and future generations.
- none
- I see general protection of this waterway to keep it as native as possible and to prevent human created damage as much as possible to the whole ecosystem.
- The designation would ensure or at least help to ensure that the special attributes are protected for future generations.
- Improved fish habitat, better floating (boating) opportunities, less buildup of trash from misuse.
- I think it would heighten our local awareness and appreciation of the river and could set a better standard of care & conservation for it.
- The area would be protected from inappropriate development, the ability to raft downstream of Meadow Creek would be more of a priority, and the scenic values would be protected.
- Same as stated above
- Protection for the future of the river for fish and scenic uses.
- Long term protection
- Preservation of this wonderful waterway
- Benefits include preservation of fish and wildlife habitat and human recreational activities.
- A healthy ecosystem is beneficial to humans. Plant and animal diversity represents a more resilient system, and supports more abundant life for all.
- None [What we need is a reservoir to increase the water flow in the summer and provide excellent recreation for the public]
- Fish habitat and wildlife corridors continuous as a opposed to broken up into sections.
- Huge...for us, for the wildlife, for the tributary ecosystem
- None
- I see no benefits that restrict Oregon residents from using the Grande Ronde River
- Someone in the city bragging about how they saved wonderful steam from the locals, that use it.
- None. Just more restrictions never ending
- We have too many dams, diversions, etc. in this state and in the west! Protection from these activities would be great.

- Healthy watershed, protection of ESA listed aquatic species/habitats, and insurances of future functioning highly-used waterway.
- Easier access to fishing, rafting.
- I don't
- None
- preserving native fish runs, protecting water quality, maintaining water quantity, increasing tourism dollars in the local economy, insuring the river is there in all it's wonder and delight for future generations yet to come
- Healthy fish, healthy ecosystems, and maintaining its natural beauty
- None. Only impacts on existing landowners.
- There is likely not a benefit in terms of future restoration potential by designating these reaches as wild or scenic.
- Very little. As stated before, historical and even present actions (roads within the floodplain, constraining natural geometry of the river channel) have greatly affected the stream function and stability. While ESA listed fish do occupy or migrate through this segment, much better habitat for fish/wildlife occurs in some tributary systems above this proposed segment.
- None
- The Scenic Waterways program adds another layer of support and protection for this fishery.
- River and related area protection

What problems do you see if the Grande Ronde River segments were added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- None.
- The amount of private land affected.
- none
- Interferes with property owner rights, gun owner rights, cattle and ranching rights, current recreational user rights. People in Eastern Oregon as a group are fed up to our eyeballs with your rules, regulations, statutes, permits, approvals, limitations, forms, procedures, gates, fees, signs, etc. The primary purpose of all this paperwork and rules appears to be nothing more than that it provides a reason for state workers to keep their jobs and exert control over the people living in this part of the state. We are here to get away from you and your rules. Nothing needs to be fixed on this river. Just stay out of our home and quit restricting our freedom.
- See previous comments
- None.
- Will bring in people who will destroy salmon beds. Will result in bureaucratic red tape and unnecessary requirements and paper work. Will cause conflicts with the existing rifle range. Will cause conflicts with the ranchers along the river as they will be asked to keep cattle off the river, but when fences are built in this area, the elk destroy them. There are large numbers of elk in this area, and they go across the river tearing down fences which allows cattle to go wherever. There is also a rancher who raises buffalo along the river and there is no fence that will keep them from the river. Conflict after conflict after conflict will result from this designation in an area such as this where the people are already mad as the devil due to the actions of the Forest Service and BLM to close access to public lands, the ODFW for management of wolves, cougars and game animals, etc. There is no point in putting in place a set of rules that are unenforceable and will result in destruction of existing uses. This is not a wild and scenic area. There are large numbers of buildings and current uses which are not compatible with this designation.

