

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 18, 2015

Agenda Item:	9a	Action
Topic:	State Scenic Waterways Program	
Presented by:	Chris Havel	

Under the usual process for recommending additions to Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway system, the governor, legislature, or voters approve new designations. Afterward, department staff, local agencies, and citizens discuss specific rules to determine how the new waterway should be managed. At the direction of the Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff tested a slightly different approach by working with local proponents on a draft management plan before a waterway is designated.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff studied portions of three rivers in 2014, and found two—several miles each of the Chetco and Molalla—qualified for designation. The Grand Ronde was removed from consideration. The Commission recommended designation of the two surviving candidates in November 2014. At the time, the commission also adopted a staff request to require a draft management plan from a local proponent group **before** submitting the scenic waterway recommendations to the Governor. This step—normally the sort of thing that happens **after** a waterway is designated—is not listed among the scenic waterway eligibility criteria in statute or administrative rules, a fact clarified by the Commission in April 2015. A draft management plan is an optional, nonbinding document that does not affect the commission’s decision to recommend these two waterways for designation.

Over the course of 2015, staff from OPRD and the Water Resources Department convened one local group for each waterway. The groups, with extensive help from staff, held public meetings and workshops to write draft management reports to:

- Propose scenic waterway classifications within each river. Scenic waterways are divided into segments, and one of six different categories is applied to each segment. The categories carry different levels of protection and are selected to protect key scenic and recreational values for that stretch.
- Propose specific land management rules and recommendations that would apply to all property within a quarter mile of the waterway.
- Review proposed water flow recommendations provided by the Water Resources Department. Scenic waterways do not have water rights, but a designation does affect the way Water Resources allocates water forward from the date a designation is made.

As the advisory groups wrote their draft management plans, they encountered detailed, specific information about how a waterway designation would affect private landowners. The groups incorporated recommendations into their report to address these concerns. Since the management plan isn't binding, this information will be fed into a formal rulemaking process if the designations are approved.

These draft management plans for the Chetco and Molalla are now part of the original scenic waterway reports approved by the Commission in November 2014, added as "Appendix D." Staff recommend the Commission approve the addition, forwarding the expanded report to Water Resources. The Water Resources Commission will decide if they concur with the designation recommendation. If they do, the recommendation goes to Governor Kate Brown. If the Governor chooses to designate the waterways, the legislature has until they adjourn their next regular session to override her decision. If the decision stands, the new scenic waterways join the system and formal rulemaking begins, using these reports as the starting point.

Under formal rulemaking, related agencies, the public, and local jurisdictions will have more opportunities to comment.

Prior Action by Commission: Scenic Waterway recommendations, Item 10a, November 2014, as amended by Item 11b, April 2015.

Action Requested: Add the attached draft management plans to the previous Commission action in November 2014 recommending designation of the Chetco and Molalla scenic waterway segments. Refer the updated document to the Water Resources Department for concurrence before submitting to the Governor.

Attachments:

Chetco Scenic Waterway report amended to include draft management report (Appendix D)*
Molalla Scenic Waterway report amended to include draft management report (Appendix D)*

** These attachments have short versions of the draft management plans, and just the table of contents and Executive Summary from the original scenic waterway report presented in November 2014. To see a full version of the draft management plan, go to http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Pages/Commission_Packet_2015-November.aspx.*

Prepared by: Chris Havel



State Scenic Waterway Report:

Chetco River

October 27, 2014

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



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY	7
Study Purpose	7
Study Location and Area	7
Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program	8
Designation Process for New Scenic Waterways	10
Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas	11
Management of New Scenic Waterways	11
WATERWAY ELIGIBILITY FINDINGS	14
Waterway Characteristics	14
Cultural Resources	14
Natural features	16
Recreation	26
Management Setting	36
Application of Scenic Waterway Criteria	38
PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS	42
Stakeholder Input	44
Written Comments	44
Online Survey	45
Community Meeting	45
County Commission Input	46
WATERWAY SUITABILITY CONCLUSIONS	47
REFERENCES	48

Figures

Figure 1. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon.....	7
Figure 2. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System.....	9
Figure 3. Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway designation options	10
Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation for the Chetco River. Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)..	17
Figure 5. Peak streamflow as recorded by the USGS near Brookings on the Chetco River (1970-2013)	18
Figure 6. Ecoregions surrounding the Chetco River study area.....	21
Figure 7. Approximate day-use and camping visitation at Alfred A. Loeb State Park (2002-2013).....	27
Figure 8. Water levels before, during, and after the study visit (June 26-27, 2014).	30
Figure 9. Approximate land ownership types within study area	37

Tables

Table 1. Monthly mean discharge in cubic feet per second (cfs) based on 44 years of record (1969-2013) as recorded at the Brookings gauge on the Chetco River (Source: USGS).....	17
Table 2. At-risk plant species documented in study area ¹	23
Table 3. At-risk animal species occurrences in study area ¹	24
Table 4. Important recreational features within the study area	28
Table 5. Recreation use seasons within the Chetco River study area	28
Table 6. Scenic resource inventory of the view just below the “steel bridge”	32
Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view within the Chetco River Gorge.....	33
Table 8. Scenic resource inventory of the view just upstream of Rainbow Creek	34
Table 9. Scenic resource inventory of the view just upstream of 2 nd bridge and Loeb State Park.....	35
Table 10. Approximate land-ownership within the Chetco River study area	36
Table 11. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Chetco study area	45

Appendices

- A Community Meeting Transcription**
- B Submitted Written Comments**
- C Online Survey Report**
- D Draft Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Assessment Team

Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Planner

Terry Bergerson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Noel Bacheller, Natural Resource Specialist

Calum Stevensen, Natural Resource Specialist

Jim Morgan, Stewardship Division Manager

Steve Kay, Grants and Community Programs Manager

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 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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, 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 14 miles on the Chetco 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 Chetco River during a June, 2014 field visit using eligibility criteria established by State statutes (ORS 390.855). The river was evaluated from 26th to June 27th 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 this evaluation, the entire study area along the Chetco River met the eligibility qualifications for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program;
- All segments of the study area are completely free-flowing within primarily natural banks and offer pleasing views of both primitive and rural-pastoral lands from the river;
- The study area includes a state park with camping and day-use and multiple US Forest Service camping and day-use areas, offering hiking and other river-related pursuits such as wildlife viewing and scenic enjoyment;
- The entire study area supports important fish habitat and offers outstanding recreational fishing and quality paddling during much of the year;
- The scenic quality as viewed from the river meets or exceeds the eligibility criteria and is enhanced by the unique and sometimes dramatic geology, mixture of vegetation and wildlife, water color, and water clarity.

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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community 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 Brookings on September 11, 2014 to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised thru a news release and public notice in the local paper. Based on OPRD's analysis of public input, the following findings were identified:

- Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program;
- There was consensus among community members that the waterway is free-flowing and meets the Program's exceptional scenic value criteria; and
- The US Forest Service, organizations, and community members indicated that they observe significant recreational use of the Chetco River including fishing, dispersed camping, hiking, and floating on the waterway.

Waterway Suitability Conclusions

Based on the OPRD's eligibility findings and significant support for the potential designation, the Chetco River study area is a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway's program. Adequate seasonal water flows provide ample opportunities for floating and fishing along the waterway. Public access is provided at multiple locations along the waterway including various dispersed sites on Forest Service Property, three highly used river bars and Alfred A. Loeb State Park. Even during periods of low water flow, significant levels of dispersed camping, hiking, and fishing occur along the Chetco River. Although highly suitable for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program, the

following issues should be addressed when considering designation of the Chetco River into the program:

- If the Chetco River study area is designated, OPRD should work closely with stakeholders to help them form a long-term proponent group for the waterway.
- The first project for the proponents, with assistance from OPRD, would be to develop a management plan for the Scenic Waterway. This is a required component of all designated waterways.
- An important second project would be to develop a water trail guide to encourage environmental stewardship, promote outdoor recreation opportunities, reduce potential conflicts with private property owners, and promote safety when accessing the waterway.

Appendix D

DRAFT

Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan

Chetco River

October 2015



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite C Salem, Oregon 97301



Acknowledgements

Alyssa Babin, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Brookings

Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)

Forrest English, Rogue Riverkeeper

Pat Fadden, South Coast Lumber, Brookings

Dwight French, Water Rights Services Administrator, WRD

Lorelei Haukness, Recreation Program Manager, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Chris Havel, Associate Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Shavon Haynes, Assistant Watermaster, WRD

Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD

Brent Hodges, Brookings City Councilor

Rocky Houston, Trails Coordinator, OPRD

Anna Krug, Manager, Harris Beach Management Unit (e.g., Alfred A. Loeb State Park), OPRD

Carrie Lovellette, Integrated Park Services Section Assistant, OPRD

Rachel LovellFord, Hydrologist, WRD

Luke Martinez, Wilderness Canyon Adventures, paddling guide services, Pistol River

Kat Moya, Manager, Chetco River Inn, Brookings

Trevor Taylor, Stewardship Manager, OPRD

Julie Schmelzer, Curry County

Bo Shelby, Oregon State University

Mark Sherwood, Native Fish Society, Brookings

Kenneth Stahr, Hydrographics, Measurement, and Reporting Section manager, WRD

Calum Stevenson, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD

Harvey Young, Fishhawk River Company, fishing guide services, Brookings

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, 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.

In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. This decision was based on the waterway eligibility findings and public support. 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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address and an online survey. In addition, a local community meeting was held 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. Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicated that there is strong support for designating the Chetco and Molalla study areas into the State Scenic Waterway Program.

The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with local advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification [reports](#) for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan for a 14 mile stretch of the Chetco River in Curry County, Oregon.

Management Planning

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is on the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The

intent is to maintain the *existing* scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 14, June 9), open to the public, and one public workshop (July 14) designed to obtain public feedback on the draft plans for the waterways. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. Input provided in these meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plans. The public meeting kicked off a 30 day public comment period for the management plan. A summary of public comments received is included in the Appendix.

In order to define and achieve management goals, if designated, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river. As proposed, the river would be managed (if designated and not altered during public rule-making) in three segments, an Accessible Natural River Area from the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek, a Scenic River Area from Eagle Creek to the South Fork confluence and a Recreational River Area from the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park.

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations, along with proposed regulations specific to each management category. Additionally, a set of proposed management recommendations (designed to help enhance the recreational experience on the Chetco) were developed from advisory committee and public input, including several about improving public access, facilities and interpretive information.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing new water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)).

Contents

Background	1
Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study	1
Eligibility Study Purpose.....	2
Study Location and Area	2
Waterway Eligibility Findings	4
Program Goals.....	8
Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.....	9
Management of Scenic Waterways	10
The Management Planning Process.....	10
Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan.....	10
Scenic Waterway Classification.....	11
Scenic Waterway Land Management Program	13
Accessible Natural River Area	14
Scenic River Area.....	15
Recreational River Areas.....	15
<i>Potential</i> Land Management Rules.....	19
For all scenic waterway areas	19
Accessible Natural River Area	19
Scenic River Area.....	19
Recreational River Area	20
Management Recommendations	21
Works Cited.....	23
Appendix A: WRD scenic flow document (placeholder)	24
Appendix B: Public Comment Summary	25

Figures

Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System	1
Figure 2. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon	3
Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications	11
Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership	18

Background

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a ballot initiative in 1970, is administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission through the Oregon 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 on the one hand, and adjacent property rights on the other. Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor, the legislature, or by the citizens of Oregon through ballot initiative. For example, in 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. The state program currently includes approximately 1,180 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 1).

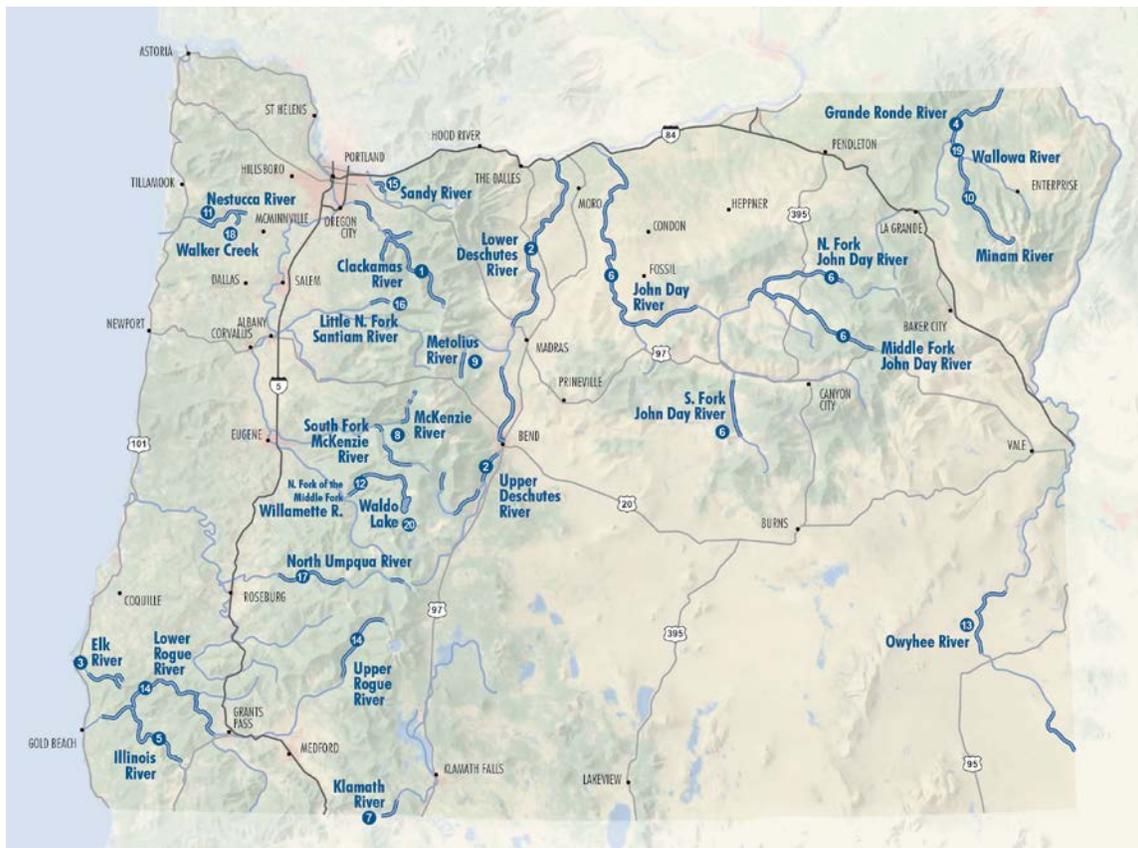


Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (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 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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, 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. In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification reports for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan (see: The Management Planning Process). A summary of the eligibility study results is included below as background information.

Eligibility Study Purpose

An Oregon Scenic Waterway study, initiated by OPRD in 2014, 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 Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The study, covering approximately 14 miles on the Chetco River, constitutes the first step - a report to the OPRD Commission. The study 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.

Study Location and Area

The Chetco River has its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in southwestern Oregon, near the junction of the Oregon Coast Range and Klamath Mountains, eventually flowing after around 55 miles into the Pacific Ocean between the cities of Brookings and Harbor, near the Oregon-California border (Figure 2). The river ranges from a high elevation at around 3,700 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low where it enters the Pacific Ocean at MSL, with an average drop of about 67 feet/mile (USFS, 1993). Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Rogue, Elk, and Illinois River, portions of all three are designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways along with the North Fork of the Smith. The study area on the Chetco River is shown below in red, in Figure 2 along with nearby State Scenic Waterways.

The Chetco River Study Area referred to in the scenic waterway study is defined as follows: The Chetco River and all lands within ¼ mile of each bank, beginning at where the Steel Bridge crosses the river within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest downstream approximately fourteen miles to Alfred A. Loeb State Park, near the city of Brookings, Oregon.

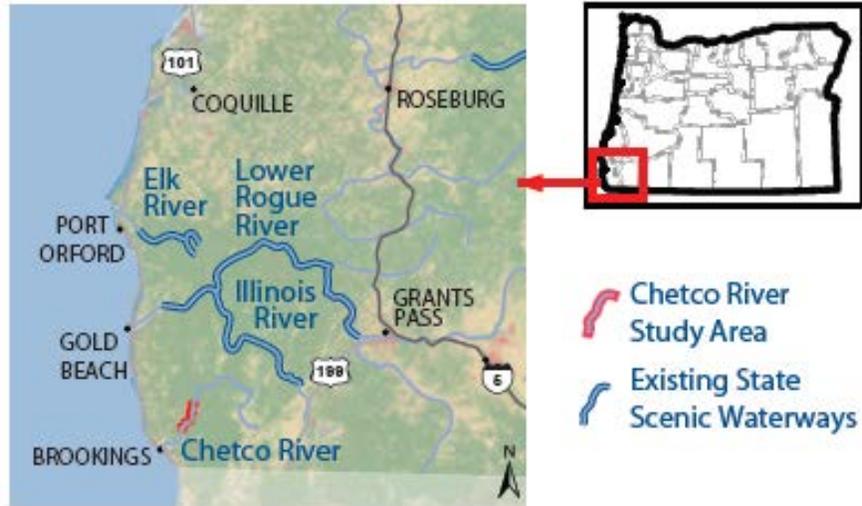


Figure 2. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon

While the upper wilderness section of the river is characterized as steep and heavily dissected, the lower fourteen mile study area is less steep with a wider river bottom and more densely forested surrounding hill slopes. In some sections, namely the Chetco River Gorge, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including large colorful boulders in the riverbed. After the gorge, the river widens and sand and gravel bars become more frequent along the banks. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Chetco River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include Eagle Creek, South Fork and Emily Creek. The upper study section is primarily composed of federal public lands, while the lower portion is a mix of federal, state and private lands with a mix of rural residential development and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands.

The free-flowing river provides drinking water for the residents of Brookings-Harbor, is home to native fish runs including wild salmon and steelhead trout, and attracts a variety of recreational users. Only a day-trip away from Brookings-Harbor, Oregon and Crescent City, California, the Chetco offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, swimming/wading, kayaking, picnicking, and adjacent trail-use for hiking. Fishing for salmon and steelhead is at its peak in the winter months along with whitewater kayaking. In the summer, swimming, fishing, boating, camping, sightseeing and picnicking are the major attractions (U.S. Forest Service (USFS), unpublished report). The meandering nature of the river, forested setting, and unique water clarity provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks. Many visitors are drawn to the river for the striking water color and clarity. An approximately 44.5 mile portion of the upper river (from the headwaters to the Forest Service boundary) has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

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). The approximately fourteen-mile long study area was divided into three segments. The Upper Section, includes the Chetco River from the Steel Bridge to the Old Low Water Bridge (USFS Rd 1846). The Middle Section, includes the Chetco River from the Old Low Water Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork of the Chetco River. The Lower Section includes the Chetco River from the South Fork to Alfred A. Loeb 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.

Based on the results of this evaluation, the entire study area along the Chetco River met the eligibility qualifications for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program (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 Chetco River is completely free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, major rip-rapping or modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. The river is also naturally flowing (without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the Kalmiopsis to the Pacific Ocean (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). The Chetco flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges. The river has generally regular and somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow varies seasonally and derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, springs, and some seasonal snow-melt.

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.”

