

## Waldo and Crater Lake Outstanding Resource Waters



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

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*DEQ is a leader in restoring,  
maintaining and enhancing  
the quality of Oregon's air,  
land and water.*

### What are Outstanding Resource Waters?

Outstanding Resource Waters are high quality waters that have extraordinary or unique character or ecological value and are identified by the state as an outstanding state or national resource. Once designated, the existing high water quality shall be protected.

### Waldo Lake

Waldo Lake is located in west central Oregon in the high Cascade Mountains. The watershed is located entirely in the Willamette National Forest. Waldo Lake has exceptionally high water quality and is renowned for its outstanding clarity. The clarity averages 125 feet. The lake's waters are chemically similar to distilled water.

It is the source of the North Fork of the Middle Fork Willamette River, a Wild and Scenic River. Protecting Waldo will help protect the water quality of this river as well.

The lake is an excellent recreational resource for locals and visitors alike. Visitors enjoy its pristine beauty as they hike, camp, mountain bike, and boat using a variety of non-motorized water craft.



*Recreational users enjoy the beauty of Waldo Lake.*

### Crater Lake

Crater Lake is the centerpiece of Oregon's only National Park. Located in a volcanic caldera, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States. According to the National Park Service, it is one of the clearest, bluest, deepest, and most pristine lakes in the world.

All water reaching the lake is from rain and snowmelt because there are no streams flowing in or out of the lake. The clarity of the lake averages nearly 100 feet. It is home to the unique Mazama newt.

Crater Lake National Park is a leading tourist attraction in Oregon, receiving over 704,000 visitors in 2019. Recreational activities include hiking, biking, scenic vistas, camping, skiing, snow-shoeing, and boat tours on the lake.



*Crater Lake is a uniquely beautiful place.*

### Rulemaking for proposed designation

The Environmental Quality Commission granted a citizen petition and directed the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a rulemaking process to:

- Designate Waldo Lake and its associated wetlands an Outstanding Resource Water
- Designate Crater Lake an Outstanding Resource Water
- Adopt policies to protect these waters

### Implementing the ORW policy

The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service will manage the lakes and surrounding lands to protect their existing water quality and ecological values, in accordance with their authorities. DEQ may not issue permits for discharges to the lakes. Short term impacts may be allowed to respond to emergencies or for long term restoration or water quality improvement.

For more information, please visit this link: [proposed rulemaking: Waldo and Crater Lake Outstanding Resource Waters.](#)

### Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).