- None
- Not sure
- No sure keeping cattle out?
- Any and all property owners on these segments will have additional burdens placed on them and some activities that these lands are currently used for may not be allowed.
- I would like to see a path along the river developed.....to allow more access.
- Education will be needed as to what the Scenic Waterway program is all about.
- Less access to people
- Grazing at Tony Vey Meadows
- The use of private land without landowner input (legally a taking) and the adverse effects on the overall economic development in a natural resource area.
- MORE RED TAPE AND HOOPS TO HAVE TO JUMP THROUGH WHEN SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS NEXT TO THE RIVER OR IN IT --- IN A HURRY BEFORE IT BECOMES A BIGGER PROBLEM. WE DON'T NEED SOME ONE FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT TRYING TO LOOK UP OUR SKIRT ALL THE TIME.
- Frustration of related landowners due to required notification process
- None
- I don't know of any. I would be interested to hear what potential problems you foresee.
- AS STATED ABOVE!!!!!!
- Infringing on private property rights
- There will have to be buy in by the ranchers that graze in the riparian area and allow their livestock to use the river as a water source. There will need to be monetary assistance for these individuals.
- None
- None
- None
- None
- The problems of this proposal far outweigh any possible benefits that could come from this proposal.
- None.
- no problems
- Would it preclude restoration efforts, such as putting logs in the river? Restoration is a high priority for the entire length.
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/tmdls/docs/granderondebasin/upgronde/wqmp.pdf>
- Private developers may be able to weasel around the protection requirements of the Scenic Waterways Act. There also may be cases where possible restoration activities may be stalled, or failed to be implemented due to additional regulations.
- Could be opposed by motorized users of the environment.
- Some sort of buffer would have to be created to prevent cattle from polluting the water and causing bank erosion and from crop fertilizers from leaching into the water. This may not bode well with ranchers and farmers.
- None
- A few cows may have to find other pasture. I believe in this case the public good far outweighs private grazing.
- I'd have to share this beautiful place with others :) Actually I think some of the ranchers along the route would object because they let cattle freely roam in the river, a practice I find very objectionable
- Land use restrictions

- None.
- People leaving trash, breaking bottles, starting fires, etc., etc., see above responses.
- It's merely another way to spend money, justify gov't jobs or regulate more
- The segments will not be protected more than they already are and there are few recreational opportunities available beyond floating the river in the early spring when runoff is at a peak flow. Oregon has plenty of scenic places without creating another route that is a pleasant drive during different parts of the year, but as far as a waterway with outstanding vistas or towering cliffs that strike awe in our minds it is average at best. For the community citizens it is close-by, but not a huge attraction. Fishing the river is poor and camping is hardly the most desirable except in the very upper reaches July-September.
- Private land use restrictions.
- Loss of control of private property by La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club
- None
- Folks who use the river will NOT have any improved access or use of the river than they do now and it will restrict the use by landowners and folks who use riverside properties for recreation and their livelihood NOW. How is this any kind of improvement?
- Government will have control over landowners land.
- None.
- More regulations
- Too many to list!
- Tourism in high water, trash on the river the property owner would have to clean up,
- Political bullshit. More red tape, no access. Loss of revenue to ranchers, miners and land owners. Curtailing Rifle range use--how much more do you need?
- Government involved again
- Private property rights will be seriously affected with no obvious benefits except for non-residents.
- Crime, speed, no medical, trash, trespassing, dumping
- I don't see any problems, but I don't live along it either. Perhaps private property owners will see it differently than I do.
- Resistance from those who oppose change, especially from the exploitation crowd.
- Another UNNEEDED layer of regulation and restrictions placed on adjacent landowners.
- Some of the same scenic resource could be impacted in the short term from "panic harvesting" of forestland within the 1/4 mile boundary, to prevent the government taking income from landowners.
- Too many to put in a survey... trust me I will be writing a letter. You plan to take a hundred feet on both sides of the river as your Riparian right of way. OR even a 1/4 of a mile could be taken in some areas. Are you kidding me! Do you realize how much of our hay field that will take away from us and income to pay the taxes for this property. Don't get me wrong, I love to see/play/relax in beautiful waterways. But... not at the expense of the people who have worked their whole lives. Turn the government owned land into these scenic waterways and leave us landowners alone.
- None
- It might limit mining opportunities; I'm OK with that.
- None
- Conflicts with land owners. Limits on landowner use of their property. Litigation from landowners and current users as well as those expecting a wild river, attacks on traditional uses of the river, limits on motorized access to areas of the river by those needing motorized vehicles to get to the river, etc.
- It would make some developers unhappy since they could not profit at the expense of the public.