Upper-section: The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section ranges from moderate, but pleasing to exceptional river-scape views with unique geology, dramatic colors in a remote, forested setting. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general remote feeling of the area. The “steel bridge” crosses the river at the starting point of the study area. Other developments along the river include remnants of the old low water bridge (NF-1846), which is the start of the next study segment. It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, the majority of this segment cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road. It is possible in a few areas to access the river banks themselves without a great deal of effort, although the only obvious river access point is at the put-in (off the USFS road near the Steel Bridge) or above the study segment across the river from the Tolman Ranch property (off the USFS Rd). USFS maintains a trail in the area, the Chetco Gorge Trail, near the location of the old low water

bridge. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, interesting geologic features and striking water clarity and color combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the surrounding scenery of the area.

Middle and Lower sections: The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in these sections is typically moderate, but pleasing with a few areas that have more dramatic river-scape views with unique geology, dramatic colors (e.g., rocks and water clarity) in a largely primitive and undeveloped, forested setting. In the lower sections, there are some rural-pastoral features due to grazing that occurs on private lands. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. Cultural modifications include those made for the roads and former bridge (remnants of the low water bridge are visible from the river and banks), along with some impacts from timber harvest, grazing and a few residential homes (and one vacation rental) on private lands and the recreation areas at the USFS managed river bars (e.g., South Fork, Nook, Miller, Redwood) and at Loeb State Park. The state park campground is minimally visible from the river with only the river access road and a few rustic log cabins visible. Recreation, including vehicles and RV's are present, seasonally in large numbers, on all of the river bars in this section.

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout these sections by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, and some of these segments can be viewed from a vehicle, although there are very few places to pull over on the side of the road. It is possible in a few areas to access the river banks; primarily at the USFS managed South Fork dispersed/minimally developed campground and the day-use areas on the river bars. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, interesting geologic features and striking water clarity and color combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the surrounding scenery of the area.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that 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.”

Upper Section: This section of river has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988. The river has been found outstanding for its recreation, water quality and fisheries (USFS, 1993). Fishing on the upper sections, as allowed by fishing regulations, is primarily from those that hike-in or float down the river and fish from their kayaks. Since access for drift boats is limited (in the past the low water crossing was a put-in), commercial use is limited as compared with the lower section. The river is known for its unique water clarity and as a world-class fishing river with some of the largest steelhead on the west coast. The Chetco is on various lists of the best fishing streams, primarily for salmon and steelhead, in the state (Schuhmann, 2012); (Palmer, 2014).

Recreational boating is becoming increasingly popular in the upper section, with access possible via USFS roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. During various water levels, kayaking the “Lower Chetco Gorge” is a regional favorite amongst

intermediate to expert paddlers. The two named major rapids in this section, Candycane and Conehead, rate between 4-5+ during higher flows for those favoring the “big water” experience. However, at lower flows, the most difficult sections can be bypassed by portaging. This section of the river is likely too narrow for rafts due to narrow chutes and portaging required at low water, however, it is floatable at various water levels in both hard-shell and inflatable kayaks. At the time of the site visit, some portaging around Candycane and a portion of Conehead Rapids was necessary due to water levels and obstructions. Fishing is possible, however recreational fishing use, is much lower than the other sections in the study area. Hike-in access to the Lower Chetco Gorge for day-use and camping is possible via USFS roads and trails. This segment includes dispersed camping on USFS property. Hunting for deer and elk in the forests surrounding the river is possible along this section during the appropriate seasons.



Kayaking on the Chetco River

Overall the recreation opportunities on this section of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, additionally they are relatively rare within the region with only a few rivers, like the Illinois and Smith R. offering somewhat similar experiences. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature of recreation on this river is quite unique.

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. Three 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. The Chetco River Population of coho salmon has recently been identified as a core population that is at high extinction risk by the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014). While only a few rare species of plants have been documented in the study area, the condition of the riparian and forest ecosystems of this upper segment is more pristine than the lower reaches, which are more impacted by

human uses. Some of these forests are very old and have large diameter trees with interesting branching. Other areas are younger, either because of logging history or wildfire. Sparse live oak and madrone are abundant on rocky promontories and outcroppings, and these features provide interesting contrast with mesic forest.

Middle and Lower sections: These sections of the river have been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River (until just above Loeb) since 1988. The river was found to be outstanding for recreation, water quality and fisheries (USFS, 1993). The river is known for its unique water clarity and as a world-class fishing river with some of the largest steelhead on the west coast. The Chetco is on various lists of the best fishing streams, primarily for salmon and steelhead, in the state (Schuhmann, 2012); (Palmer, 2014).

Recreational opportunities in this section include day-use pursuits (e.g., hiking, scenic enjoyment, swimming, non-motorized boating, hunting etc.) and camping on both state and USFS property, along with significant seasonal recreational fishing opportunities. Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafts and other float devices) is possible throughout this whole stretch during much of the year with multiple put in and take out spots on public lands. Alfred A. Loeb State Park (Loeb) provides developed camping along the river with trail access to day-use picnic areas and a small network of family-friendly trails along the river and up into the redwoods (which are also located on adjacent USFS property). The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest maintains campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including South Fork Camps, Redwood Bar, Nook Bar, and Miller Bar, all easily accessible from Brookings. Activities include picnicking, fishing, swimming and water play, scenic enjoyment, floating and other forms of non-motorized water sports, along with tent, camper and small trailer camping.



Fishing on the Chetco (photo courtesy of Tim Palmer)

Overall the recreation opportunities on these sections of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature

of recreation on this river is quite unique. The fishing on this section of river is often described as “world-class” and people come from all over the state, region, country, and in some cases the word to experience fishing on the Chetco River.

Natural resources are similar to those described for section 1, above. In summary, 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. Notable for this section are the rare plant communities found in the vicinity of Loeb State Park, which include some of the only coast redwood association (coast redwood-tanoak/Pacific rhododendron forest) in Oregon that is also the “most northerly naturally occurring redwood stand in the world (Kagan, 1998).” The myrtlewood grove near the campground at Loeb is notable since many such communities have been removed by historic logging and other development; the grove at Loeb contains some of the largest remaining trees in Oregon (Kagan, 1998).

It appears that all three sections section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain *substantial* recreation use. The nature of the existing water-based uses and abundance of public access to the river or surrounding lands meets the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the river as critical habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statue requires that both criteria be met.

Program Goals

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state and local), individual property owners and recreation users.

Five general program goals include:

1. To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments and some forms of placer mining activities are currently allowed on scenic waterways.
2. To protect and enhance scenic, natural, recreation, scientific, fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
3. To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners and/or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by dredging. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
4. To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.
5. To encourage other local, state and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-040) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water line, on each side of the river, for their potential impacts on the existing special attributes of the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses; extract minerals and aggregate, harvest timber, or other similar projects, may need to provide written notification to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). OPRD's evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. OPRD relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is inconsistent with the designated classification. OPRD works with the landowner to reach a resolution of conflicts. Where such resolution cannot be reached the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

OPRD coordinates the program with local, state, and federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with Scenic Waterway Act, administrative rules and resource management plans.

Management of Scenic Waterways

The Management Planning Process

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is on the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 14, June 9) and one public workshop (July 14) for each waterway. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. These meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plans.

The mechanisms for protection and enhancement to be included in this draft management plan are:

Scenic Waterway Classification - Within the management plan, scenic waterways are classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the character of the landscape and the amount and type of existing development.

Administrative Rules – If scenic waterway designation occurs, classifications are set in a management plan and specific guidelines for new development are established as state administrative rules through a public rule-making process.

Other Management Recommendations - Suggestions for actions to protect or enhance corridor values are also included in the management plan. Implementation could be through the OPRD, other state agencies, federal agencies or local agencies, organizations or persons. This includes input to OWRD’s recommendation of scenic flows to the Water Resources Commission.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)). WRD recommends Scenic Waterway flows to the Water Resources Commission through a formal staff report. The Commission then amends and/or approves the staff report and flow protections are implemented through the water right process for new water rights within and above the scenic waterway. Input from the OPRD Pilot Advisory Group and Public Comment regarding the recreational flow needs of the Scenic Waterway informs the recommendation that WRD puts forward to the Commission.

Scenic Waterway Classification

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.345), the scenic waterway program is administered by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OPRD works to protect scenic values, recreation and fish and wildlife, based on special attributes of each river. OPRD strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

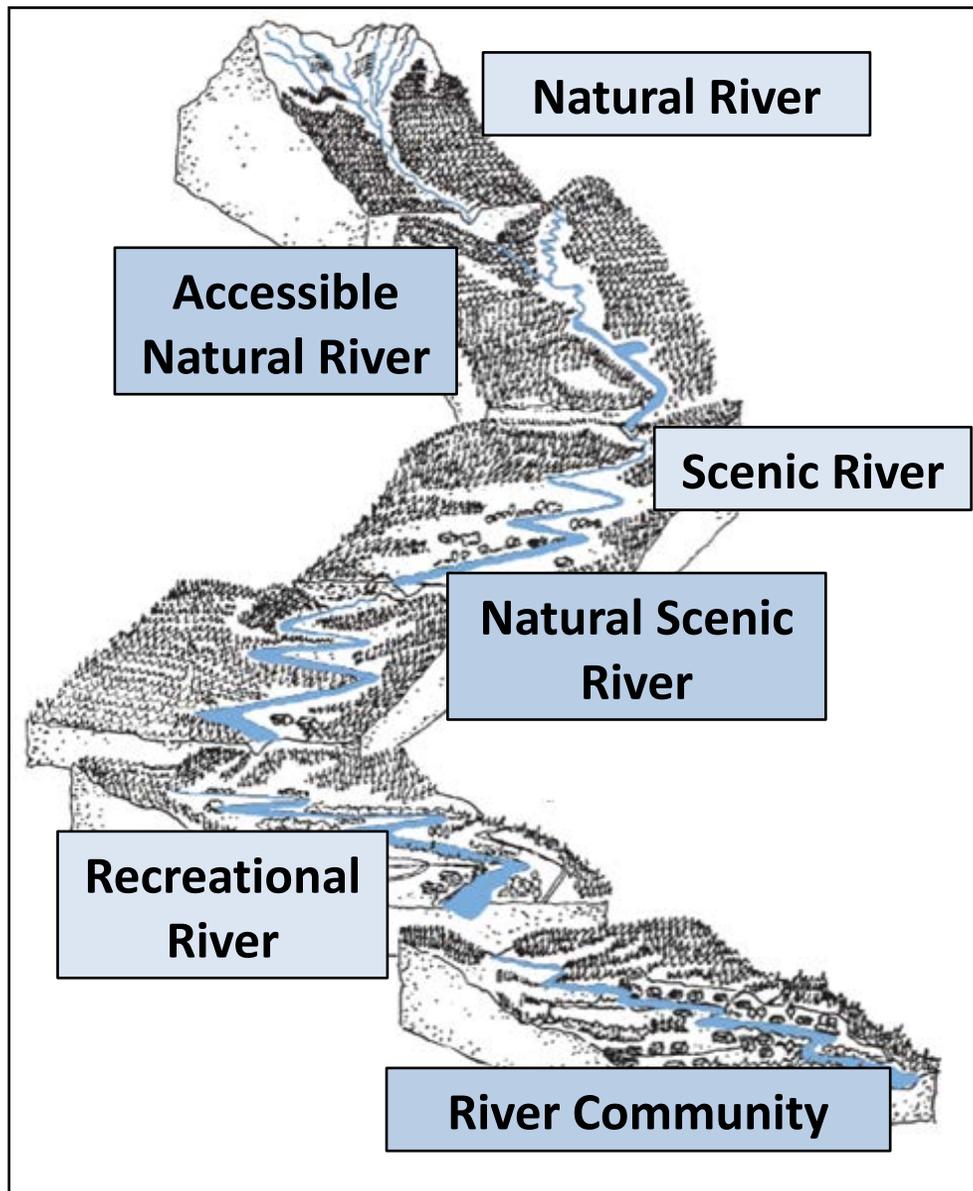


Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

In order to define and achieve management goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or

landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in the scenic waterways program:

1. Natural River Areas are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with related adjacent lands and shorelines essentially primitive. These areas may include an occasional lightly traveled road, airstrip, habitation or other kind of improvement already established, provided the effects are limited to the immediate vicinity. These areas will be administered to preserve their natural, wild and primitive condition while allowing compatible recreational and other uses. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.

2. Accessible Natural River Areas are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road but otherwise possess the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area. These areas are administered to protect or enhance their scenic character, while allowing compatible outdoor recreational use.

3. Scenic River Areas may be accessible in places by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Scenic River Areas may not include long stretches of conspicuous or well-traveled roads paralleling the river in close proximity, but may include extensive areas in agricultural use. River segments considered “Scenic” are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fisheries and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continued agricultural land use.

4. Natural Scenic View Areas are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character (possesses the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area) while the opposite bank and related lands are accessible and developed. These areas are administered, as appropriate, to preserve or enhance their essentially primitive scenic character, while allowing compatible public outdoor recreational use.

5. Recreational River Areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered “Recreation” are managed to allow continuance of a wide range of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.

6. River Community Areas are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered “Community Areas” are managed to allow development that is compatible

with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

Due to the individual character of each scenic waterway, administrative criteria within each of the six classifications may vary from one scenic waterway to another. Examples can be found in the [administrative rules for existing state scenic waterways](#).

The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally 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 garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road building, construction and placement of some new structures, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities typically requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, proposes to apply three classifications to given segments of the proposed Chetco State Scenic Waterway. Classification locations and explanations for each river segment are provided below (see Fig. 4 for map):

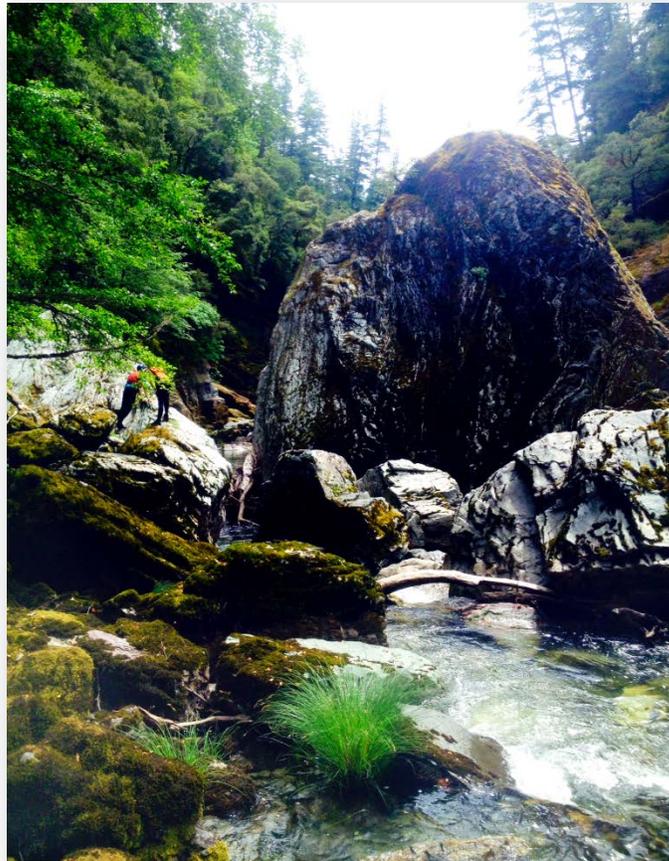


Below Candycane Rapids at low water in the Lower Chetco River Gorge

Accessible Natural River Area

From the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek the river is proposed to be classified as an Accessible Natural River Area. The “Steel Bridge” crosses the river at the beginning of this section, after which the river quickly narrows to form the Lower Chetco River Gorge. Within the gorge, the river channel crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including large colorful boulders in the riverbed, namely two sets of whitewater rapids (Candycane and Conehead). The geology, remote setting and water clarity combine to make this section of river outstandingly scenic.

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. This entire segment is in public (USFS) ownership with river access limited to a small undeveloped area near the Steel Bridge or by paddlers putting in higher up on the river (e.g., across the river from the Tolman Ranch property off the Forest Service Road) and floating down through the Chetco River Gorge. There are no developed recreation facilities, though hiking, kayaking, fishing, hunting, and primitive camping uses are evident. Hike-in access to the Lower Chetco Gorge for day-use and camping is possible via USFS roads and trails. This segment includes some dispersed camping on USFS property. The proposed management goal is to protect or enhance the scenic character of the area while allowing compatible outdoor recreational uses.



Conehead Rapids at low water in the Lower Chetco River Gorge

Scenic River Area

From Eagle Creek to the South Fork confluence the river is proposed to be classified as Scenic River Area. This section of river is accessible in a few places by roads, but is largely undeveloped except for some grazing, rural residential and recreational uses near the South Fork.



The view just upstream of Rainbow Creek on the Chetco River

Other developments along the river include remnants of the old low water bridge (NF-1846) and a trail maintained by the USFS, the Chetco Gorge Trail, with a trailhead near the location of the old low water bridge. The USFS has also maintained a small reservation only hike-in tent site near Rainbow Creek. Of the few developed private properties, very few are visible from the river. The upper section is under public ownership, while there is mixed federal/private ownership as you get closer to the South Fork confluence, including South Coast Lumber and private lands used for grazing and the Chetco River Inn. The proposed management goal is to preserve the area's high scenic quality, recreation value and fisheries and wildlife habitat by ensuring that all new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape while preserving the largely undeveloped character associated with existing uses.

Recreational River Areas

From the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park, the river is proposed to be classified as Recreational River Area. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, the majority of this segment cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road except from vehicular access point on the various the river bars (e.g. South Fork, Redwood, Nook, and Miller). The road (NF 1376) crosses the river at Second Bridge just above Loeb where it eventually becomes the North Bank Chetco River Road. The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation and exceptionally clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists.

While there is more private property in this section (focused around the area just to the south of the South Fork and around Loeb State Park) public access is available throughout this segment because of the multiple public access points on the river bars and at the state park. Existing development includes residential homes, mostly in the area known locally as “Wilderness Retreat”. The “Wilderness Retreat” parcel was sub-divided into 47 lots, ranging between 0.6-1.3 acres with half of the lots lining a high embankment above the river and the other half across the road from the Forest Service Road #1376 (USFS, 1993). Few of these homes are visible from the river due to topography and existing vegetation. Those that are visible are partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tone). Curry County zoning requirements enacted after this subdivision was developed generally limit dwelling density to one dwelling for every 5-10 acres. Additionally, Curry County ordinances generally require structural development setbacks within riparian areas.



The view just upstream of 2nd bridge and Loeb State Park

A small scale gravel operation exists just upriver from Alfred A. Loeb State Park (2nd Bridge Bar aka Fitzhugh Bar), within the scenic waterway study area. The regional general permit (RGP-7), issued in 2011 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers includes two other gravel operations and expires on July 15, 2016. As a requirement of the Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit, Tidewater Contractors submitted a specific plan for the gravel mining operation that will be within the proposed state scenic waterway titled “2012 Extraction Plans for the 2nd Bridge Gravel Bar on the Chetco River-Tidewater Contractors, Inc.” The document specifies the proposed extraction and restoration plan. Tidewater Contractors also has a lease with the Department of State Lands through 2025 for the use of state owned waters along with a conditional use permit from Curry County. The RGP includes requirements for reserves volumes, bar form retention, individual bar allocations, general construction details, an adaptive management strategy, a monitoring plan and enhancement actions.

