



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 19-05

DESIGNATING SEGMENTS OF THE NEHALEM RIVER (CLATSOP AND TILLAMOOK COUNTIES) AS STATE SCENIC WATERWAY AND DIRECTING SCENIC WATERWAY STUDIES TO USE A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Oregon has a diversity of river systems that richly contribute to our quality of life. Oregonians feel connected to our rivers and value their importance to our economies, communities, and ecosystems.

In 1970, the people of Oregon voted to establish the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. This law protects the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation; protects and enhances scenic, cultural and natural values along scenic waterways; and establishes a process and criteria for adding new rivers to the scenic waterway system. The state Scenic Waterways system now includes approximately 1,178 miles on 22 waterways.

Stewardship of our rivers is ever more important as the population along our rivers increases and a changing climate results in low snowpack levels, high temperatures, and significantly low streamflows. These changes impact recreation, fish and wildlife, and community and economic health.

Pursuant to the provisions of ORS 390.805 to 390.925, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) undertook studies of the Nehalem River. The Nehalem River Study Area is as follows: The Nehalem River and all lands within a quarter mile of each bank, beginning at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground downstream approximately 17.5 miles to the confluence with Cook Creek, near Cougar Valley State Park. OPRD consulted with the Oregon Water Resources Department and other state agencies, requested input from local governments, landowners and other interested parties, and conducted hearings in the counties in which those rivers are located.

At the conclusion of its process, OPRD identified the 17.5-mile stretch of the Nehalem River as meeting Scenic Waterways Act criteria and described those segments in the OPRD Nehalem River Proposed State Scenic Waterway Report and Draft Management Plan (Scenic Waterway Report), which were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on February 20, 2019. OPRD received concurrence in its identifications from the Water Resources Commission on February 22, 2019, and these identifications were submitted to me in April 2019.

I wish to ensure that the outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, cultural, and outdoor recreational values of special Oregon rivers are conserved for



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Oregonians today and in the future through a collaborative process that includes tribal governments, local governments, state and federal agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, recreation organizations, agriculture interests, forestry interests, and businesses.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. Consistent with the recommendations of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, and with the concurrence of the Oregon Water Resources Commission, I hereby designate segments of the Nehalem River and related adjacent land described in the Scenic Waterway Report as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway subject to the provisions of ORS 390.805 to 390.925.
2. In undertaking future scenic waterway qualification studies including scenic waterway flows, OPRD and the Oregon Water Resources Department will utilize a collaborative process that includes tribal governments, local governments, landowners, and conservation, recreation, river use, agriculture, forestry, and business organizations, in addition to the statutorily required consultation with state agencies under ORS 390.855.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until it is otherwise modified, amended or terminated.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 30th day of June, 2019.



Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Bev Clarno
SECRETARY OF STATE