- None.
- none from my perspective
- Water usage rights.
- Unnecessary administrative expense. Unnecessary infringement on private landowners rights of ownership.
- Farmers cannot graze their cows on the banks of the river and they will object.
- None. As a former Forest Service River Planner in Eastern Oregon, I'm am very familiar with the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program.
- The rights of private landowners would be usurped by the government
- None.
- It seems to me that it is just another step towards limiting or denying public access to public lands, just like the road closures that the F.S. is trying to implement.
- I do not foresee problems.
- Water can be diverted for unsustainable development such as agriculture, mining or similar, damaging wildlife and riparian areas, leading to toxic run off from pesticides and herbicides & fertilizer, cattle manure and other sources of pollution, and otherwise damaging the integrity of the river as habitat. Adjacent and connected ground water sources can also be damaged.
- There will be some impact on landowners due to notification requirements and oversight by state agencies. But these requirements will protect the interest of the general public. Such protection is essential because of the river's importance to the region.
- No problems, just pluses.
- I can imagine nay-sayers finding fault with any effort to protect this ecosystem from development and/or ruin.
- There may always be some grumbling about too much regulation, but I foresee most people will enjoy having this amazing river protected.
- None, nothing but positive results.
- I do not see any major problems. There may need to be increased protection of riparian areas from over-grazing.
- None that cannot be easily overcome.
- Landowner opposition by those who now don't fence their cattle out of the riparian zone. Who else would disagree?
- The perception, however wrong, that the government is restricting access to public property.
- You have limited the access of all disabled Americans who cannot walk to this area!
- None of consequence. Of course there will be those who are against any regulations that inhibit development. But the Grande Ronde River is such an outstanding resource that its protection benefits everyone.
- Increased administrative costs. Restrictions to use by citizens.
- Property owners may feel like their property rights are being contravened.
- None.
- None.
- The segment from Red Bridge to Starkey is quite neglected, urbanized and impacted, and there could be opposition to include it based on perceived or real costs or requirements to change activities by effected adjacent land owners. But the river is a whole system and must be protected as such.
- I suspect some locals would have concerns about this designation limiting future development.
- None
- None

- None, unless a person wanted it for commercial or economic reasons
- One potential problem could be overuse by humans. New roads should probably not be allowed.
- None.
- Most of this is private property. There is not enough water flow in the summer months. It would cause property owners problems with the public.
- Erosion of the rights of the public
- It would further restrict historical usage
- More un-needed rules and regulations on the local people who use and enjoy it.
- Less access. More restrictions
- I only see a problem if environmental degradation is allowed to continue.
- Absolutely, positively.... NONE.
- Easier and more access and more control of the area.
- Further restrictions will only hamper historic uses of the area for the local residents, and the area is under no current threats.
- Many! Too many to mention.
- None
- None
- Increased traffic, fatalities, wear and tear on the roads, taxes, and restrictions on existing land owners. Not to mention decrease in home and property values.
- Due to its current condition selecting this segment of the Grande Ronde River may set a low precedent for the Scenic Waterway Program and take away from the integrity of the program as a whole.
- It could add another layer of complexity when habitat restoration programs are planned or implemented. Another state agency to review/approve/deny actions to improve the poor conditions found here.
- More government
- None
- None

What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Grande Ronde River segments?

- Natural beauty, interesting geology, important habitat for fish and wildlife, interesting botany, historical significance.
- It's a beautiful, wooded, free flowing river with very few buildings along its way.
- It provides a good living to the ranchers living along it, provides a nice home for others, is not being controlled by Salem politicians provides income to businesses in town when people come from other areas to use the gun range.
- None.
- I think each section and mile is an indispensable part of a beautiful river.
- Economic value to the community.
- Great scenic beauty, diversity of plant and animal life, a more or less "natural" river surrounded by some of the most beautiful country in the West.
- Bird watching --scenery
- Gorgeous scenery
- Contrary to the pictures shown in information, there is very little rafting done on these segments of the river.
- Easy access for walking and biking.....rafting in the spring. Wildlife value.