Removal of material from the beds and banks of designated scenic waterways may be permitted by the Department of State Lands upon a finding that the activity is consistent with scenic waterway and other

state waterway statutes (ORS 390.835). However, given that this is an existing permitted use approved prior to the potential scenic waterway designation, the recommendation to the permitting agencies would be that this existing use be allowed to continue, with the current permit holder, assuming the existing permits, or extensions of those permits, are maintained in good standing with the permitting agencies. OPRD may request to be included in the agency review team if, upon expiration of the permit, any renewal or extension requests result in changes to existing permit conditions or extraction plans that may impact the scenic qualities of the scenic waterway. If the Chetco River study area is designated as a state scenic waterway by the Governor, OPRD will work with DSL, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the permittees and other stakeholders to develop appropriate language during the rule-making process to formalize this recommendation.

The management goal in this section of river (as proposed) is to preserve and promote the area's recreational quality by ensuring that any new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape and are compatible with existing county zoning.

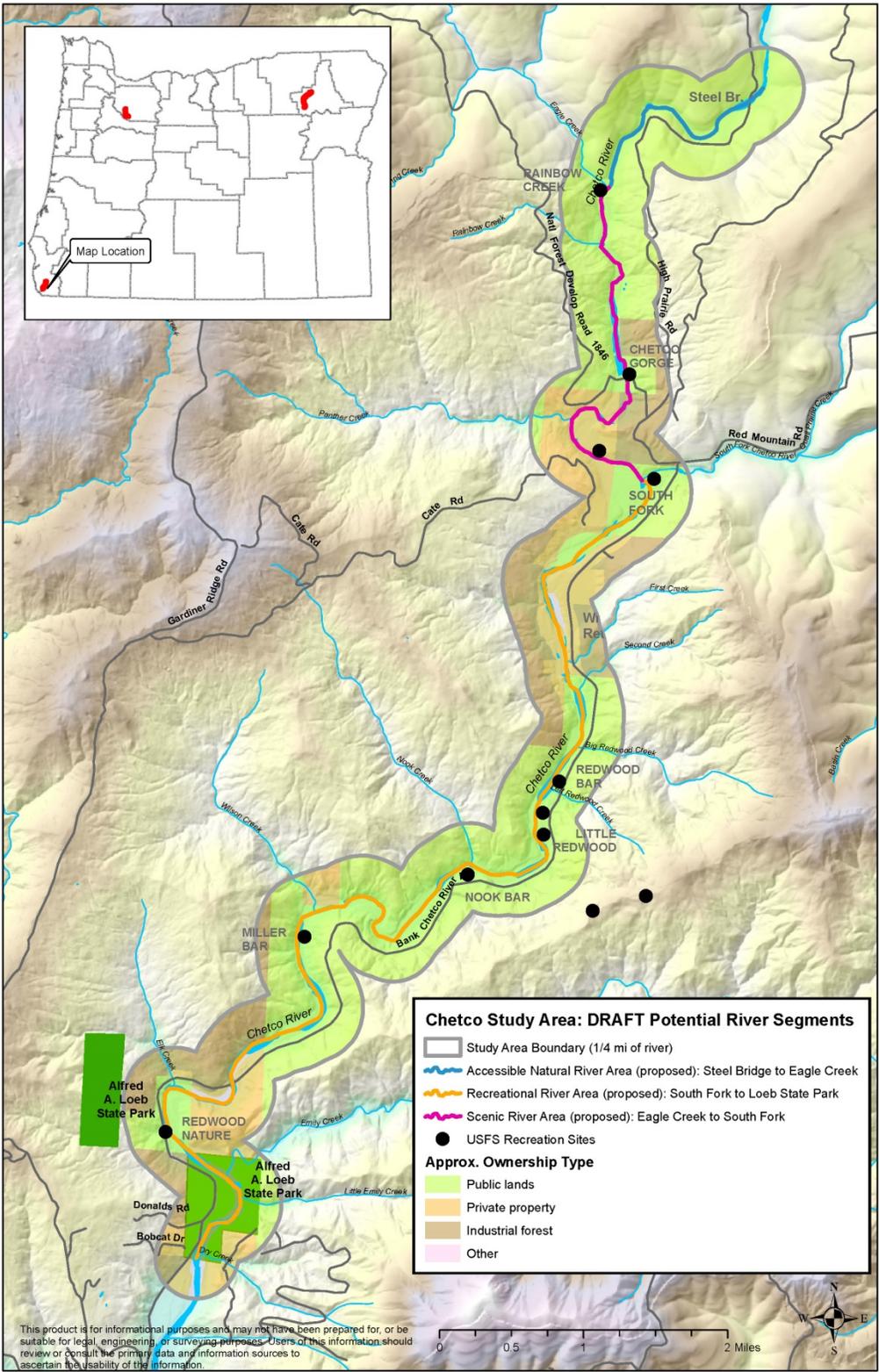


Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

Potential Land Management Rules

For all scenic waterway areas

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable Forest Service and Curry County land use and development regulations.

Accessible Natural River Area

From the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek

Proposed draft rule guidance

- In order to preserve the river and related adjacent lands in a semi-primitive condition, only improvements made in connection with a compatible existing use (e.g., those needed for public recreation use or resource protection) should be allowed.
- Any new improvements permitted should be primitive in character and include screening from the river by topography.
- New roads and similar forms of development should only be permitted when fully screened from view from the river by topography. Any existing roads should not be extended or realigned unless fully screened by topography.

Note: The Forest Service manages this section of river as “scenic” and note in their management plan that the desired future condition of this segment is “to maintain a semi-primitive type of recreation experience” (USFS, 1993). Proposed improvements are minimal and are intended to “enhance the recreational experience without altering the semi-primitive quality of the area” (USFS, 1993). This management guidance is consistent with designation as an accessible natural river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

Scenic River Area

From Eagle Creek to the South Fork Confluence

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.
- Natural evergreen vegetation shall be maintained between the new improvements and the river. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of new structure(s) as seen from the river if not blocked by topography.
- New roads and similar forms of development shall be screened from view from the river by topography.

Note: The Forest Service manages this section of river as “recreational” and note in their management plan that the desired future condition of this segment is “to maintain a semi-social type of recreation experience” (USFS, Year). Proposed improvements are moderate and are designed to meet the “existing demand for recreation facilities” along with planning for “a gradual increase in demand” (USFS, Year). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as scenic river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

Recreational River Area

From the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park.

Rule guidance:

- New structures and improvements shall be permitted only when at least partially screened from view from the river by topography or vegetation and shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of the new structure(s) as seen from the river, if not otherwise blocked by topography or existing vegetation. The condition of “vegetation screening” shall consist of a density and mixture of native evergreen and deciduous vegetation to obscure or allow only a filtered view of the proposed structures or improvements.
- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river but shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible.
- New roads and similar forms of development shall be set back from the river consistent with Curry County zoning and land development requirements and be screened from view from the river by topography or by existing or established evergreen vegetation.

Management Recommendations

Advisory Committee and public input on priorities for management that could enhance the recreational experience and protect fish and wildlife on the Chetco River are summarized here. Ideas expressed pertain to actions that could be carried out by landowners and managers, partners in collaboration with land managers or other agencies, or by other groups or agencies independently.

1. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies towards the development and installation of small interpretive signs with messages about the river corridor (*potential topics* include: river stewardship, leave no trace, recreation, cultural resources, fisheries, wildlife, geology, water quality, hydrology, respecting private property) in key areas.
2. Work in partnership with local groups and public agencies towards the development of a water trail recreation guide to facilitate river-based recreation opportunities, protect natural resources and private property. The guide may include maps and information showing property boundaries, river launch sites, day use areas, camping areas, other facilities, along with safety and other interpretive information. Use this and other resources to work toward expanding educational opportunities to learn about river recreation on the Chetco and other nearby scenic waterways.
3. Develop signs that identify public access for put in and take outs and/or developed recreation areas that are visible from the river and from the road access points.
4. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to identify user conflict areas that may not currently be adequately addressed in the Forest Service Management Plan due to changes in visitor use patterns (e.g., RVs often camp in the middle of boat ramps restricting drift boat launch at South Fork).
5. Cooperate with local partners and land managers to explore funding opportunities and any existing regulatory limitations to *improving* existing river access points (e.g., boat ramps, access roads, and other facilities such as restrooms and trash receptacles) to facilitate river recreational opportunities and improve visitor safety. Suggest that existing river access points continue to be maintained.
6. Develop organized regular river clean-up activities (e.g., trash and other debris) within the Scenic Waterway, particularly at river access points.
7. Explore opportunities to form partnership to exploring improvements in water quality, planting native species and invasive species management and/or monitoring efforts.
8. Do not modify existing or construct new structures within the high water channel unless they enhance river related (e.g., fish, wildlife, recreation) resources and comply with free-flow standards.
9. Recommend that the existing permitted gravel mining operation located within the study area be permitted to continue as it is an existing use of lands previously not within a state scenic waterway.
10. Public agencies in collaboration with local partners should work towards scoping for ways to improve hiking trail opportunities on public lands in the river corridor.

11. Federal agencies (e.g., USFS) should provide the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department draft plans, environmental assessments or environmental impact statements on activities that may affect the Scenic Waterway.
12. OPRD shall seek the cooperation of all local, state and federal agencies in meeting the objectives of this program and complying with the State Scenic Waterway Act and State Park Commission rules.

For a summary of recommendations on flow levels necessary to protect the recreation, fish, and wildlife needs of the Chetco River, refer to Appendix A.

Works Cited

- Kagan, J. (1998). *Plant Association Inventory. Alfred A. Loeb State Park.* . Unpublished report.
- Keller, R. (1998). *Paddling Oregon.* Helena: Falcon Publishing.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. (2014). *Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of Coho Salmon.* Arcata, CA.
- Oregon Department of Transportation. (1987). *Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers.* Salem, Oregon: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division.
- Palmer, T. (2014). *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers.* Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.
- Schuhmann, C. (2012). *Moon Oregon Fishing.* Berkeley: Avalon Travel.
- United States Forest Service-USFS. (1993). *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Chetco Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment.*



**State Scenic Waterway
Report:**

Molalla River

October 27, 2014

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



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Contents

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 3
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4
- STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY 7
 - Study Purpose 7
 - Study Location and Area 7
 - Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program 8
 - Designation Process for New Scenic Waterways 10
 - Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas 11
- Establishing New Scenic Waterway Management Plans 11
- WATERWAY ELIGIBILITY FINDINGS 14
 - Waterway Characteristics 14
 - Cultural Resources 14
 - Natural features 16
 - Recreation 26
 - Management Setting 36
 - Application of Waterway Eligibility Criteria 39
- PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS 42
 - Stakeholder Input 42
 - Written Comments 42
 - Online Survey 43
 - Community Meeting 43
 - County Commission Input 44
- WATERWAY SUITABILITY CONCLUSIONS 45
- REFERENCES 46

Figures

Figure 1. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon.....	7
Figure 2. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System.....	9
Figure 3. Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway designation options	10
Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation. Monthly Stream-flow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) on the Molalla River, above the North Fork. Annual volume at 50% exceedance in Acre-Feet. Source: Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).....	19
Figure 5. Ecoregions surrounding the Molalla study area	21
Figure 6. Water levels before, during, and after the study visit (April 28, 2014)	30
Figure 7. Approximate land ownership types within study area	38

Tables

Table 1. At-risk plant species in the vicinity of the study area ¹	23
Table 2. At-risk animal species occurrences in the vicinity of the study area ¹	24
Table 3. Important recreational features within the study area	27
Table 4. Recreation use seasons within the Molalla River study area.....	29
Table 5. Scenic resource inventory of the view below the confluence of the Table Rock Fork	33
Table 6. Scenic resource inventory of the view within Horse Creek Canyon, just downstream of Horse Creek bridge and waterfalls.	34
Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view from the riverbank below Goldilocks Rapids.....	35
Table 8. Approximate land-ownership within the Molalla River study area	36
Table 9. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Molalla study area.....	43

Appendices

A Community Meeting Transcription

B Submitted Written Comments

C Online Survey Report

)) h o o † U h .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Assessment Team

Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Planner

Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator

Terry Bergerson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Noel Bacheller, Natural Resources Specialist

Jim Morgan, Stewardship Division Manager

Steve Kay, Grants and Community Programs Manager

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, 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 13.2 miles on the Molalla 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 Molalla River during field visits using eligibility criteria established by State statutes (ORS 390.855). The river was rafted from a primitive put-in approximately 0.3 miles east of the Table Rock Fork confluence on Copper Creek to a primitive take-out managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approximately one mile north of the North Fork confluence 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 entire study area along the Molalla met the eligibility qualifications for an Oregon Scenic Waterway.
- All segments of the study area are completely free-flowing within primarily natural banks.
- The study area offers pleasing views of semi-primitive lands with a variety of geologic, plant and wildlife features visible from the river and present on the adjacent lands. The scenic quality as viewed from the river, as well as from the adjacent land, meets or exceeds the standard of "pleasing" with areas where the scenery is outstanding in nature. There are some cultural modifications (e.g., residential homes, the road) within the corridor; however, those that do exist are localized in nature such that their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general naturalness of the area.
- There is an abundance of wildlife on the forested slopes and the river supports important fish habitat.
- This study area offers camping and day-use, multiple Bureau of Land Management (BLM) camping and day-use areas adjacent to the river, recreational fishing and quality paddling during certain times of the year, with opportunities for boaters of a variety of skill levels.
- It appears that present recreation use is such that the river and its setting are able to maintain existing natural and recreational values, although the river is not without conflicts in a few more intensively used locations.

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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community 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 Molalla on September 15, 2014 to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised thru a news release and public notice in the local paper. Based on OPRD's analysis of public input, the following findings were identified:

- Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program;
- There was general consensus among community members that the waterway is free-flowing and meets the Program's exceptional scenic value criteria;

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff, organizations, and community members indicated that they observe significant recreational use of the Molalla River including fishing, dispersed camping, hiking, and floating on the waterway;
- BLM and the Molalla River Alliance identified that this reach of the Molalla River is similar to the reach being proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River;
- Molalla River Alliance indicated that the Molalla River is a prime example of a wild Cascadian stream and is home to the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the upper Willamette River system;
- BLM estimated that 50,000 annual visitors recreate on or near the Molalla River, participating in rafting, kayaking, hiking, picnicking, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and fishing activities.

Waterway Suitability Conclusions

Based on the OPRD’s eligibility findings and significant support for the potential designation, the Molalla River study area is a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway’s program. Adequate seasonal water flows provide ample opportunities for floating and fishing along the waterway. Public access is provided at multiple locations along the waterway including Turner Creek Bridge, Hardy Cr. Trailhead, Cedar Grove Recreation Site, and Three Bears Recreation Site. Even during periods of low water flow, significant levels of camping, hiking, and fishing occur along the Molalla River. Although highly suitable for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program, the following issues should be addressed when considering designation of the Molalla River into the program:

- If the Molalla River study area is designated, OPRD should work closely with stakeholders to help them form a long-term proponent group for the waterway.
- The first project for the proponents, with assistance from OPRD, would be to develop a management plan for the Scenic Waterway. This is a required component of all designated waterways. OPRD would work closely with the BLM, Tribes, landowners, other agencies, the Molalla River Alliance and other interested parties in the management planning process if the river is designated.
- An important second project would be to develop a water trail guide to encourage environmental stewardship, promote outdoor recreation opportunities, reduce potential conflicts with private property owners, and promote safety when accessing the waterway.

APPENDIX D

DRAFT

Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan

Molalla River

October 2015



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite C Salem, Oregon 97301



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Acknowledgements

Advisory Committee

- John Atkins, President, Molalla River Alliance
- Jerry Bailey, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Connie Derry, Glen Avon Neighborhood Association
- Pete Giordano, Blue Sky Rafting
- Jack Hammond, Molalla River Alliance
- Bob Loucks, Molalla Retreat
- Scott Marlega, Weyerhaeuser Company
- Mike McCallister, Clackamas County
- Jeffrey McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management
- Mike Moody, Molalla River Alliance
- Gary Potter, Canby Water Utility
- Mark Schmidt, Property and Local Business Owner
- Bill Taylor, Molalla River Watch (Watershed Council)
- Becky Wolf, Recreational User, Oregon Equestrian Trails
- Sam Wurdinger, Molalla Chapter, Northwest Steelheaders

Staff

- Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)
- Andrea Berkley, Natural Resource Specialist, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Dwight French, Water Rights Services Administrator, WRD
- Chris Havel, Associate Director, OPRD
- Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD
- Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator, OPRD
- Amy Kim, Watermaster, WRD
- Carrie Lovellette, Integrated Park Services Assistant, OPRD
- Rachel LovellFord, Hydrologist, WRD
- Kenneth Stahr, Hydrographics, Measurement, and Reporting Section manager, WRD
- Trevor Taylor, Stewardship Manager, OPRD

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, 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.

In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. This decision was based on the waterway eligibility findings and public support. 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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address, an online survey and a local community meeting was to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with 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. Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program.

The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with local advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification [reports](#) for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan for a 13.2 mile stretch of the upper Molalla River, in Clackamas County, Oregon.

Management Planning

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the *existing* scenic condition of the area, without "turning back the clock" on existing land uses.

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 20, June 15) and one public workshop (July 20) for each waterway designed to obtain public feedback on the draft plans for the waterway. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. Input provided in these meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plan. A summary of public comments received is included in the Appendix.

In order to define and achieve management goals, if designated, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river. As proposed, the river would be managed (if designated and not altered during public rule-making) in three segments, a Scenic River Area from the Confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek, a Recreational River Area from the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek and a River Community Area from the Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge.

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations, along with proposed regulations specific to each management category. Additionally, a set of proposed management recommendations were developing including those about improving public access, interpretive information and signage.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing new water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)).

Contents

Background	2
Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study	2
Eligibility Study Purpose.....	3
Study Location and Area	3
Waterway Eligibility Findings	5
Program Goals.....	7
Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.....	8
Management of Scenic Waterways	9
The Management Planning Process.....	9
Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan.....	9
Scenic Waterway Classification.....	10
Scenic Waterway Land Management Program	12
Table Rock Fork Confluence to Pine Creek Confluence: Scenic River Area	12
Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek: Recreational River Area.....	14
Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge: River Community Area.....	16
<i>Potential</i> Land Management Rules.....	18
For all scenic waterway areas	18
Scenic River Area.....	18
Recreational River Area	18
River Community Area	19
<i>Potential</i> Management Recommendations.....	20
Works Cited.....	21
Appendix A: WRD scenic flow document (placeholder)	22
Appendix B: Public Comment Summary	23

Figures

Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System	2
Figure 2. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon	4
Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications	10
Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership	17

Background

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a ballot initiative in 1970, is administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission through the Oregon 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 on the one hand, and adjacent property rights on the other. Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor, the legislature, or by the citizens of Oregon through ballot initiative. For example, in 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. The state program currently includes approximately 1180 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 1).