- Fabulous scenery surrounds this waterway, there are many different fish that make their home there or use as stopping point.
- Beautiful water, natural landscape, wildlife.
- Scenic corridor with good public access road along its length, good birding and biking, two state parks and a US Forest Service campground all of which would be enhanced with a scenic designation.
- The private land provides an economic base and the public land provides the same base except for the most part the latter is tied up with state and federal regulations.
- Lots of nice rocks to beat your butt on when the water goes down after the Spring Run Off.
- Clean water, fish production, wildlife habitat, recreation, beauty
- Wildlife that you can't see on all rivers. Remoteness that is fading away with roads being built next to rivers.
- These segments are nestled in a relatively unpopulated, wild area, with great potential for biodiverse ecosystem.
- There are areas that are very picturesque, as with most of Eastern Oregon. But, the regulation of the river of OPRD is not needed for that enjoyment.
- The river flows along a state highway.
- Beautiful river, fishing, wildlife, recreation for boater use- kayakers, canoers, rafters, etc. , camping, and appreciating nature and the outdoors.
- Parts have old cottonwoods and poplars. There is an amazing amount of bird and other wildlife use along many parts of the river.
- Beautiful canyon
- Beauty, fish habitat, human solace, wildlife habitat, open space, clean water for animals and humans
- Beauty of water, mountains, land, low population.
- As stated earlier.
- A river that either dries up in places or turns to scum in the fall, logged over areas that are ugly, dead standing/fallen trees from lack of proper care.
- Solitude. Meandering river. Easy walking.
- The river is clear flowing through beautiful stands of aspen and meadows. It is very scenic, but also provides important fish habitat.
- Scenic beauty
- It is an already existing, relatively pristine stream, in spite of past abuses, such as railroad logging, splash dam logging, excessive grazing, and the like.
- Dry terrain with seasonal variations in water levels, questionable quality. Minimal grazing (I think) pockets of lovely aspen stands.
- The seasonal changes. It ices over in the winter, flows torrentially in the spring, and is shallow enough for youngsters to play in in the late summer/early fall. It is great bird habitat. It is scenic; I've bicycled from Hilgard to Tony Vey regularly and have enjoyed the river views through the seasons very much.
- Riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, boating and tubing opportunities, river views.
- It seems to follow a natural course that has not been straightened. The bottom and banks are in pretty good shape. When there is enough water people could fish it.
- Green segment, especially, is a lovely course through an unpopulated area
- Fisheries, with farming, ranching, and logging. People having, using and enjoying the Grande Ronde River.

- High scenic quality, high recreational value. Exceptional fishery. Fantastic wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing. Upper segment being studied has high value as a natural wild and primitive area.
- Already established parks and camping areas.
- The whole stretch is just fine because we who live here love it. There is nothing spectacular in any of it that anyone else would go out of their way for.
- Outstanding is not a description I have every applied to the river segments. The segments are very nice, but hardly compared to many other areas of Oregon. With a 1/4 mile protection zone if the designation is made, it seems the proposal is another scheme to regulate land use by private landowners and put restrictions on the area as a fragile, no touch zone.
- Actually, it is not outstanding in any way. Water flow is so low in the summer/fall that algae growth is terrible and makes the water gross for public enjoyment
- Fish, scenic, recreation.
- It is a beautiful river, but no less so for the farms and other owners who live and work alongside it.
- The way current landowners are working to enhance habitat.
- Fish, scenic beauty, recreation opportunities.
- A pleasant drive up HWY 51 along the banks of the river.
- The outstanding feature is the river itself.
- NONE
- Still an open river system without any west-side bureaucrats screwing it up significantly.
- Pretty down at Hilgard. Nice park and they do have someone there on duty 7 days a week for emergency.
- I see the remoteness of the country that the Grand Ronde River runs through as a huge plus.
- Spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead, scenic beauty, natural flow.
- The upper Grande Ronde River is a viable resource for recreational activities for a very narrow period of time each year. It should not be an area that will impose significant restrictions upon the adjoining land owners.
- No dams, limited vehicle access, diversity of ecosystems.
- So here's another question for you. The wildlife, as far as we are concerned is one of the reasons for living where we do. If you start allowing all these people into this scenic area... what's going to happen to the animals and their habitat?
- Many
- The Grande Ronde is an interesting river with interesting riparian characteristics. Annual ice movements scout the sides of this river section, but the riparian area is still relatively intact in most places.
- Habitat, a vital part of the overall health of the Grande Ronde River.
- Provides for public and private use absent restrictions of government rules infringing on private property owner rights.
- Relatively pristine riparian habitat for most of the reach which in turn supports many plant and animal species crucial to a healthy ecosystem.
- These areas are important corridors to protect as we try to recover upper Grande Ronde Salmonids
- Protecting water quality downstream.
- Natural beauty, fishing.
- Peaceful, quiet and serene. Excellent fishing and hunting.
- Deep canyons, clean water. Wildlife; elk, mountain goats, bear.
- Aquatic species habitat, recreation, scenery, botany, wildlife habitat, cultural resources.
- It is ALL outstanding, and much of it is privately owned. It needs to STAY that way!!!
- Scenic and recreational uses.

- We have people from as far away as Florida and Missouri come to enjoy the scenic wonders of our beautiful area and participate in various activities at the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club. If you shut down that area of the river you will be throwing away tourism income as well as preventing the enjoyment of people from five to six different states that come here each year.
- The area has historic interest (Indian & mining), good fish habitat, scenic rock spires North side of river past rearing ponds.
- Free flowing, relatively good water quality, relatively healthy populations of many species.
- Free-flowing, sections of healthy riparian zone.
- Good water quality and recreational opportunities.
- This river is a scenically beautiful stretch of river. It is used by a wide variety of wildlife and fish including threatened and endangered species. Recreationists are drawn to the area as well.
- The river has outstanding features for people who fish, float, swim, picnic along and enjoy the river. Wildlife including: mule deer, black bear, rocky mountain elk, mountain goats, bobcats, mountain lions, river otters, and bald eagles, deserve clean and protected wild habitat. Importantly, the upper Grande Ronde River provides exceptionally high quality habitat for spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead!
- For me, it is the scenery and wildlife habitat.
- The Grande Ronde River has the potential of becoming a first-class fishery with its inclusion in the Wild and Scenic river system. The clarity of its waters, an impressive exception in northeast Oregon would be enhanced, bringing back some of the species of fish that once inhabited its waters, such as salmon and steelhead. It's undammed - to my knowledge - miles of aquatic habitat are another unique feature in this part of the State, much like it was when my ancestors first homesteaded the G.R. Valley in the late 1860s. Addition of it to the W & S system would prevent further degradation and eventually it could be returned to prime state it was during those times.
- Good fish habitat, naturally flowing stream in beautiful setting.
- Biodiversity, scenery and public recreation.
- Free-flowing stream with essentially public access along much of its course. Excellent current access at places like Bird Track, Red Bridge, Starkey, Hilgard, and various higher areas in the watershed. Great potential for walking trails development along some of the lower reaches.
- Scenic beauty and historical significance.
- Beauty and wildlife it supports
- The entire area. Great views, fishing, camping and riding. All of the things they we enjoy doing in the great outdoors!
- Anadromous and resident fish habitat. Winter range for deer and elk. Quality recreational experience along all 3 segments readily accessible to all. Cool, high quality water.
- It's gorgeous and the habitat it is the lifeblood of is diverse and wonderful: great wildlife in the area!
- Clean water. Great scenery. Great wildlife habitat. Good fishing. Important wildlife habitat.
- It's an undisturbed environment.
- Not sure.
- The river itself, the views, the flowers and trees, and the wildlife.
- Wildness, in a word.
- The most outstanding feature is clear free flowing water and that benefits everyone in the long term.
- Length and diversity of terrain.
- Best features are the trees and vegetation along it.

- The Grande Ronde River is an easily accessible, beautiful Eastern Oregon River that deserves to be protected.
- The green had a lot of important history erased from it a few years ago when the FS went in and destroyed all the tailing piles and mines around Camp Carson. That was History they destroyed more than any hunter or sportsman have ever done.
- Just a river in the mountains nothing outstanding.
- Fisheries, beauty, clean water, recreation.
- High priority restoration area for water quality and fish restoration given a horrible past and ongoing land management practices (splash dam logging, riparian grazing, water over allocation).
- More traffic leads to more impact on the area wildlife...currently the area is rugged, beautiful, and remote. Remote being the key.
- None.
- The river is doing just fine with the standing it has today.
- Native fish runs, diversity of wildlife and birds, corridor "link" from higher elevations to lower elevations
- The wild course the river follows and seeing all of the wildlife benefit from its current, natural state.
- Two-lane rural road.
- Outstanding features/characteristics within this segment of the Grande Ronde River do not exist. Channel morphology contains high width/depth ratios, low water quality due to high stream temperatures, aquatic habitat quality is poor, poor riparian vegetation conditions, high numbers of water diversions and amounts of water diverted, road systems occur adjacent to the channel throughout most of the segments, private land makes up most of the area encompassed by the proposed reaches.
- I don't see any. Instead, I only see a stream that exists within a greatly modified state. When I think of a stream/river with "outstanding features/characteristics", I don't think of this section of the Grande Ronde River.
- The most outstanding characteristics are the river's beauty, the wildlife that it sustains, and the natural habitat that it creates.
- The Grande Ronde Tribe has allowed access to this fishery and the Scenic Waterways efforts would enhance this river.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the potential addition of the Grande Ronde River segments to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- I really love this area and would love to see it protected for future generations to enjoy as well!
- This is not a river. It is a trickle during summer. If you have reached the point where you think this needs to be designated a river, you must have more wild and scenic areas than you need. Next thing we will be having "Wild and Scenic Irrigation Ditches".
- There is no need for additional classification and plans. The area in question already has layers of contradictory planning and regulation. This seems politically motivated with little understanding of resource limitations and the failures of previous ill-conceived plans.
- Do it!
- It might make people more aware of the beauty this part of the state has to offer. It might make people more aware of the need to preserve clean water and natural habitat for future generations.
- No.
- Sharing this stretch with the rest of the state.