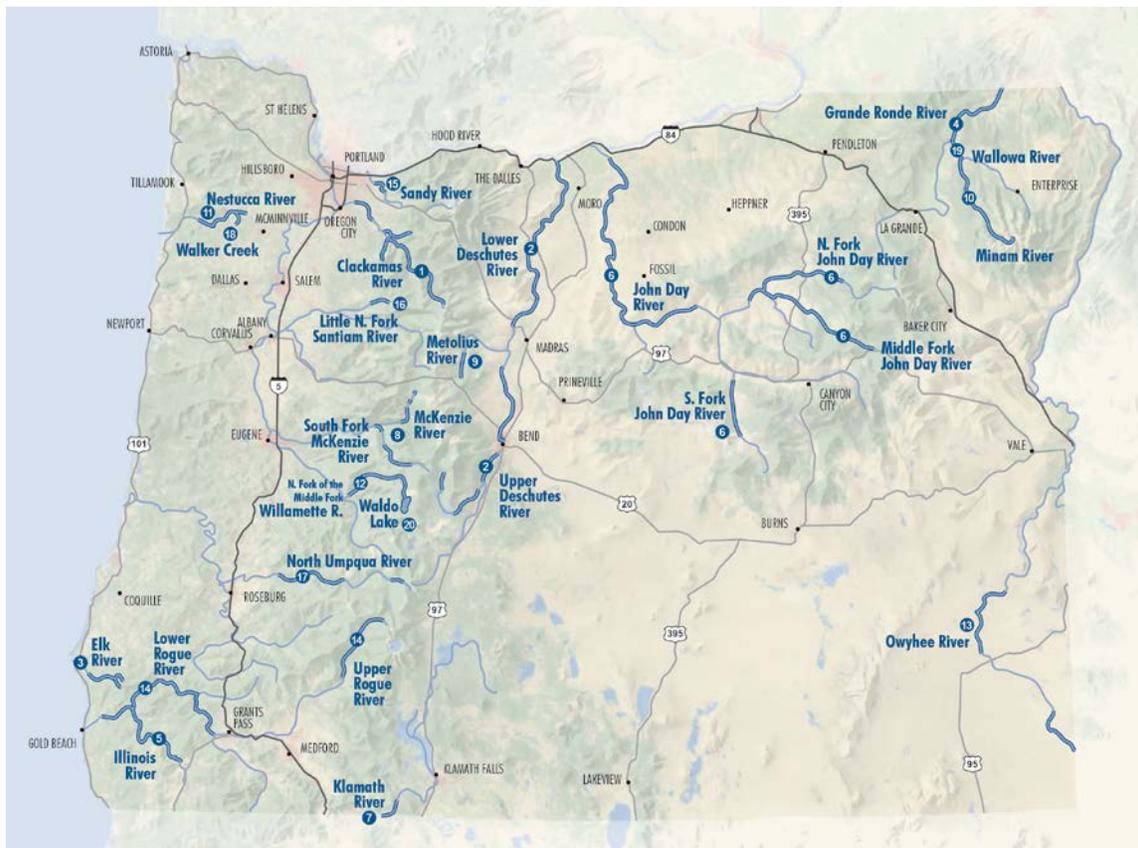


Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (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 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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, 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. In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification reports for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan (see: The Management Planning Process). A summary of the eligibility study results is included below as background information.

Eligibility Study Purpose

An Oregon Scenic Waterway study, initiated by OPRD in 2014, 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 Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The study, covering approximately 13 miles on the upper Molalla River, constitutes the first step - a report to the OPRD Commission. The study 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.

Study Location and Area

The Molalla River has its headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in the lower west slopes of Oregon's Cascade Range in rural Clackamas County, eventually flowing after around 51 miles into the Willamette River near Canby, Oregon. OPRD studied one ~13.2 mile upper river segment, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork and ending at Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon (Figure 2). The study area ranges from a high elevation at around 1196 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low at the Glen Avon Bridge at 528 feet above MSL, with a drop of about 51 feet/mile. Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, portions of which are both designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways. The study area on the Molalla River is shown below in red, in Figure 2 along with nearby State Scenic Waterways, shown in blue.

The Molalla River Study Area referred to in the scenic waterway study is defined as follows: The Molalla River Study Area referred to in this report is defined as follows: The Molalla River and all lands within ¼ mile of each bank, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork downstream approximately 13.2 miles to the Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon.

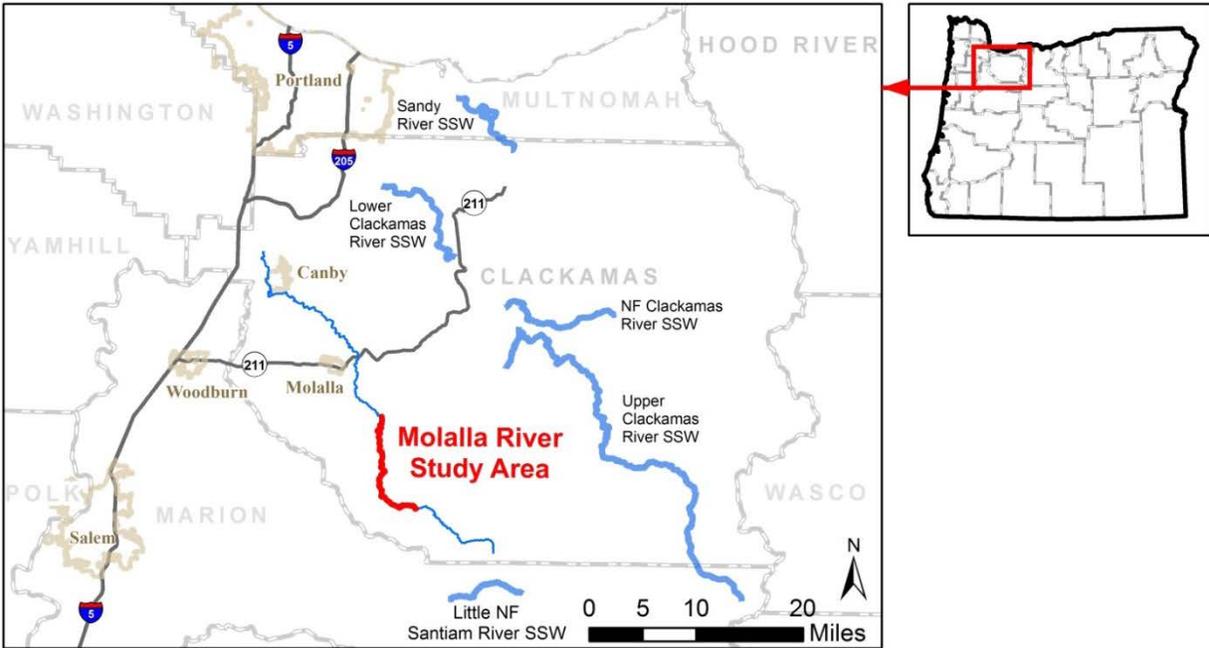


Figure 2. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon

While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients, the lower thirteen mile study area is less steep as it flows through a series of pools riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). In some sections, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including a dramatic basalt rosette. The steep hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Copper Creek Fork of the Molalla, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek. The North Fork of the Molalla enters the main-stem just below the study area. The upper study section is primarily composed of federal public lands, with some private industrial timberlands, while the lower portion is primarily private lands with a mix of rural residential development and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands.

The free-flowing river provides drinking water for the residents of Canby and Molalla, is home to native fish runs including wild salmon and steelhead trout, and attracts a variety of recreational users. Only a day-trip away from the Portland and Salem Metropolitan areas, the Molalla offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, swimming/wading, kayaking, rafting, picnicking, scenic enjoyment and adjacent trail-use for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Fishing for salmon and steelhead is at its peak once the rains start along with whitewater kayaking, which extends through the spring. In the summer, swimming, fishing, camping, sightseeing and picnicking are the major attractions (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

The clear water, forested setting, and interesting geological features provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks. Thousands of visitors

are drawn to the river for the geology and other scenic and recreational qualities of the river corridor. An approximately 15.1 mile portion of the upper river (and a section of the Table Rock Fork) has been proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River and there have been several bills in Congress over recent past sessions.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

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). The criteria (ORS 390.855) were broken down into specific scenic, natural and recreational factors.

Based on the results of this evaluation, the entire study area meets the criteria (ORS 390.855) for eligibility as a state scenic waterway.

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

The Molalla River is completely free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, or major modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. The river is also naturally flowing (without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness to the Willamette River (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). Notably, it is the Willamette’s longest un-dammed tributary. The Molalla flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads (e.g., some bank stabilization efforts including retaining walls). The river has generally regular and somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow various seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, and to some extent, seasonal snow-melt.

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 the study area ranges from moderate, but pleasing to exceptional river-scape views with unique geology and clear water in a mostly remote-feeling (although it is close to the road in parts), forested setting. The BLM notes that scenery on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas, setting it apart from other rivers (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Water clarity, interesting geology and hydrology combine to create the overall visual quality of the river corridor.

The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property

with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as “Bee Ranch” located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that 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.”

The Molalla was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having “outstanding recreational resources”, particularly for canoeing/kayaking, salmon and steelhead fishing and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including rafting, trout fishing, and “other recreation” which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). Boating, coupled with fishing and other activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Molalla River. The BLM estimates that approximately 50,000 visitors are attracted to the Molalla River corridor from the local and surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland, Canby, and Salem (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

The BLM notes that recreation on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the river-related resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Key recreational uses that were found to be exceptional include fishing, day-hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, and swimming/wading. Recreational opportunities include day-use pursuits (e.g., hiking, scenic enjoyment, picnicking) and camping at newly developed BLM campgrounds, along with seasonal recreational fishing opportunities. Fishing, as allowed by fishing regulations (e.g., below Turner Bridge), is primarily from those that hike-in or fish from the banks from one of the many pedestrian access points on public lands. The BLM found that the “presence of year-round angling opportunities is important (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)”.

Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafts and other float devices) is possible throughout this whole stretch during much of the year with multiple put in and take out spots on public lands. Boating is becoming increasingly popular in this section, with access possible via roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. During various water levels, kayaking the “3 Bears Run” is a regional favorite amongst intermediate to expert paddlers. Experienced whitewater kayakers, canoeists and some on rafts paddle the river during higher water months (typically Nov-May, depending on rains), when the challenging Class 3-4 (and higher depending on flows) rapids of the Molalla River “3 Bears Run” surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Mama, Papa, Baby-Bear, Porridge Bowl, and Goldilocks rapids are a draw.

Overall the recreation opportunities on this section of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, additionally they are relatively rare within the region with only a few rivers, like the nearby Clackamas, offer *somewhat* similar experiences. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature of recreation on this river is notable.

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. Five species listed under the federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest in the riparian areas, which also provide visual interest especially in areas with wet cliff walls that have hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages. While much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, some impressive late-seral forest is present and unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)."

It appears that the study area meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain the existing, substantial, levels of recreation use. The nature of the existing water-based uses and surrounding lands in the study segment indicates it meets the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the river as important habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statue requires that both criteria be met.

Program Goals

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state and local), individual property owners and recreation users.

Five general program goals include:

1. To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments and some forms of placer mining activities are currently allowed on scenic waterways.
2. To protect and enhance scenic, natural, recreation, scientific, fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
3. To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners and/or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by dredging. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
4. To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.

5. To encourage other local, state and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-040) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water line, on each side of the river, for their potential impacts on the existing special attributes of the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses; extract minerals and aggregate, harvest timber, or other similar projects, may need to provide written notification to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). OPRD's evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. OPRD relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is inconsistent with the designated classification. OPRD works with the landowner to reach a resolution of conflicts. Where such resolution cannot be reached the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

OPRD coordinates the program with local, state, and federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with Scenic Waterway Act, administrative rules and resource management plans.

Management of Scenic Waterways

The Management Planning Process

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is the protection of aesthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific, and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 20, June 15) and one public workshop (July 20) for the waterway. The Advisory Group consists of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. These meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plan.

The mechanisms for protection and enhancement to be included in this draft management plan are:

Scenic Waterway Classification - Within the management plan, scenic waterways are classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the character of the landscape and the amount and type of existing development.

Administrative Rules – If scenic waterway designation occurs, classifications are set in a management plan and specific guidelines for new development are established as state administrative rules through a public rule-making process.

Other Management Recommendations - Suggestions for actions to protect or enhance corridor values are also included in the management plan. Implementation could be through the OPRD, other state agencies, federal agencies or local agencies, organizations or persons. This includes input to OWRD’s recommendation of scenic flows to the Water Resources Commission.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)). WRD recommends Scenic Waterway flows to the Water Resources Commission through a formal staff report. The Commission then amends and/or and approves the staff report and flow protections are implemented through the water right process for new water rights within and above the scenic waterway. Input from the OPRD Pilot Advisory Group and Public Comment regarding the recreational flow needs of the Scenic Waterway informs the recommendation that WRD puts forward to the Commission.

Scenic Waterway Classification

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.345), the scenic waterway program is administered by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OPRD works to protect scenic values, recreation and fish and wildlife, based on special attributes of each river. OPRD strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

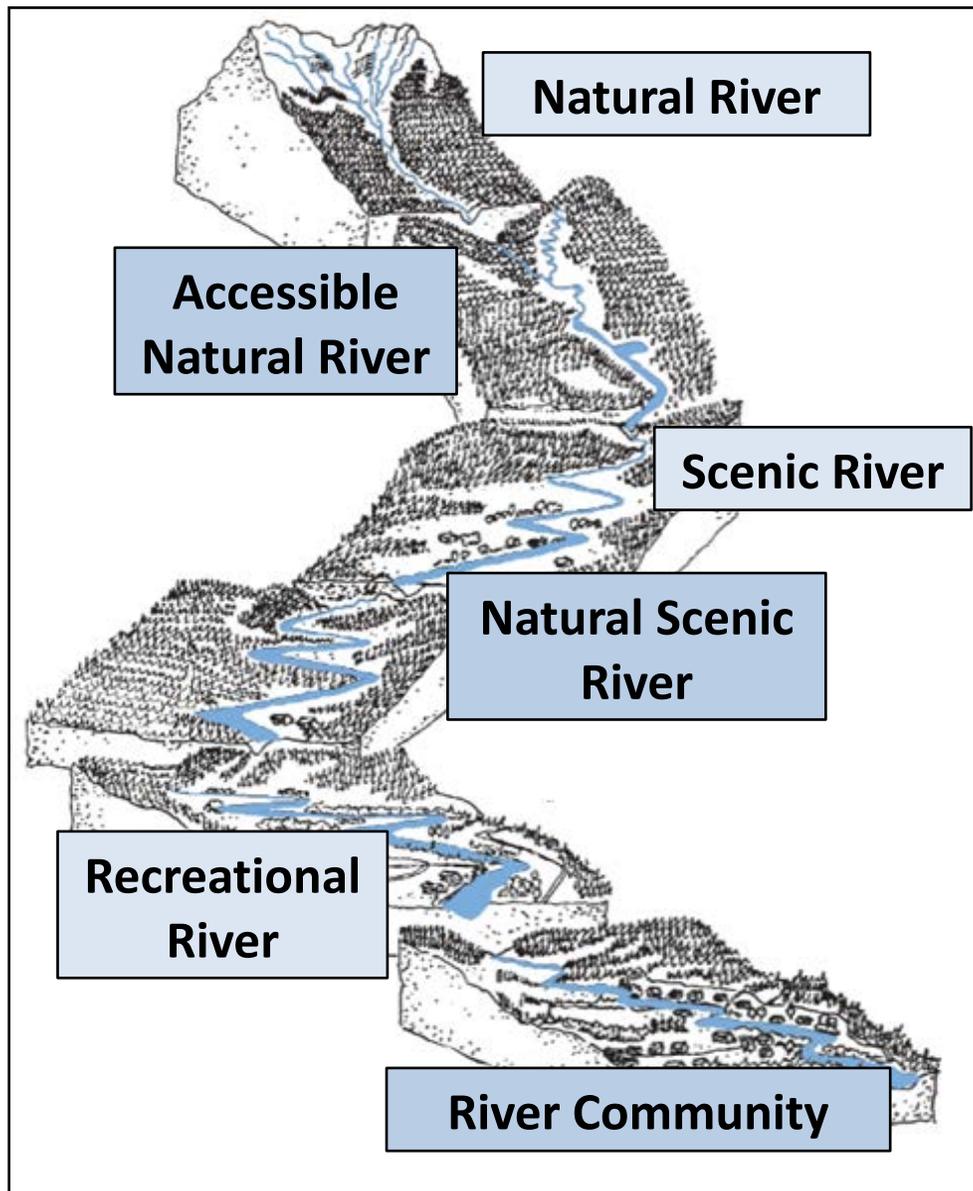


Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

In order to define and achieve management goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations. Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape

alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in the scenic waterways program:

1. Natural River Areas are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with related adjacent lands and shorelines essentially primitive. These areas may include an occasional lightly traveled road, airstrip, habitation or other kind of improvement already established, provided the effects are limited to the immediate vicinity. These areas will be administered to preserve their natural, wild and primitive condition while allowing compatible recreational and other uses. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.

2. Accessible Natural River Areas are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road but otherwise possess the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area. These areas are administered to protect or enhance their scenic character, while allowing compatible outdoor recreational use.

3. Scenic River Areas may be accessible in places by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Scenic River Areas may not include long stretches of conspicuous or well-traveled roads paralleling the river in close proximity, but may include extensive areas in agricultural use. River segments considered "Scenic" are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fisheries and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continued agricultural land use.

4. Natural Scenic View Areas are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character (possesses the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area) while the opposite bank and related lands are accessible and developed. These areas are administered, as appropriate, to preserve or enhance their essentially primitive scenic character, while allowing compatible public outdoor recreational use.

5. Recreational River Areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered "Recreation" are managed to allow continuance of a wide range of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.

6. River Community Areas are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered "Community Areas" are managed to allow development that is compatible

with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

Due to the individual character of each scenic waterway, administrative criteria within each of the six classifications may vary from one scenic waterway to another. Examples can be found in the [administrative rules for existing state scenic waterways](#).

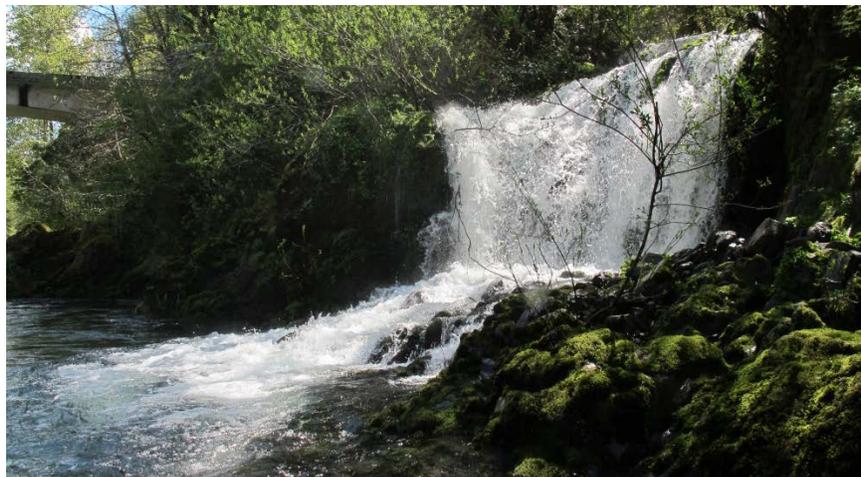
The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally needed for construction 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 garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in 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 typically requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, proposes to apply three classifications to given segments of the proposed Molalla State Scenic Waterway. Classification locations and explanations for each river segment are provided below (see **Figure 4** for map):

Table Rock Fork Confluence to Pine Creek Confluence: Scenic River Area

From the confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek the river is proposed to be classified as a Scenic River Area. This section of river is accessible in a few places by roads and trails, but is largely undeveloped. The Table Rock Fork merges with what becomes the main-stem of the Molalla River at



Horse Creek Falls and Bridge on the Upper Molalla River

the beginning of this section, after which the river narrows (after approximately one mile) to form Horse Creek Canyon. In some sections, namely through a few narrow gorges, including Horse Creek Rapid, and an area of basalt canyon walls that surround the area known as the Molalla basalt rosette, or “eye of the Molalla”, where the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations.