- This appears to be another case of 'Big Brother' telling property owners what they can and cannot do with their own property.
- Would like a path to be developed along the portions of the river to improve access....would be a great place for a bike path.
- YOU are not interested in the economic viability of rural Oregon, just meeting the perceived needs of the urban voters in the north end of the Willamette valley. Why not make the McKenzie W & S?
- IF you really wanted to improve the recreational opportunities in this area of Eastern Oregon. You would build a dam along this route or above it to control the spring water flow/run off and control it throughout the summer months. The resultant lake behind this dam would provide a wide range of recreational things to do. To the local community and those drawn to the area from outside.
- I think it's about time we do more to protect beautiful rivers like the GRR!!
- It is the moral thing to do, to conserve and make room for a potentially healthy ecosystem. The news is that this small planet is facing exponentially degenerative/destructive forces. We have the opportunity to behave differently.
- As stated above, I believe this is a monumental waste of time and taxpayer dollars for no significant gain to Oregon's citizens.
- Thousands of dollars have been put into the upper parts of the Grande Ronde River to help restore its healthy condition. This work needs to be allowed to continue.
- Do it.
- Please protect it all! Waterways are the life blood of the planet. Protect and respect.
- This would also benefit the wildlife who are being constantly invaded by human population expansion.
- It is a bad idea that doesn't benefit the people of Oregon in any way
- Make sure Scenic Waterway rules don't preclude restoration efforts.
- I highly recommend that this segment of the Grande Ronde River be studied and ultimately be included in the Scenic Waterway program!
- Keep the preservation effort going!
- Union county just celebrated 150 years as a county and the river actually looks good.with land use changes made in the last 30 years, and fisheries changes in the last 15, we see no benefit to the designation
- This segment (especially the lower portions) are used extensively by the local kayaking and rafting community and would be appropriately designated as a recreational scenic river segments. The upper segment would fit better into the Natural River Area Scenic Waterway classification.
- I cannot only foresee problems. No benefit whatsoever.
- Sure, stay out of our river and our county with your socialist state programs
- The designation process should point out something that is not being protected and how the scenic value is not being retained. I do not see any need to protect more or restore anything along the river. There are more days along the river when there is little recreation use due to the topographic position of the river in Oregon and its scenic and resource protection would have to be justified in a meaningful way. What are the cost-benefits to the designation?
- No
- I understand a survey was done recently mapping the banks and river course....do those desk-jockeys understand that the banks they mapped are only current during the summer months? In the late winter and spring the river often overflows it's banks and if they are serious about planting a bunch of baby trees they will lose most of them? I am just not sure anyone who doesn't live and work along the waterway can really understand it's dynamic.

- We the people are currently working to protect wildlife and habitat of all kinds... We don't need more government. It will cost a lot of tax dollars to have this operated by the government, for no reason... Save all our money, Please!
- I have stated before that the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program would be better served to pick a different river than the Grande Ronde.
- Go do this somewhere on the west side of the state!
- Please don't do this.
- LEAVE US ALONE!
- Will fight it
- Another stupid Salem stunt with little regard for the people who actually live near the river.
- Not enough water up here at Starkey. People will be walking all over private property. Don't need more government in our business. Taxes will go up and values down and limitations on everything. High speeds every year we have accidents and here they come to us for help. Some get reported and some just need help or to be pulled out. It's still a disruption in our lives.
- I think it's a great idea!!
- This direction is the best potential long range plan for providing more benefits for people, fish, and wildlife into the future.
- I believe this proposal is a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars. Surely, we can find something more appropriate to spend our limited resources on.
- Incorrect information in the Public Meeting Materials, under "Activities to be Review, Timber harvest proposal". The Oregon FPA does regulate 100 foot RMA, but for a scenic river, the regulated buffer is 1/4 miles of horizontal distance, regulated by OPRD.
- Just to expect a letter from us.
- Add it
- Nope.
- Thank you for considering the Grande Ronde River, it is a treasure.
- Not appropriate. Represents a "taking" of private property.
- Please weigh the public costs of not protecting this reach very carefully: many of the impacts associated with development are externalized and socialized, and don't seem to be taken into account in many proposals.
- Be like Nike, Just Do It.
- No
- You have not stated why are you even considering this action? Who is pushing for this proposed action to be taken? How could implementation of this proposed action possibly improve upon the existing management of the waterway?
- Please preserve this river to maintain its unique beauty.
- IT IS WRONG!!! IT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN!!!
- Please get the opinions of local residents, not just the vocal activists from the west side of the state that don't know or care what we need and want here in Eastern Oregon. Thanks.
- No.
- In fact, I believe the designated course of segments is too limited and should extend well upstream from Vey Meadows. The highest water quality is in this upper section, and this section is as deserving of protection as the lower part. It would be nice to get the cows out of the river (most noticeable on the green segment.)
- Please protect this river--rivers are like arteries. They nourish the land.