The geology, hydrology (e.g., numerous small waterfalls), remote setting and water clarity combine to make this section of river outstandingly scenic. It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. This segment is almost entirely in public (BLM) ownership with river access limited to a few undeveloped river access points, though hiking, kayaking, hunting, and primitive camping uses are evident. Turner Creek Bridge is the only trailhead along this road with parking and restrooms. River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access points, however, the BLM has developed plans to construct a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. Potential sites for improvements (e.g, signing, pedestrian ramps for kayaks and rafts) include Turner Bridge. The BLM currently maintains two new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks (in the recreational section, see below) along with a planned campground near Pine Creek. BLM previously had dispersed campground along the corridor but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds.



Basalt rosette on the Molalla River

The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation, clear water in an area used seasonally by recreationists. The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor modifications made for the bridges and roads. The few developments that do exist are localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural setting of the area. Horse Creek Bridge (shown above) and Turner Creek Bridge cross the river, and Pine Creek Bridge marks the end of this section. Other developments along the river include some visible impacts from

timber harvest and one residential home on private lands, although it is partially screened as viewed from the river and blends in with the scene.

The proposed management goal is to preserve the area’s high scenic quality, recreation value and fisheries and wildlife habitat by ensuring that all new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape while preserving the largely undeveloped character associated with existing uses.

Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek: Recreational River Area

From the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek, the river is proposed to be classified as Recreational River Area. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, some of the river cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road. Frequent trails allow pedestrian access to the river. The road (S. Molalla Forest Road) provides the primary access to the river south of the Glen Avon Bridge and runs adjacent to BLM property starting about 1.5 miles after the bridge. The only major day-use trailhead along this road with parking and restrooms is Hardy Creek Trailhead. Other trailheads include Amanda’s Trailhead, Americorp’s Trailhead, Sandquist’s Trailhead, and Annie’s Cabin Trailhead. Paddlers typically put in for the “3 Bears Run” near Turner Bridge (in the scenic section, above) or higher up on the river for a longer run. Some kayakers will also put in higher up on the river (above the study area), both on the Table Rock Fork, or, for the challenging Copper Creek rapids known as Lightning Lonnie (Class IV) and Dungeon, located near Dungeon Cr. (Keller, 1998).



Rapids on the “3 Bears Run” of the upper Molalla River

Most of the recreation focal points are minimally developed and at dispersed locations within the Molalla River Recreation Area, operated by the Salem BLM District. River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access

points, however, the BLM has it in their plans to develop a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. The BLM maintains several new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including Three Bears Recreation Site and Cedar Grove. BLM previously allowed dispersed campgrounds along the corridor, but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds.

Annually, thousands visit the Molalla River Recreation Corridor for year-round recreation including hiking, kayaking and white water rafting (and the use of other types of floatation devices in the low-water months), touring and mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, nature watching, or to simply enjoy the sounds and sights of the river. There are more than 30 miles of non-motorized trails which access numerous waterfalls and vistas.

The Molalla is well known as a recreational river for visitors from the surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland and Salem. However, it is also beloved by locals from Molalla and surrounding communities in Clackamas County for its swimming holes, scenery, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. Facilities include restrooms, fire-rings, picnic tables, potable water, restrooms and river access. Cedar Grove, a group-camp operated by special recreation permit, is located at milepost 6 on the Molalla Forest Road. The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation, and clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists. A summer recreation user study conducted for the BLM (White & Virden, 2007) found that a majority of survey respondents noted that viewing the scenic beauty is very important to them along with recreation in the corridor (White & Virden, 2007).

The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor modifications, mainly those made for the bridges and roads. The few developments that do exist are localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural setting of the area. Glen Avon Bridge crosses the river below this section and in a few places the road and associated structures (e.g., riprap, retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized disturbances. Other developments along the river include visible impacts from timber harvest (mostly outside of the study area and buffer) and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river (and are concentrated at end of the study area in the proposed river community area). The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features provides outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

While there is more private property in this section than the upper section, most existing development is focused to the north of Trout Creek (in the river community area, see below). Public access is available in this segment because of multiple public access points on BLM property. Existing development includes a few residential homes, although most of the homes are not visible from the river due to topography and existing vegetation. Those that are visible are usually partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tone).

The management goal in this section of river (as proposed) is to preserve and promote the area’s recreational quality by ensuring that any new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape and are compatible with existing county zoning.

Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge: River Community Area

From the Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge, the river is proposed to be classified as River Community Area.

There is significantly more private property in this section than the other two sections with most existing development occurring north of the Glen Avon Bridge (and not visible from the proposed designated section, which ends at the bridge). A large percentage of the private property ownership in this section is industrial timberlands. Existing development includes a few residential homes, although most of the homes (including the Molalla Retreat buildings) are not visible from the river *upstream* of the bridge (the designated section, *from which any potential impacts of future (new) development would be determined*) due to topography and existing vegetation. Those few that are visible above the bridge are partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tones). There is a primitive paddling access on river left (east bank) near the bridge.

The management goal in this section of river is to allow development that is compatible with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.



The Molalla River as seen from below the Glen Avon Bridge

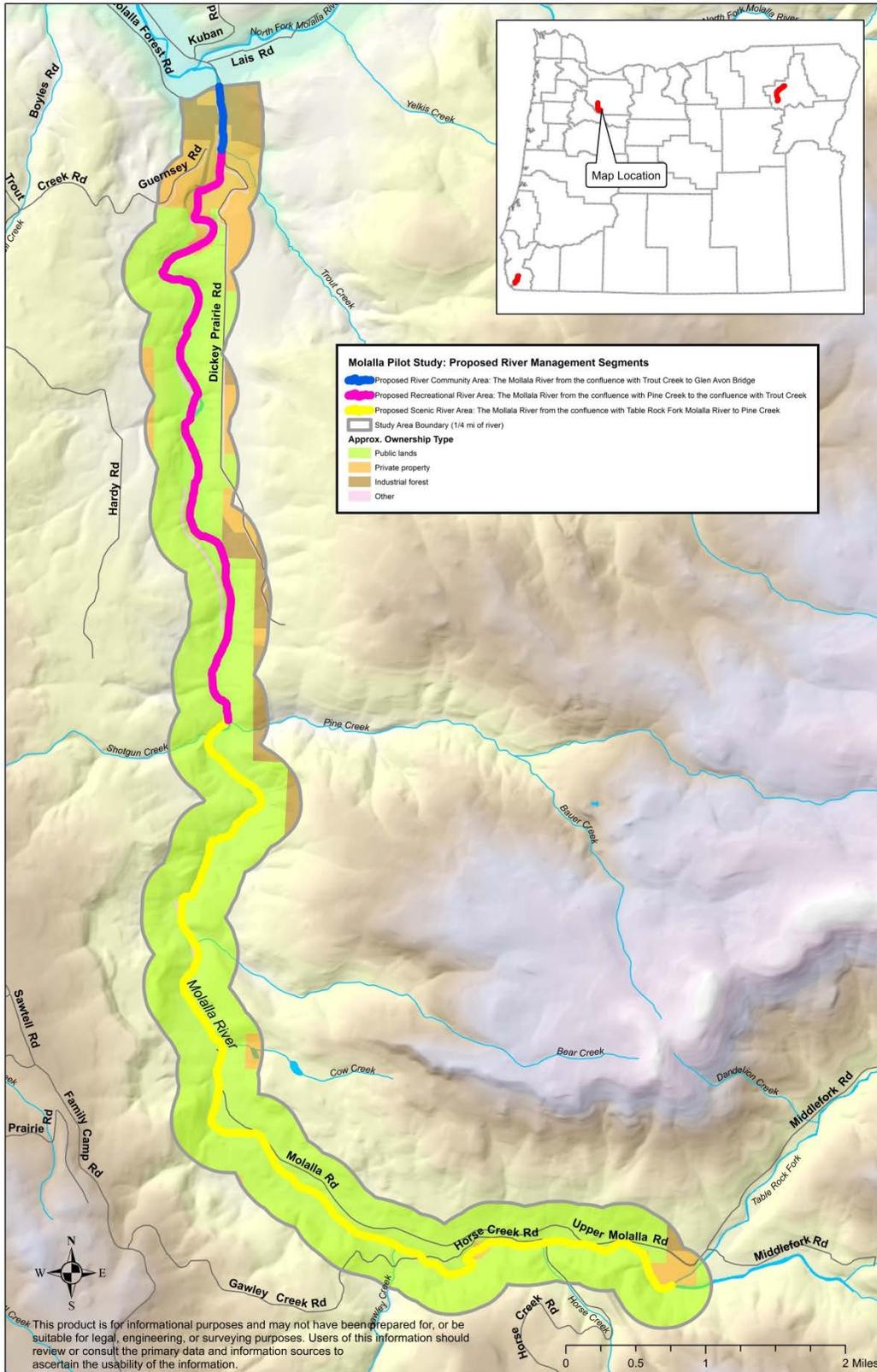


Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

Potential Land Management Rules

For all scenic waterway areas

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations.

Scenic River Area

From the Confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.
- Natural evergreen vegetation shall be maintained between new improvements and the river. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of new structure(s) as seen from the river if not blocked by topography.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “ in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Rivers found suitable are managed with interim protections until the river is released from consideration or designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as scenic river area under the State Scenic Waterway program. BLM currently has assigned the area into Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The objective of Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape, with only low level changes allowed to the landscape that do not attract the attention of the casual observer.

Recreational River Area

From the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek

Rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river but shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible.
- New roads, mines and similar forms of development shall be set back from the river consistent with Clackamas County zoning and land development requirements and be screened from view from the river by topography or by existing or established evergreen vegetation.
- Existing natural evergreen vegetation will be maintained between new structures and the river, unless removal does not impact the view as seen from the river.

- The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of the new structure(s) as seen from the river, if not otherwise blocked by topography or existing vegetation. The condition of “vegetation screening” shall consist of a density and mixture of native evergreen and deciduous vegetation to obscure or allow only a filtered view of the proposed structures or improvements.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as recreational river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

River Community Area

From the Confluence with Trout Creek to Glen Avon Bridge

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- No land north of the Glen Avon Bridge and north of Dickey Prairie Rd west of the bridge affects the view from the waters within the proposed scenic waterway, therefore those areas are deemed to be “non-related adjacent land, and *are not included in the designation* and will **not be subject to scenic waterway review**.
- For areas north the bridge, existing federal, state and local (e.g., Clackamas County’s river protection plan) rules are sufficient.
- Future development and land management activities should be consistent with Clackamas County’s river protection plan.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “ in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Rivers found suitable are managed with interim protections (on federal lands) until the river is released from consideration or designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). However, this section was not included in the various bills/proposed designation legislation. National Wild and Scenic designations apply primarily to federal lands, which is part of the reason for the establishment in many states of complementary state programs.

Potential Management Recommendations

1. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to develop and install small interpretive signs with messages about the river corridor (*potential topics* include: river stewardship, leave no trace, recreation, cultural resources, fisheries, wildlife, geology, water quality, hydrology, respecting private property) in key areas.
2. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to develop a water trail recreation guide to facilitate river-based recreation opportunities, protect natural resources and private property. The guide may include maps and information showing property boundaries, river launch sites, day use areas, camping areas, other facilities, along with safety and other interpretive information.
3. Develop signs that identify public access for put in and take outs and/or developed recreation areas that are visible from the river and from the road access points.
4. Collaborate with local partners and land managers to explore funding to improve river access points (including boat ramps and access roads) to facilitate river recreational opportunities and improve visitor safety.
5. Develop organized regular river clean-up activities (e.g., trash and other debris) within the Scenic Waterway, particularly at river access points.
6. Explore opportunities to form partnership to exploring improvements in water quality, planting native species and invasive species management and/or monitoring efforts.
7. Use the Oregon Forest Practices Act to manage forest management activities on non-federal lands.
8. Follow BLM's Management Plan to manage federal lands. This includes application of applicable visual resource management categories to BLM lands (currently assigned to VRM Class II).
9. Explore excluding the segment studied and found eligible between Trout Creek and Glen Avon Bridge from designation (see suggested rule language).

For a summary of recommendations on flow levels necessary to protect the recreation, fish, and wildlife needs of the Molalla River, refer to Appendix A.

Works Cited

- Bureau of Land Management. (1993). *Resource Assessment of the Molalla River*. Salem, Oregon: Salem District.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2010). *Molalla River-Table Rock Recreation Management Plan*. United States Department of Interior, Salem.
- Keller, R. (1998). *Paddling Oregon*. Helena: Falcon Publishing.
- Oregon Department of Transportation. (1987). *Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers*. Salem, Oregon: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division.
- Palmer, T. (2014). *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.
- Schuhmann, C. (2012). *Moon Oregon Fishing*. Berkeley: Avalon Travel.
- White, D. D., & Virden, R. J. (2007). *Molalla River Recreation Corridor and Table Rock Wilderness Visitor Survey*. School of Community Resources and Development. Phoenix: Arizona State University.

DRAFT Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan

Chetco River

October 2015



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite C Salem, Oregon 97301



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Acknowledgements

Alyssa Babin, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Brookings

Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)

Forrest English, Rogue Riverkeeper

Pat Fadden, South Coast Lumber, Brookings

Dwight French, Water Rights Services Administrator, WRD

Lorelei Haukness, Recreation Program Manager, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Chris Havel, Associate Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Shavon Haynes, Assistant Watermaster, WRD

Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD

Brent Hodges, Brookings City Councilor

Rocky Houston, Trails Coordinator, OPRD

Anna Krug, Manager, Harris Beach Management Unit (e.g., Alfred A. Loeb State Park), OPRD

Carrie Lovellette, Integrated Park Services Section Assistant, OPRD

Rachel LovellFord, Hydrologist, WRD

Luke Martinez, Wilderness Canyon Adventures, paddling guide services, Pistol River

Kat Moya, Manager, Chetco River Inn, Brookings

Trevor Taylor, Stewardship Manager, OPRD

Julie Schmelzer, Curry County

Bo Shelby, Oregon State University

Mark Sherwood, Native Fish Society, Brookings

Kenneth Stahr, Hydrographics, Measurement, and Reporting Section manager, WRD

Calum Stevenson, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD

Harvey Young, Fishhawk River Company, fishing guide services, Brookings

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, 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.

In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. This decision was based on the waterway eligibility findings and public support. 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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address and an online survey. In addition, a local community meeting was held 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. Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicated that there is strong support for designating the Chetco and Molalla study areas into the State Scenic Waterway Program.

The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with local advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification [reports](#) for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan for a 14 mile stretch of the Chetco River in Curry County, Oregon.

Management Planning

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is on the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The

intent is to maintain the *existing* scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 14, June 9), open to the public, and one public workshop (July 14) designed to obtain public feedback on the draft plans for the waterways. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. Input provided in these meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plans. The public meeting kicked off a 30 day public comment period for the management plan. A summary of public comments received is included in the Appendix.

In order to define and achieve management goals, if designated, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river. As proposed, the river would be managed (if designated and not altered during public rule-making) in three segments, an Accessible Natural River Area from the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek, a Scenic River Area from Eagle Creek to the South Fork confluence and a Recreational River Area from the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park.

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations, along with proposed regulations specific to each management category. Additionally, a set of proposed management recommendations (designed to help enhance the recreational experience on the Chetco) were developed from advisory committee and public input, including several about improving public access, facilities and interpretive information.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing new water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)).

Contents

Background	1
Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study	1
Eligibility Study Purpose.....	2
Study Location and Area	2
Waterway Eligibility Findings	4
Program Goals.....	8
Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.....	9
Management of Scenic Waterways	10
The Management Planning Process.....	10
Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan.....	10
Scenic Waterway Classification.....	11
Scenic Waterway Land Management Program	13
Accessible Natural River Area	14
Scenic River Area.....	15
Recreational River Areas.....	15
<i>Potential</i> Land Management Rules.....	19
For all scenic waterway areas	19
Accessible Natural River Area	19
Scenic River Area.....	19
Recreational River Area	20
Management Recommendations	21
Works Cited.....	23
Appendix A: WRD scenic flow document (placeholder)	24
Appendix B: Public Comment Summary	25

Figures

Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System	1
Figure 2. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon	3
Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications	11
Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership	18

Background

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a ballot initiative in 1970, is administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission through the Oregon 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 on the one hand, and adjacent property rights on the other. Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor, the legislature, or by the citizens of Oregon through ballot initiative. For example, in 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. The state program currently includes approximately 1,180 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 1).

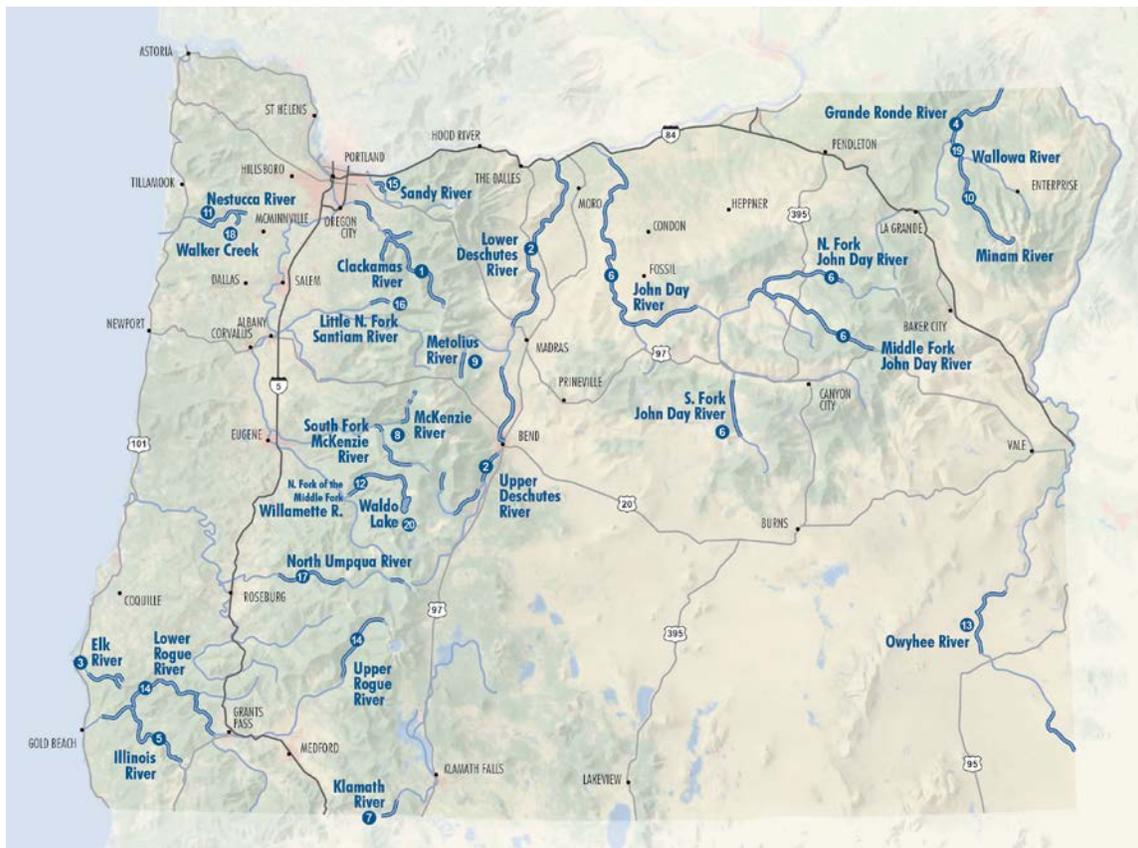


Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (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 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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, 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. In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification reports for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan (see: The Management Planning Process). A summary of the eligibility study results is included below as background information.

Eligibility Study Purpose

An Oregon Scenic Waterway study, initiated by OPRD in 2014, 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 Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The study, covering approximately 14 miles on the Chetco River, constitutes the first step - a report to the OPRD Commission. The study 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.

Study Location and Area

The Chetco River has its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in southwestern Oregon, near the junction of the Oregon Coast Range and Klamath Mountains, eventually flowing after around 55 miles into the Pacific Ocean between the cities of Brookings and Harbor, near the Oregon-California border (Figure 2). The river ranges from a high elevation at around 3,700 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low where it enters the Pacific Ocean at MSL, with an average drop of about 67 feet/mile (USFS, 1993). Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Rogue, Elk, and Illinois River, portions of all three are designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways along with the North Fork of the Smith. The study area on the Chetco River is shown below in red, in Figure 2 along with nearby State Scenic Waterways.

The Chetco River Study Area referred to in the scenic waterway study is defined as follows: The Chetco River and all lands within ¼ mile of each bank, beginning at where the Steel Bridge crosses the river within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest downstream approximately fourteen miles to Alfred A. Loeb State Park, near the city of Brookings, Oregon.

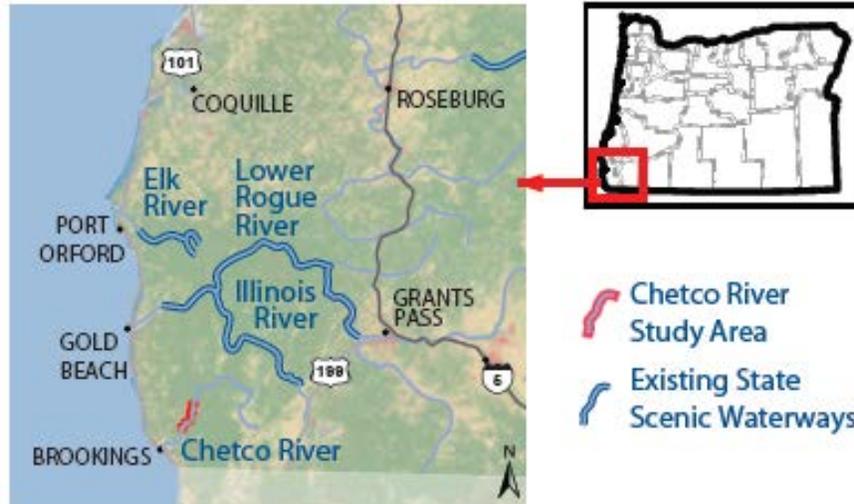


Figure 2. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon

While the upper wilderness section of the river is characterized as steep and heavily dissected, the lower fourteen mile study area is less steep with a wider river bottom and more densely forested surrounding hill slopes. In some sections, namely the Chetco River Gorge, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including large colorful boulders in the riverbed. After the gorge, the river widens and sand and gravel bars become more frequent along the banks. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Chetco River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include Eagle Creek, South Fork and Emily Creek. The upper study section is primarily composed of federal public lands, while the lower portion is a mix of federal, state and private lands with a mix of rural residential development and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands.

The free-flowing river provides drinking water for the residents of Brookings-Harbor, is home to native fish runs including wild salmon and steelhead trout, and attracts a variety of recreational users. Only a day-trip away from Brookings-Harbor, Oregon and Crescent City, California, the Chetco offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, swimming/wading, kayaking, picnicking, and adjacent trail-use for hiking. Fishing for salmon and steelhead is at its peak in the winter months along with whitewater kayaking. In the summer, swimming, fishing, boating, camping, sightseeing and picnicking are the major attractions (U.S. Forest Service (USFS), unpublished report). The meandering nature of the river, forested setting, and unique water clarity provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks. Many visitors are drawn to the river for the striking water color and clarity. An approximately 44.5 mile portion of the upper river (from the headwaters to the Forest Service boundary) has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

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). The approximately fourteen-mile long study area was divided into three segments. The Upper Section, includes the Chetco River from the Steel Bridge to the Old Low Water Bridge (USFS Rd 1846). The Middle Section, includes the Chetco River from the Old Low Water Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork of the Chetco River. The Lower Section includes the Chetco River from the South Fork to Alfred A. Loeb 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.

Based on the results of this evaluation, the entire study area along the Chetco River met the eligibility qualifications for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program (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 Chetco River is completely free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, major rip-rapping or modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. The river is also naturally flowing (without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the Kalmiopsis to the Pacific Ocean (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). The Chetco flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges. The river has generally regular and somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow varies seasonally and derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, springs, and some seasonal snow-melt.

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.”

Upper-section: The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section ranges from moderate, but pleasing to exceptional river-scape views with unique geology, dramatic colors in a remote, forested setting. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general remote feeling of the area. The “steel bridge” crosses the river at the starting point of the study area. Other developments along the river include remnants of the old low water bridge (NF-1846), which is the start of the next study segment. It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, the majority of this segment cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road. It is possible in a few areas to access the river banks themselves without a great deal of effort, although the only obvious river access point is at the put-in (off the USFS road near the Steel Bridge) or above the study segment across the river from the Tolman Ranch property (off the USFS Rd). USFS maintains a trail in the area, the Chetco Gorge Trail, near the location of the old low water

bridge. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, interesting geologic features and striking water clarity and color combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the surrounding scenery of the area.

Middle and Lower sections: The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in these sections is typically moderate, but pleasing with a few areas that have more dramatic river-scape views with unique geology, dramatic colors (e.g., rocks and water clarity) in a largely primitive and undeveloped, forested setting. In the lower sections, there are some rural-pastoral features due to grazing that occurs on private lands. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. Cultural modifications include those made for the roads and former bridge (remnants of the low water bridge are visible from the river and banks), along with some impacts from timber harvest, grazing and a few residential homes (and one vacation rental) on private lands and the recreation areas at the USFS managed river bars (e.g., South Fork, Nook, Miller, Redwood) and at Loeb State Park. The state park campground is minimally visible from the river with only the river access road and a few rustic log cabins visible. Recreation, including vehicles and RV's are present, seasonally in large numbers, on all of the river bars in this section.

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout these sections by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, and some of these segments can be viewed from a vehicle, although there are very few places to pull over on the side of the road. It is possible in a few areas to access the river banks; primarily at the USFS managed South Fork dispersed/minimally developed campground and the day-use areas on the river bars. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes, interesting geologic features and striking water clarity and color combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the surrounding scenery of the area.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that 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.”

Upper Section: This section of river has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988. The river has been found outstanding for its recreation, water quality and fisheries (USFS, 1993). Fishing on the upper sections, as allowed by fishing regulations, is primarily from those that hike-in or float down the river and fish from their kayaks. Since access for drift boats is limited (in the past the low water crossing was a put-in), commercial use is limited as compared with the lower section. The river is known for its unique water clarity and as a world-class fishing river with some of the largest steelhead on the west coast. The Chetco is on various lists of the best fishing streams, primarily for salmon and steelhead, in the state (Schuhmann, 2012); (Palmer, 2014).

Recreational boating is becoming increasingly popular in the upper section, with access possible via USFS roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. During various water levels, kayaking the “Lower Chetco Gorge” is a regional favorite amongst

intermediate to expert paddlers. The two named major rapids in this section, Candycane and Conehead, rate between 4-5+ during higher flows for those favoring the “big water” experience. However, at lower flows, the most difficult sections can be bypassed by portaging. This section of the river is likely too narrow for rafts due to narrow chutes and portaging required at low water, however, it is floatable at various water levels in both hard-shell and inflatable kayaks. At the time of the site visit, some portaging around Candycane and a portion of Conehead Rapids was necessary due to water levels and obstructions. Fishing is possible, however recreational fishing use, is much lower than the other sections in the study area. Hike-in access to the Lower Chetco Gorge for day-use and camping is possible via USFS roads and trails. This segment includes dispersed camping on USFS property. Hunting for deer and elk in the forests surrounding the river is possible along this section during the appropriate seasons.



Kayaking on the Chetco River

Overall the recreation opportunities on this section of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, additionally they are relatively rare within the region with only a few rivers, like the Illinois and Smith R. offering somewhat similar experiences. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature of recreation on this river is quite unique.

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. Three 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. The Chetco River Population of coho salmon has recently been identified as a core population that is at high extinction risk by the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014). While only a few rare species of plants have been documented in the study area, the condition of the riparian and forest ecosystems of this upper segment is more pristine than the lower reaches, which are more impacted by

human uses. Some of these forests are very old and have large diameter trees with interesting branching. Other areas are younger, either because of logging history or wildfire. Sparse live oak and madrone are abundant on rocky promontories and outcroppings, and these features provide interesting contrast with mesic forest.

Middle and Lower sections: These sections of the river have been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River (until just above Loeb) since 1988. The river was found to be outstanding for recreation, water quality and fisheries (USFS, 1993). The river is known for its unique water clarity and as a world-class fishing river with some of the largest steelhead on the west coast. The Chetco is on various lists of the best fishing streams, primarily for salmon and steelhead, in the state (Schuhmann, 2012); (Palmer, 2014).

Recreational opportunities in this section include day-use pursuits (e.g., hiking, scenic enjoyment, swimming, non-motorized boating, hunting etc.) and camping on both state and USFS property, along with significant seasonal recreational fishing opportunities. Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafts and other float devices) is possible throughout this whole stretch during much of the year with multiple put in and take out spots on public lands. Alfred A. Loeb State Park (Loeb) provides developed camping along the river with trail access to day-use picnic areas and a small network of family-friendly trails along the river and up into the redwoods (which are also located on adjacent USFS property). The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest maintains campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including South Fork Camps, Redwood Bar, Nook Bar, and Miller Bar, all easily accessible from Brookings. Activities include picnicking, fishing, swimming and water play, scenic enjoyment, floating and other forms of non-motorized water sports, along with tent, camper and small trailer camping.



Fishing on the Chetco (photo courtesy of Tim Palmer)

Overall the recreation opportunities on these sections of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature

of recreation on this river is quite unique. The fishing on this section of river is often described as “world-class” and people come from all over the state, region, country, and in some cases the word to experience fishing on the Chetco River.

Natural resources are similar to those described for section 1, above. In summary, 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. Notable for this section are the rare plant communities found in the vicinity of Loeb State Park, which include some of the only coast redwood association (coast redwood-tanoak/Pacific rhododendron forest) in Oregon that is also the “most northerly naturally occurring redwood stand in the world (Kagan, 1998).” The myrtlewood grove near the campground at Loeb is notable since many such communities have been removed by historic logging and other development; the grove at Loeb contains some of the largest remaining trees in Oregon (Kagan, 1998).

It appears that all three sections section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain *substantial* recreation use. The nature of the existing water-based uses and abundance of public access to the river or surrounding lands meets the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the river as critical habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statue requires that both criteria be met.

Program Goals

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state and local), individual property owners and recreation users.

Five general program goals include:

1. To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments and some forms of placer mining activities are currently allowed on scenic waterways.
2. To protect and enhance scenic, natural, recreation, scientific, fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
3. To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners and/or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by dredging. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
4. To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.
5. To encourage other local, state and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-040) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water line, on each side of the river, for their potential impacts on the existing special attributes of the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses; extract minerals and aggregate, harvest timber, or other similar projects, may need to provide written notification to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). OPRD's evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. OPRD relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is inconsistent with the designated classification. OPRD works with the landowner to reach a resolution of conflicts. Where such resolution cannot be reached the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

OPRD coordinates the program with local, state, and federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with Scenic Waterway Act, administrative rules and resource management plans.

Management of Scenic Waterways

The Management Planning Process

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is on the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 14, June 9) and one public workshop (July 14) for each waterway. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. These meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plans.

The mechanisms for protection and enhancement to be included in this draft management plan are:

Scenic Waterway Classification - Within the management plan, scenic waterways are classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the character of the landscape and the amount and type of existing development.

Administrative Rules – If scenic waterway designation occurs, classifications are set in a management plan and specific guidelines for new development are established as state administrative rules through a public rule-making process.

Other Management Recommendations - Suggestions for actions to protect or enhance corridor values are also included in the management plan. Implementation could be through the OPRD, other state agencies, federal agencies or local agencies, organizations or persons. This includes input to OWRD’s recommendation of scenic flows to the Water Resources Commission.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)). WRD recommends Scenic Waterway flows to the Water Resources Commission through a formal staff report. The Commission then amends and/or approves the staff report and flow protections are implemented through the water right process for new water rights within and above the scenic waterway. Input from the OPRD Pilot Advisory Group and Public Comment regarding the recreational flow needs of the Scenic Waterway informs the recommendation that WRD puts forward to the Commission.

Scenic Waterway Classification

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.345), the scenic waterway program is administered by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OPRD works to protect scenic values, recreation and fish and wildlife, based on special attributes of each river. OPRD strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

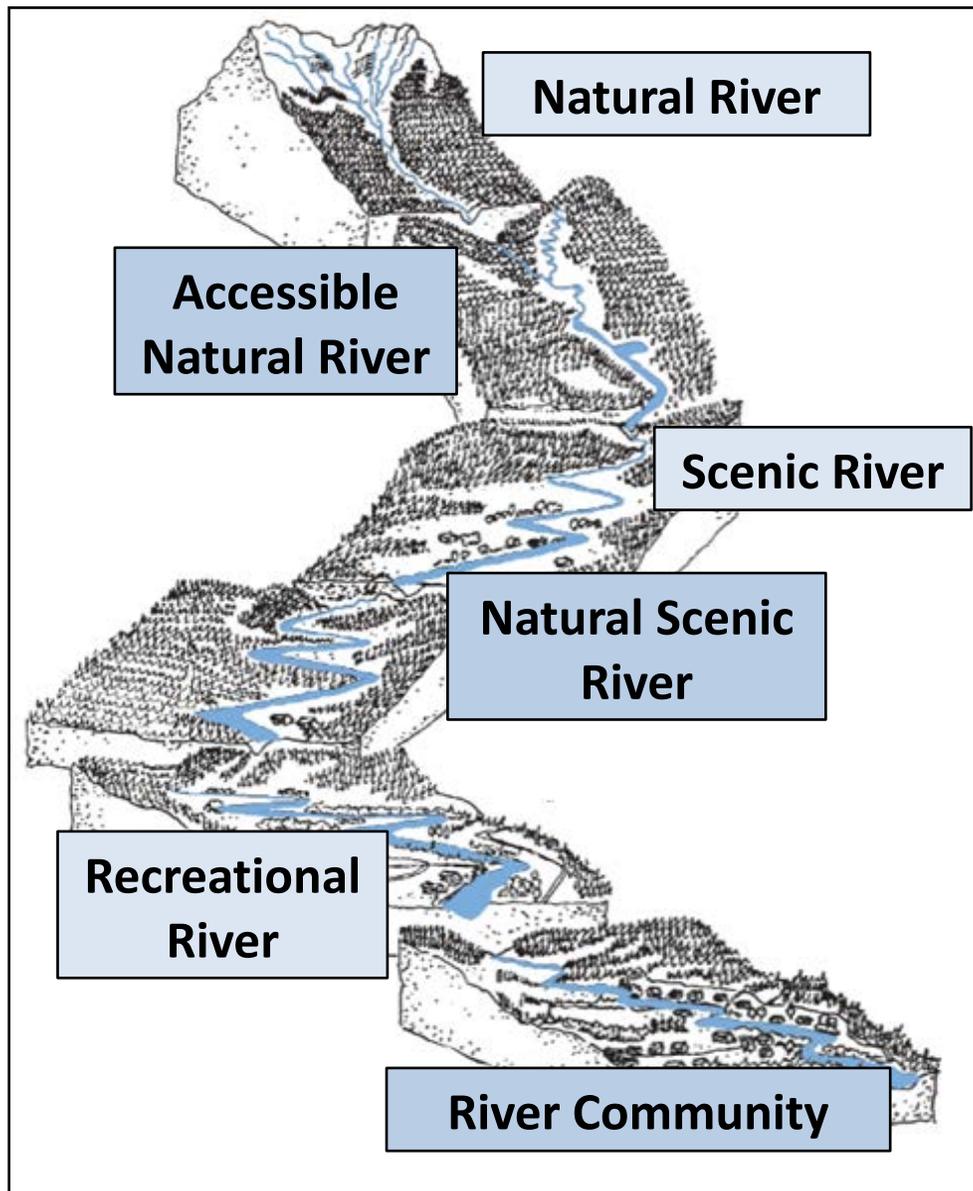


Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

In order to define and achieve management goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or

landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in the scenic waterways program:

1. Natural River Areas are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with related adjacent lands and shorelines essentially primitive. These areas may include an occasional lightly traveled road, airstrip, habitation or other kind of improvement already established, provided the effects are limited to the immediate vicinity. These areas will be administered to preserve their natural, wild and primitive condition while allowing compatible recreational and other uses. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.

2. Accessible Natural River Areas are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road but otherwise possess the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area. These areas are administered to protect or enhance their scenic character, while allowing compatible outdoor recreational use.

3. Scenic River Areas may be accessible in places by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Scenic River Areas may not include long stretches of conspicuous or well-traveled roads paralleling the river in close proximity, but may include extensive areas in agricultural use. River segments considered “Scenic” are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fisheries and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continued agricultural land use.

4. Natural Scenic View Areas are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character (possesses the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area) while the opposite bank and related lands are accessible and developed. These areas are administered, as appropriate, to preserve or enhance their essentially primitive scenic character, while allowing compatible public outdoor recreational use.

5. Recreational River Areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered “Recreation” are managed to allow continuance of a wide range of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.

6. River Community Areas are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered “Community Areas” are managed to allow development that is compatible

with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

Due to the individual character of each scenic waterway, administrative criteria within each of the six classifications may vary from one scenic waterway to another. Examples can be found in the [administrative rules for existing state scenic waterways](#).