- The Oregon Cattlemen's Association has fought efforts to restore the river through the Tony Vey Meadows project. Water quality and temperature have been severely impacted by cattle in the riparian area. This needs to be fixed.
- I am a big supporter of the Grand Ronde River segments' addition to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program.
- I would love to see it happen. I also wish someone would fix the river bank at Riverside park in La Grande (I know this isn't within the study area, but thought I'd mention it).
- The addition of the G.R. River to the W & S River system is a vital part of any plan attempting to slow, then reverse, the imminent impacts of global warming and we need to seize any opportunity we can in our struggle to keep our planet habitable.
- I would like to preserve this part of our wonderful natural heritage for future generations of children and grandchildren.
- Protect it! For the Oregonians of today and future generations.
- No. As historical documents show, the Upper Grande Ronde River was once a sluiceway for splash dam logging, a destructive use of public waters that essentially destroyed the river's marine habitat and riparian zones. Now that the Umatilla/Cayuse/Walla Walla tribes and others are working on restoring those destroyed fish runs, it's time to protect and encourage and preserve those efforts.
- Let's do it.
- STOP LIMITING OUR ACCESS!! It's the PEOPLE'S LAND, NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S!!
- This is a great opportunity. Please work hard for this one.
- Go for it!
- I can't think of any river that is more deserving of such designation in Oregon.
- I support protection.
- No, thanks. Just do it.
- Please do it! The Bureau of Reclamation and others are planning a fish habitat restoration project which might impact people's ability to float part of the river.
- PLEASE ADD IT TO OUR STATE'S TREASURES!!!!
- Just that I hope it will be included. Thank you for offering the survey.
- If you want to do something good keep the cows off the road and out of the creek. Try driving up past Starkey Store. Your tires and wheel wells will be attracting flies. If you don't hit a cow on the way. The only good section of the creek is from the National Forest boundary on up. The water is cooler and cleaner.
- Make it part of the amazing Scenic Waterway system. Let's set the best example we can for the rest of the nation and let's sustain a vibrant ecosystem for the future of the planet
- LEAVE the people of eastern Oregon alone and stop ruining our public land with a nightmare of rules and regulations that the city dwellers want to impose on us. They might see it once a year if that. WE live here.
- You progressives will do what you want until there is balance forced upon you. All state and federal bureaucracies are infested with you people. There needs to be balance in our un-elected bureaucracies. Obviously, look no further than the condition of our forests after 25 years of your management.
- Our waterways need more protection- and better enforcement of current regulations!
- Your effort is long past-due. Get 'er done!
- Put the money that would go into this project into areas that have already been developed for public access.
- This must not move forward as it only benefits a small group of special interest that seek to limit and restrict the majorities uses of the area.

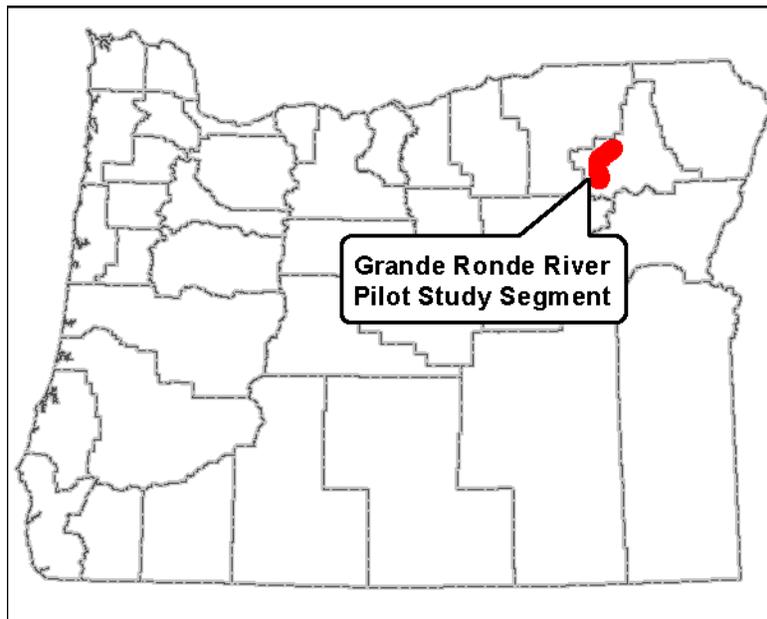
- Don't do it!
- This recognition and protection is long overdue! THANK YOU for preserving our natural heritage for all to enjoy!
- Please add the Grande Ronde River to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program!!!
- The Grande Ronde River upstream of the Umatilla National Forest boundary has been and continues to be maintained in a degraded condition. These segments could become more appropriately eligible in the future if restoration is accelerated, especially on private lands.
- I'm not sure how this river segment made the priority cut this time around. Perhaps we're at the bottom of the barrel? What recreation goes on here that supports the addition? Fishing? No. We're struggling to improve greatly devastated ESA-listed fisheries. Recreation? Very little opportunity consisting of limited camping and driving the road. But the esthetics are limited to perhaps the spring-time when flows are up. By summer the river is low, shallow, mossy creating something a far cry from "outstanding". A good deal of the channel is either unstable or constrained by the road systems. A few short segments display some degree of values, but they are the exception and not the rule. I think Oregon should feature streams and rivers that truly are "outstanding", and not designate those that at best display marginal in values. To draw people here via a designation under the guise of the "Oregon Scenic Waterways System" would be a deception at best, and could insult the integrity of the entire system.
- The Grande Ronde River is already scenic. It does not need a program to make it more special or to protect it (it has plenty of protection).
- Please make this addition.