The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally 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 garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road building, construction and placement of some new structures, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities typically requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, proposes to apply three classifications to given segments of the proposed Chetco State Scenic Waterway. Classification locations and explanations for each river segment are provided below (see Fig. 4 for map):

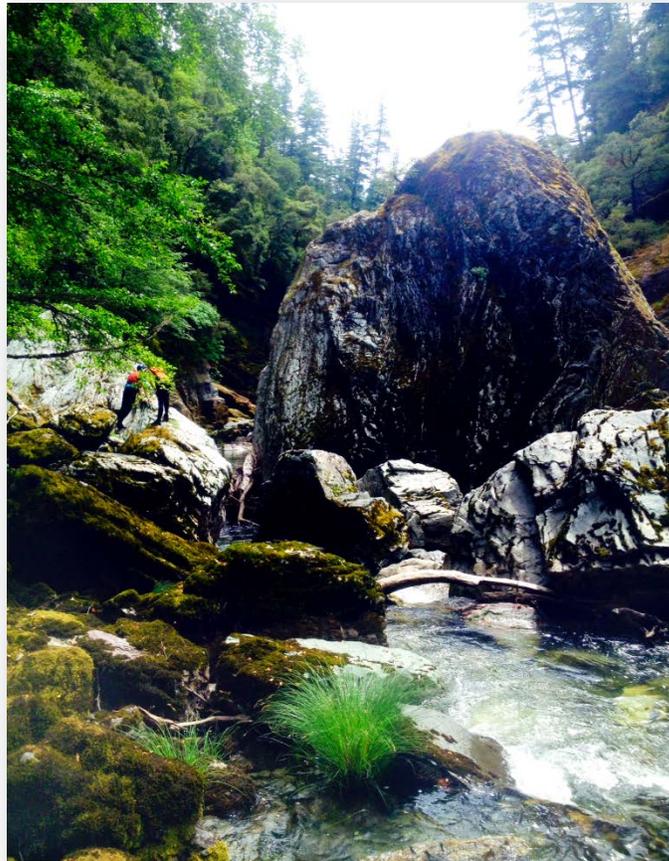


Below Candycane Rapids at low water in the Lower Chetco River Gorge

Accessible Natural River Area

From the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek the river is proposed to be classified as an Accessible Natural River Area. The “Steel Bridge” crosses the river at the beginning of this section, after which the river quickly narrows to form the Lower Chetco River Gorge. Within the gorge, the river channel crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including large colorful boulders in the riverbed, namely two sets of whitewater rapids (Candycane and Conehead). The geology, remote setting and water clarity combine to make this section of river outstandingly scenic.

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. This entire segment is in public (USFS) ownership with river access limited to a small undeveloped area near the Steel Bridge or by paddlers putting in higher up on the river (e.g., across the river from the Tolman Ranch property off the Forest Service Road) and floating down through the Chetco River Gorge. There are no developed recreation facilities, though hiking, kayaking, fishing, hunting, and primitive camping uses are evident. Hike-in access to the Lower Chetco Gorge for day-use and camping is possible via USFS roads and trails. This segment includes some dispersed camping on USFS property. The proposed management goal is to protect or enhance the scenic character of the area while allowing compatible outdoor recreational uses.



Conehead Rapids at low water in the Lower Chetco River Gorge

Scenic River Area

From Eagle Creek to the South Fork confluence the river is proposed to be classified as Scenic River Area. This section of river is accessible in a few places by roads, but is largely undeveloped except for some grazing, rural residential and recreational uses near the South Fork.



The view just upstream of Rainbow Creek on the Chetco River

Other developments along the river include remnants of the old low water bridge (NF-1846) and a trail maintained by the USFS, the Chetco Gorge Trail, with a trailhead near the location of the old low water bridge. The USFS has also maintained a small reservation only hike-in tent site near Rainbow Creek. Of the few developed private properties, very few are visible from the river. The upper section is under public ownership, while there is mixed federal/private ownership as you get closer to the South Fork confluence, including South Coast Lumber and private lands used for grazing and the Chetco River Inn. The proposed management goal is to preserve the area's high scenic quality, recreation value and fisheries and wildlife habitat by ensuring that all new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape while preserving the largely undeveloped character associated with existing uses.

Recreational River Areas

From the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park, the river is proposed to be classified as Recreational River Area. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, the majority of this segment cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road except from vehicular access point on the various the river bars (e.g. South Fork, Redwood, Nook, and Miller). The road (NF 1376) crosses the river at Second Bridge just above Loeb where it eventually becomes the North Bank Chetco River Road. The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation and exceptionally clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists.

While there is more private property in this section (focused around the area just to the south of the South Fork and around Loeb State Park) public access is available throughout this segment because of the multiple public access points on the river bars and at the state park. Existing development includes residential homes, mostly in the area known locally as “Wilderness Retreat”. The “Wilderness Retreat” parcel was sub-divided into 47 lots, ranging between 0.6-1.3 acres with half of the lots lining a high embankment above the river and the other half across the road from the Forest Service Road #1376 (USFS, 1993). Few of these homes are visible from the river due to topography and existing vegetation. Those that are visible are partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tone). Curry County zoning requirements enacted after this subdivision was developed generally limit dwelling density to one dwelling for every 5-10 acres. Additionally, Curry County ordinances generally require structural development setbacks within riparian areas.



The view just upstream of 2nd bridge and Loeb State Park

A small scale gravel operation exists just upriver from Alfred A. Loeb State Park (2nd Bridge Bar aka Fitzhugh Bar), within the scenic waterway study area. The regional general permit (RGP-7), issued in 2011 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers includes two other gravel operations and expires on July 15, 2016. As a requirement of the Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit, Tidewater Contractors submitted a specific plan for the gravel mining operation that will be within the proposed state scenic waterway titled “2012 Extraction Plans for the 2nd Bridge Gravel Bar on the Chetco River-Tidewater Contractors, Inc.” The document specifies the proposed extraction and restoration plan. Tidewater Contractors also has a lease with the Department of State Lands through 2025 for the use of state owned waters along with a conditional use permit from Curry County. The RGP includes requirements for reserves volumes, bar form retention, individual bar allocations, general construction details, an adaptive management strategy, a monitoring plan and enhancement actions.

Removal of material from the beds and banks of designated scenic waterways may be permitted by the Department of State Lands upon a finding that the activity is consistent with scenic waterway and other

state waterway statutes (ORS 390.835). However, given that this is an existing permitted use approved prior to the potential scenic waterway designation, the recommendation to the permitting agencies would be that this existing use be allowed to continue, with the current permit holder, assuming the existing permits, or extensions of those permits, are maintained in good standing with the permitting agencies. OPRD may request to be included in the agency review team if, upon expiration of the permit, any renewal or extension requests result in changes to existing permit conditions or extraction plans that may impact the scenic qualities of the scenic waterway. If the Chetco River study area is designated as a state scenic waterway by the Governor, OPRD will work with DSL, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the permittees and other stakeholders to develop appropriate language during the rule-making process to formalize this recommendation.

The management goal in this section of river (as proposed) is to preserve and promote the area's recreational quality by ensuring that any new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape and are compatible with existing county zoning.

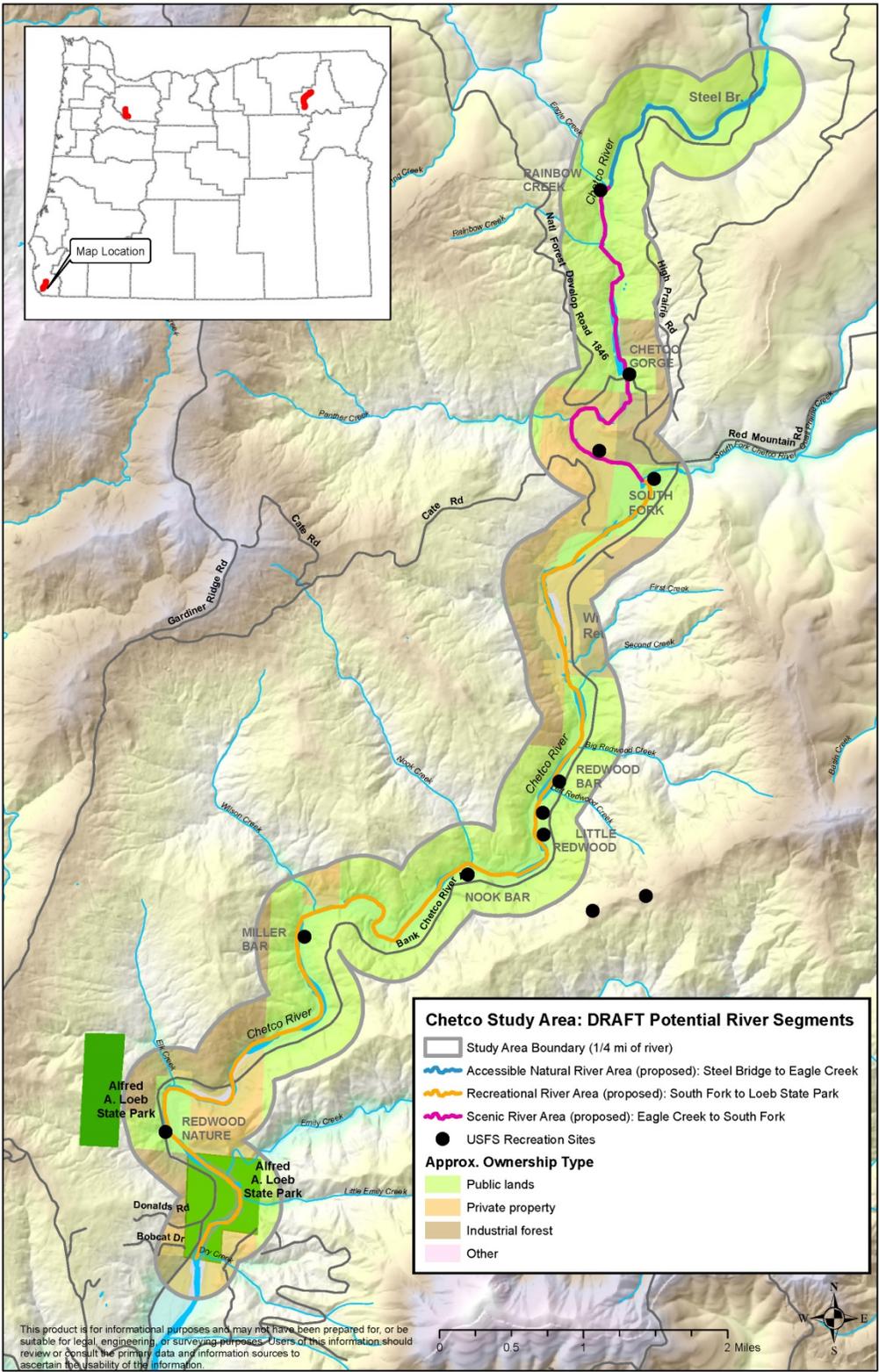


Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

Potential Land Management Rules

For all scenic waterway areas

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable Forest Service and Curry County land use and development regulations.

Accessible Natural River Area

From the Steel Bridge to Eagle Creek

Proposed draft rule guidance

- In order to preserve the river and related adjacent lands in a semi-primitive condition, only improvements made in connection with a compatible existing use (e.g., those needed for public recreation use or resource protection) should be allowed.
- Any new improvements permitted should be primitive in character and include screening from the river by topography.
- New roads and similar forms of development should only be permitted when fully screened from view from the river by topography. Any existing roads should not be extended or realigned unless fully screened by topography.

Note: The Forest Service manages this section of river as “scenic” and note in their management plan that the desired future condition of this segment is “to maintain a semi-primitive type of recreation experience” (USFS, 1993). Proposed improvements are minimal and are intended to “enhance the recreational experience without altering the semi-primitive quality of the area” (USFS, 1993). This management guidance is consistent with designation as an accessible natural river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

Scenic River Area

From Eagle Creek to the South Fork Confluence

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.
- Natural evergreen vegetation shall be maintained between the new improvements and the river. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of new structure(s) as seen from the river if not blocked by topography.
- New roads and similar forms of development shall be screened from view from the river by topography.

Note: The Forest Service manages this section of river as “recreational” and note in their management plan that the desired future condition of this segment is “to maintain a semi-social type of recreation experience” (USFS, Year). Proposed improvements are moderate and are designed to meet the “existing demand for recreation facilities” along with planning for “a gradual increase in demand” (USFS, Year). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as scenic river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

Recreational River Area

From the South Fork Confluence to the southern boundary of Alfred A. Loeb State Park.

Rule guidance:

- New structures and improvements shall be permitted only when at least partially screened from view from the river by topography or vegetation and shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of the new structure(s) as seen from the river, if not otherwise blocked by topography or existing vegetation. The condition of “vegetation screening” shall consist of a density and mixture of native evergreen and deciduous vegetation to obscure or allow only a filtered view of the proposed structures or improvements.
- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river but shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible.
- New roads and similar forms of development shall be set back from the river consistent with Curry County zoning and land development requirements and be screened from view from the river by topography or by existing or established evergreen vegetation.

Management Recommendations

Advisory Committee and public input on priorities for management that could enhance the recreational experience and protect fish and wildlife on the Chetco River are summarized here. Ideas expressed pertain to actions that could be carried out by landowners and managers, partners in collaboration with land managers or other agencies, or by other groups or agencies independently.

1. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies towards the development and installation of small interpretive signs with messages about the river corridor (*potential topics* include: river stewardship, leave no trace, recreation, cultural resources, fisheries, wildlife, geology, water quality, hydrology, respecting private property) in key areas.
2. Work in partnership with local groups and public agencies towards the development of a water trail recreation guide to facilitate river-based recreation opportunities, protect natural resources and private property. The guide may include maps and information showing property boundaries, river launch sites, day use areas, camping areas, other facilities, along with safety and other interpretive information. Use this and other resources to work toward expanding educational opportunities to learn about river recreation on the Chetco and other nearby scenic waterways.
3. Develop signs that identify public access for put in and take outs and/or developed recreation areas that are visible from the river and from the road access points.
4. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to identify user conflict areas that may not currently be adequately addressed in the Forest Service Management Plan due to changes in visitor use patterns (e.g., RVs often camp in the middle of boat ramps restricting drift boat launch at South Fork).
5. Cooperate with local partners and land managers to explore funding opportunities and any existing regulatory limitations to *improving* existing river access points (e.g., boat ramps, access roads, and other facilities such as restrooms and trash receptacles) to facilitate river recreational opportunities and improve visitor safety. Suggest that existing river access points continue to be maintained.
6. Develop organized regular river clean-up activities (e.g., trash and other debris) within the Scenic Waterway, particularly at river access points.
7. Explore opportunities to form partnership to exploring improvements in water quality, planting native species and invasive species management and/or monitoring efforts.
8. Do not modify existing or construct new structures within the high water channel unless they enhance river related (e.g., fish, wildlife, recreation) resources and comply with free-flow standards.
9. Recommend that the existing permitted gravel mining operation located within the study area be permitted to continue as it is an existing use of lands previously not within a state scenic waterway.
10. Public agencies in collaboration with local partners should work towards scoping for ways to improve hiking trail opportunities on public lands in the river corridor.

11. Federal agencies (e.g., USFS) should provide the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department draft plans, environmental assessments or environmental impact statements on activities that may affect the Scenic Waterway.
12. OPRD shall seek the cooperation of all local, state and federal agencies in meeting the objectives of this program and complying with the State Scenic Waterway Act and State Park Commission rules.

For a summary of recommendations on flow levels necessary to protect the recreation, fish, and wildlife needs of the Chetco River, refer to Appendix A.

Works Cited

- Kagan, J. (1998). *Plant Association Inventory. Alfred A. Loeb State Park.* . Unpublished report.
- Keller, R. (1998). *Paddling Oregon.* Helena: Falcon Publishing.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. (2014). *Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of Coho Salmon.* Arcata, CA.
- Oregon Department of Transportation. (1987). *Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers.* Salem, Oregon: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division.
- Palmer, T. (2014). *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers.* Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.
- Schuhmann, C. (2012). *Moon Oregon Fishing.* Berkeley: Avalon Travel.
- United States Forest Service-USFS. (1993). *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Chetco Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment.*

Appendix A

This is a placeholder for the Water Resources Commission staff report on scenic waterway flow recommendations.

Appendix B

In April 2015, OPRD and Water Resources Department (WRD) held the first collaborative meeting with the advisory groups for each river. Approximately 75 members of the public attended this first advisory group meeting (due in large part to some misinformation about what the meeting was about). These groups, made up of local landowners, community leaders, recreation users and land managers, met again in late June 2015 to finalize the Draft Management Plan and Draft Scenic Waterway Flow Recommendation documents (in addition to the advisory group, 2 members of the public were in attendance).

The resulting documents were presented in an open-house style public meeting on July 14 in Brookings which kicked-off a public comment period that ended on August 13. 37 members of the public attended the public meeting along with OPRD and WRD agency staff. 783 comments were received during the comment period (782 in support of designation and/or the management plan, and 1 in opposition). The summary presented here (Tables 1-2) is for the comment period held in connection with the development of the draft management plan in coordination with local advisory committees. A separate public comment period was held in 2014. The results from the 2014 public comment period are included in the eligibility study report. Additional information, including the eligibility reports and meeting information is available online at <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

Table 1. Summary of public comments received during the proposed Chetco River Scenic Waterway draft management plan comment period (7/14/2105-8/13/2015)

Written Comment Type	Oppose plan/designation	Support plan/designation
Individual emails and letters	1	28
Public meeting comment forms	0	8
Email form letters-Chetco only	0	634
Email form letters-both rivers	0	112
Total written comments (2015)	1	782

Public comments received during the proposed Chetco River Scenic Waterway comment period by location of residence are shown in the below table. Over half (56%) of those submitting comments in support of the Chetco River designation live in Oregon, 12% reside in California, and 4% in the European Union (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of public comments received by location of residence.

Country	Total (%)
USA	92
EU	4
Canada	1
Other	3

State	
Oregon	56
California	12
New York	4
Florida	2
Illinois	2
Washington	2
Other	22
Regions	
Southern Oregon	49
Portland Metro	24
Willamette Valley	16
The Coast	8
Central Oregon	3
The Gorge	>1
Eastern Oregon	>1

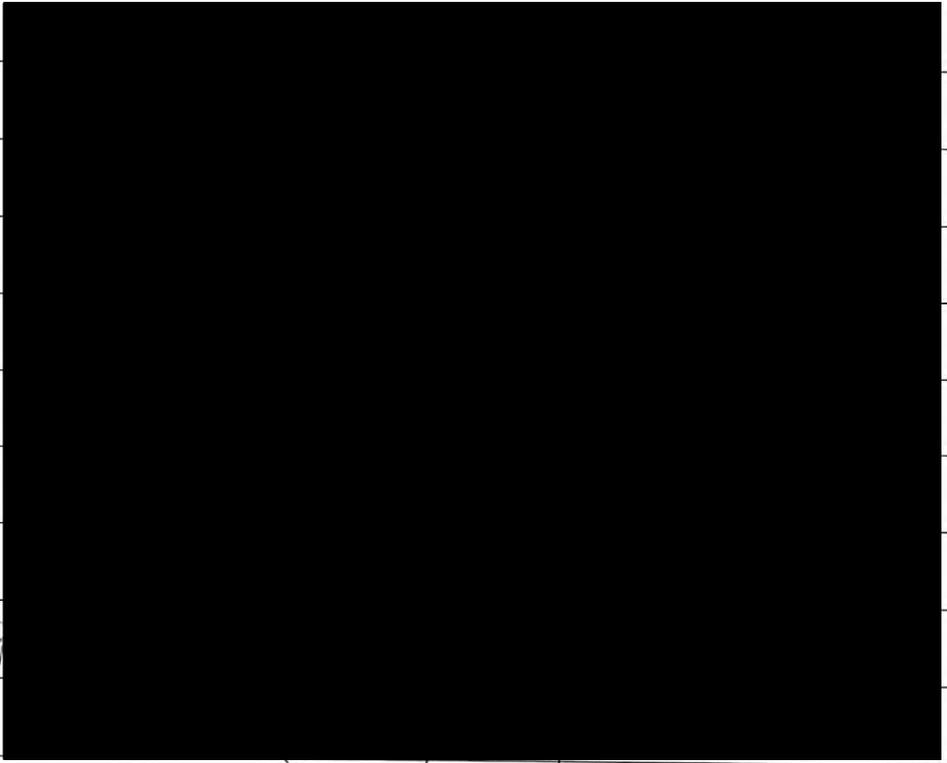
Slightly less than 50% of the comments received from Oregon were from Southern Oregon with 24% from the Portland Metro area, 16% from the Willamette Valley and 8% from the Oregon Coast. Less than 1% of total comments received were in opposition to the designation/management plan (1 comment). Approximately 50% of the personal emails, letters and public meeting comment forms (of those that had location information) were from the south coast, mainly Brookings.