Survey Questionnaire

Grand Ronde River Segment Scenic Waterway Public Input

A citizen's initiative created the Oregon Scenic Waterways System, which currently includes approximately 1,150 miles on 20 waterways. The program protects designated waterbodies and adjacent lands that possess outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, historic, archaeological, and outdoor recreation values. It preserves the waterbodies in a natural free-flowing condition, preserves scenic and esthetic qualities, and protects water quality and quantity at a level necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife.

The governor has directed the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to evaluate potential additions to the Oregon Scenic Waterways System. In 2014, OPRD assembled a scenic waterway task force to prioritize rivers for potential addition to the system. Based on task force input, the Grande Ronde River segment, from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park, has been selected by the department for a pilot study to determine suitability for designation.



This survey is part of the public outreach process for gathering comments on the potential addition of the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Question 1: What is your residence zip code? _____

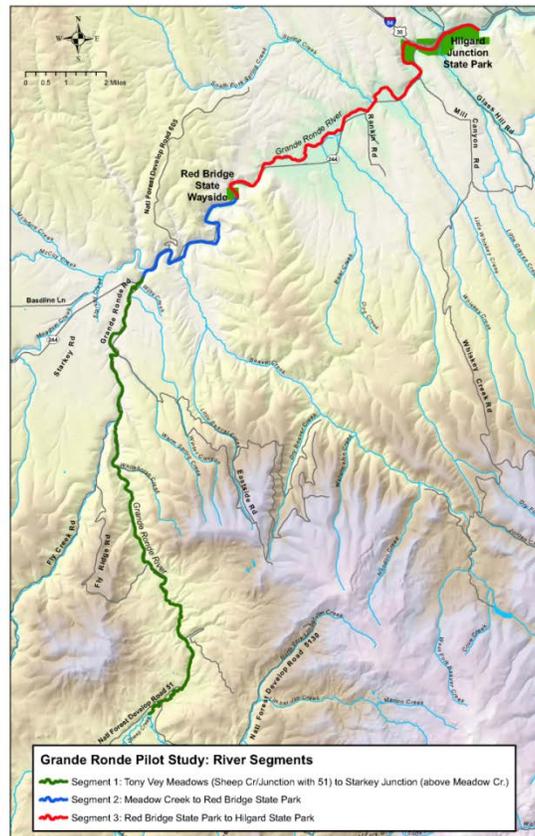
Question 2: What is your primary interest in the Grande Ronde River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

Question 3: Do you support or oppose the addition of the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program (check one)?

- Support - Why do you support? _____
- Oppose – Why do you oppose? _____

Question 4: If you oppose, check the box to support or oppose the three specific Grande Ronde River segments included in the study proposal.

River Segment 1: Tony Vey Meadows (Sheep Cr/Junction with 51) to Starkey Junction (above Meadow Cr.) (Green line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
River Segment 2: Meadow Creek to Red Bridge State Park (Blue line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
River Segment 3: Red Bridge State Park to Hilgard State Park (Red line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose



Question 5: What benefits do you see if the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Question 6: What problems do you see if the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Question 7: What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Grande Ronde River segment (from the confluence with Sheep Creek to Hilgard Junction State Park)?

Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the potential addition of the Grande Ronde River segment to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Thank you for your input!