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 7-14-15

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Linda Ettinger	
Ben Watts	
GEORGE FITZHOUGH	
Bonnie Kuppeler	
Tom Gastonway	
Richard Behrens	
Sunny Bourdon	
Ty Suggs	
NEAL MORRIS	
BOB JOHNSON/MAT	



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 7-24-15

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

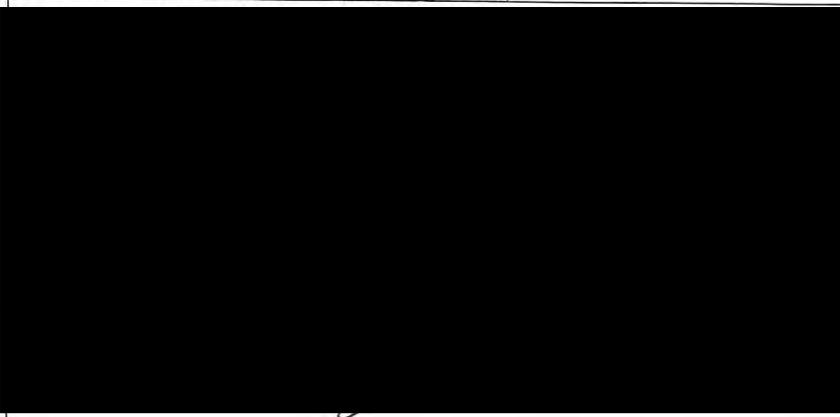
Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Beimm Byron + Joyce	
Shirley Hearing + Bob Wellbrite	
Tamara Pottinger	
John Babin	
Brent Hodges	
Kereto or Elan Society	
Joyce J. Howland	
Bobbie Gross	
Dana Hodges	
Christine Behrens	
Kellen Igou	
Alyssa Babin	
Joyce Tromblee	



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 7-14-15

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Dave Lacey	
Mark Sherwood	
Emily Sherwood	
Forrest English	
Luke Mattison	



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Harvey Young	[REDACTED]
Lonny & Diana Reneman	[REDACTED]
Andrew Orakoske	[REDACTED]
G Kupler	Brook King



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 7-14-15

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Trevor Taylor - OPRD	
Chris Havel - OPRD	
Annakrug - OPRD	
Rocky Houston - OPRD	
Calum Stevenson - OPRD	
Carrie Lovellette - OPRD	
Greg Wacker - WRPD	
Rachel Lovellford - WRPD	
Shavon Hayes - WRPD	

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I like the water flow for the river clause. I think it is important to maintain quality instream flows, more the better for fish & downstream drinking water.

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I am a land owner and citizen of Brookings and both myself and my husband are enthusiastically in favor of the Scenic ^{River} Designation.

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I work for Brookings-Harbor School District and
the first thing my co-worker and I did on summer
break was float the Chetco River. I fully support
the state scenic waterways designation for the Chetco!

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I fished the Chetco this past fall and winter for Chinook and Winter Steelhead. I spent at least 100 days in pursuit of these magnificent creatures. I often hiked and floated stretches of the river from Leeb to the South Fork. ~~There~~ There is no doubt in my mind that this watershed is a standout; I have visited various rivers and the Chetco is more than worthy of being designated

(Additional space on reverse side)

a state scenic waterway. Recreation and
angling opportunities are part of Oregon's
heritage and establishing an official channel
through the state to conduct these activities
moving forward is critical to the future
of the Clatsop and the surrounding
community. I support the initiative to
designate the Clatsop as a state scenic
waterway.

Kellen Igoe

Native Fish Society,

Ulinchuk River Steward.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

Sunny Bourdon, resident and Native Fish Society River Steward for
the ~~Chetco~~ Chetco and Smith.

- I support the designation of the Chetco as a State Scenic Waterway.
- I support the maximum flow allocation protections, and would like to see 100% of all flow (spring, winter, fall) to be allocated ~~to~~ for fish, wildlife, recreation & current water rights, rather than 90-100% of median flows. Preserve it while we can to ensure the future of these qualities.
- I support the management recommendations, especially

(Additional space on reverse side)

river clean-ups, improved restroom facilities and informative signage (leave no trace!), invasive species monitoring and ~~the~~ removal.....

I would like to propose the designation of one or more of the river bars (Miller would be a good candidate) to be tent-camping only. Also, that the campground at Little Redwood be re-opened for all those trailers. Tent-camping at Miller would re-instate the scenic, peaceful and rustic nature of the bar that is now quite full of campers & trailers & generators.

I also support the recommendation to improve trails in the upper section, in particular the trail that used to go from low water bridge to the Gorge.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

My name is Dave Lacey. I own and operate South Coast Tours and we do Standup Paddle boarding and Kayaking in the lower portion of the Chetco. I wholeheartedly support the designation for the Chetco river. I would like to encourage collaboration to clean up the river periodically or build more bathrooms + trash/recycling recepticals.

Thank you

Dave Lacey

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I support designation of the Chetco River as a state scenic waterway. The clean waters, outstanding fishing, and spectacular outdoor recreation on this amazing river deserve special recognition.

Andrew Ordozka



(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I strongly support state scenic waterways designation for the Chetco river. my only specific comment pertains to the instream scenic flows. it would be great to allocate 100% of the flows in the designated reach for ~~inst~~ fish, wildlife and recreation.

Mark Sherman, Brookings, OR

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

Comments July 23, 2015
Proposed Chetco River Scenic Waterway

At long last an important step is about to be taken to ensure protection of 14 miles of the Chetco River from Loeb State Park upstream to the Steel Bridge. As a designated scenic waterway the river will, with Scenic Waterway status, enjoy protection from development, residences and access. Existing high quality visuals will be retained for future generations to enjoy. Angling, boating and other non-consumptive would be retained and enjoyed by all citizens. Water quality, clarity and purity would be ensure available for present and all future river users.

Need I say more? The Chetco River is an exceptional resource that must be guaranteed for all future generations.

Edward R. Gross, Retired Forest Soil Scientist

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 13, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Chetco River, (from Steel Bridge to Alfred A. Loeb State Park), becoming an Oregon Scenic Waterway. This is a much deserved designation. The Chetco is an outstanding river and deserves as much protection as possible to preserve its wonderful qualities for generations to come.

Bobbie Gross - 

(Additional space on reverse side)

Brookings, OR 97415

Hello, Ms. Sumption,

Definitely add the entire Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Network. Protect it to the fullest extent - no mining, no cattle grazing, no big motor boats, no dredging, no sand/gravel operations, no nearby logging.

I have loved this river before even moving to Oregon, back when I came here on vacation from the Midwest, and my family spent time on the Chetco and coast. Let this river fully be its beautiful self.

Sincerely,
Charmaine Behq
[REDACTED]
Eugene, OR 97401

8/17 To Laurel Hillman



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200
FAX (503) 378-4844
www.oregon.gov/dsl

July 22, 2015

Laurel Hillman
Oregon Parks and Recreation
725 Summer St NE Suite C
Salem OR 97301

State Land Board

Kate Brown
Governor

Ms. Hillman,

Jeanne P. Atkins
Secretary of State

The Department of State Lands appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed State Scenic Waterway Management Plan for the Chetco River.

Ted Wheeler
State Treasurer

Our input is based on the dual responsibility of the State Land Board and the Department of State Lands (DSL) as both a landowner and regulator. In both roles, the predominant management objective is found in the "public trust doctrine." Above all, the agency's role is to protect the people's rights to use the waterway for navigation, commerce, fisheries, recreation and other public uses. After DSL's reorganization, both groups are now under one program – Aquatic Resource Management (ARM) and the Chetco River area contacts are the Southwest region.

Proprietary/Landowner Issues:

State ownership to the beds and the banks of navigable and tidally influenced waterways was granted to the state of Oregon in 1859 through the Admissions Act and is an inherent attribute of state sovereignty protected by the United State Constitution. The Chetco was declared navigable to at least River Mile 11 (about one mile upstream from the mouth of Elk Creek) by the United States District Court, District of Oregon in 1994.

Within state-owned waters, any structures or uses are subject to an authorization from DSL. These can include, but not limited to, utility crossings, bridge crossings, boat ramps and facilities for public use. DSL would need to be involved in any structures, whether they are currently in use or proposed. This is a concern mostly in the Recreational River Area designated stretch of the Chetco.

Regulatory Issues:

Our regulatory side handles any alterations within waters of the state; this would include all of the Chetco and any adjoining wetlands. The Removal-Fill law protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alterations. If the Chetco is designated Scenic, then there is no threshold for a removal-fill permit. All removal or fill would need a permit. The permitting review process involves coordination with the natural resource and land use agencies from the local through the federal levels.

Both sides of DSL would be able to aid in the retention of the scenic and natural aspect of the Chetco. We would welcome involvement with the process, and ask that DSL be designated as one of the cooperating agencies especially in regards to #5 under Potential Management Recommendation.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hutson
Proprietary Coordinator
Southwest Region
503-302-6094 – cell phone
gerry.hutson@state.or.us

From: [The Chetco River Inn](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Scenic Waterways comments
Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:39:11 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

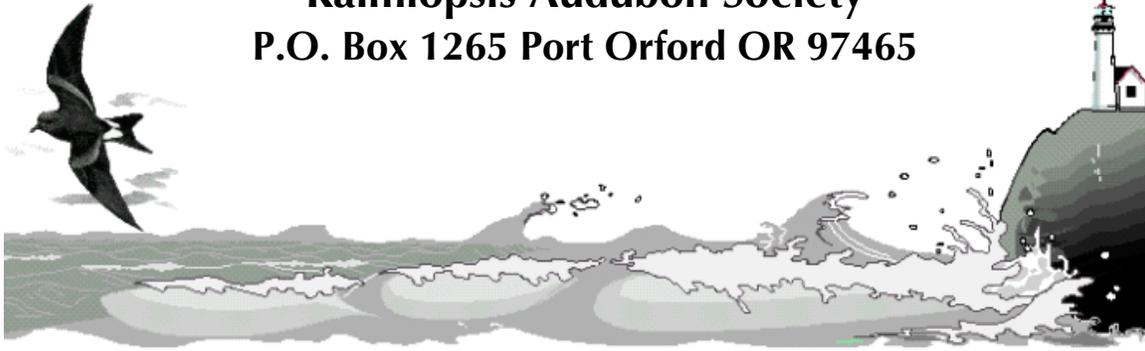
We would like for our concern to be included in your Scenic Waterway proposition. We own a large portion of river frontage. We have taken under consideration the pros that the Scenic Waterway designation however we are very much against the river portion running along our property to be included in the designation. Our portion of river frontage consists of a parcel from just below Steel Bridge to above South Fork.

We would like for our section of river to not be included in your draft. We believe that the support of such a designation along the section of river we front, directly negatively impacts our business and personal usage of our property. By supporting this designation, we would give up our personal rights to freely manage and develop our business and property.

We sincerely hope that the wants of the property owners are being heard and listened to.

Thank you,,
Dan and Marci Barker

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465



August 10, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for proposed designation of the Chetco River as State Scenic Waterway

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Program:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our organization has more than 200 members in Curry County who are concerned about conserving habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife and about outdoor recreation opportunities.

We strongly support the proposed designation of the Chetco River as new State Scenic Waterway.

Our members regularly enjoy recreation on the Chetco through birdwatching, swimming, camping, boating, hiking and fishing. In addition, some of our members earn their livelihoods guiding on the river during the fishing season. Some of our members have also served on the local stakeholder committee developing a management proposal.

We know firsthand that the Chetco provides outstanding recreational, scenic, botanic, and fish and wildlife habitat values that certainly merit recognition and protection afforded by Oregon's state scenic waterway program. The river's crystal clear waters and deep pools are the home to important populations of steelhead trout and salmon and provide exceptionally clean drinking water to the cities of Brookings and Harbor. The river's broad gravel bars and beautiful blue tinted water makes it an extraordinary place for recreation, too. We've submitted extensive testimony earlier in this public process detailing many of the river's outstanding values to the local ecology, economy, and community.

At this point, we want to offer strong support for the management proposals put forth by the stakeholder committee. We support improvements to recreation facilities, especially those that will make a beneficial contribution to the environment; restoration of riparian habitat by removing invasive species and replanting natives; and interpretation that will help educate residents and visitors about the river's special values (though we caution about too much signage!).

In addition, we also strongly urge the state to adopt the full suite of instream flows for the Chetco (including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows); these are necessary to maintain the free flowing character of the river and the quantity of flows necessary for recreation, fish, wildlife, and maintaining water quality for drinking water supplies. Protecting these flows will not injure existing senior or downstream water right holders, but will ensure that river flows in the newly designated state scenic waterways are safeguarded against future development for generations to come. Designating flows to protect critical streamflow functions is necessary to provide the full protection required by the Scenic Waterway Act.

We appreciate the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation's effort to consider and facilitate community discussion surrounding designation of the Chetco as a state scenic waterway.

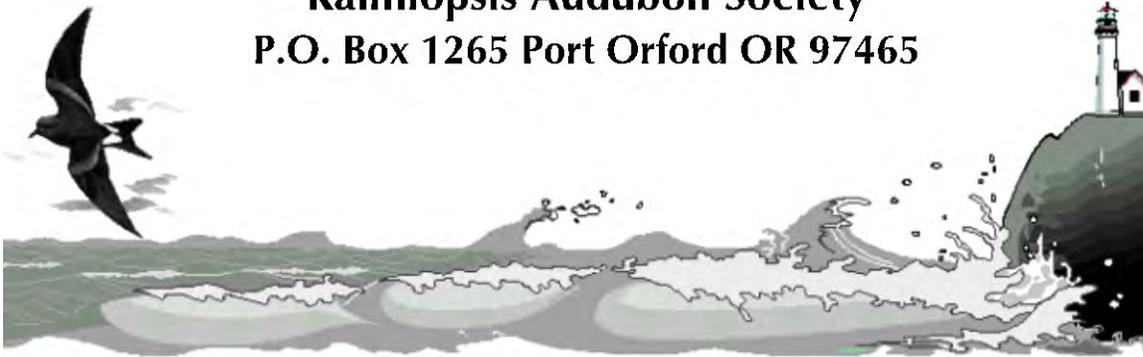
Thank you for considering our comments.

Cordially,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

President
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465



Oct. 15, 2014

To: Laurel Hillman

Re: Consideration of the Chetco as an Oregon Scenic Waterway

Dear Laurel:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has more than 200 members in Curry County who are concerned about habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife, and also about stewardship of public lands and resources. For these reasons, we strongly support designation of the Chetco River as a state scenic waterway.

Our members include people who work as sport fishing guides, people who camp on the river during summer months, people who kayak, people who swim, people who fish, people who hike, and people who watch birds along the Chetco. More than one-third of our members reside in Brookings or Harbor.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and Calum Stevenson last month and to share photos that highlight the Chetco's unique scenic and recreational attributes, but I wanted to share a letter, too, to answer questions in the questionnaire you left us -so that you have more information and our organization's support in your record.

As I described when we met, the Chetco is an extremely unique waterway in that its headwaters flow from the Siskiyou Mountains and are located entirely within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. This means that the river has outstanding water quality, outstanding habitat for fish spawning, and outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities, including fishing. All these qualities were recognized by Congress when the public lands portion of the Chetco, which flows from headwaters to the Forest Service boundary, was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1988.

Since you are interested in the reaches downstream of the Steel Bridge, I'll mention that a wild highlight of this reach is the Chetco Gorge, with its massive rapid Conehead, formed by a distinctive conical rock formation within the river, followed by Radiolaria (also known as Candy Cane), owing to the fossils that make distinctive striping patterns in the rock. These are reached only by boat and only accessible by skilled boaters and during low flows. There is also

a trail up the north side of the river that leads into the Chetco Gorge, from the ford at Low-water Crossing to Eagle Creek, a stunning tributary that flows into a beautiful pool. Regrettably, this trail has fallen into disrepair with some landslides and blow downs. In the past, the Forest Service offered a summer tent type camp along this trail. Hopefully, someday this trail can be restored.

The views from the river are stunning. The uppermost study segment is most wild of course and features forested canyon scenery with a mix of conifers and broadleafed evergreen trees.

In the second study reach, the canyon opens up and the river flows through massive gravel bars. Here the scenery is more pastoral-seeming, and there is at least one building visible from the river (Chetco Inn). In the third study reach, downstream of the South Fork, the river continues to flow through open country and past a subdivision, where some homes are visible to the river (most are set back), but then reenters a series of forested canyons again. These canyons are accessed most readily from Forest Service campgrounds, which are actually just large river bars: Redwood Bar, Nook Bar, and Miller Bar. Downstream of the bridge near the Forest Service boundary, the river tracks closer to the road for the short distance down to Loeb State Park, with its large gravel bar and lovely Myrtlewood groves. This is perhaps the most popular swimming and boating access point because it is located closest to town.

One of the most scenic aspects of the Chetco, especially in its uppermost (segment 1) and lowermost (segment 3) study reaches, are beautiful clear, blue-tinged pools where one can look down through deep water to see rocks on the bottom. These are ideal swim holes during the summer and also ideal places where salmon and steelhead hold in fall and winter (ideal, fishing holes for that reason).

This year, owing to record low flows, there is more algae than usual. Generally, the river's water quality in terms of clarity is extremely high in its upper reaches, but in the lower reaches, there is the exception of temperature impairment.

Regarding recreation, the Chetco gets a lot of use, especially at its lower access sites –with local people swimming, boating, and camping, especially during summer months. People routinely come from Medford area and Crescent City as well to enjoy camping on the Chetco. And several businesses in Brookings rent inflatable kayaks and paddleboard that people can use to paddle the reach from low water crossing down to Loeb State Park. Most people do this, or a sub segment of this as a day trip, taking out at Loeb, but it can also be done as an overnight trip with fabulous, remote campsites.

The 3d study segment hosts some lovely sand beaches, interspersed with more common large gravel bars. The beaches make excellent picnic spots or camp spots for people who recreate by boat. Camping on the Chetco is delightful because the temperatures are often mild, the night skies are filled with stars, and one can sometimes hear owls hooting.

Our members typically use inflatable boats or drift boats when recreating on the Chetco. In fact, I believe that an agreement was reached among fishing guides and other boaters to keep motors off the lower Chetco to protect the unique fishing experience that the river provides. You could

learn more about this by talking with fishing guide Harvey Young or former Chetco outfitter Allen Wilson.

Study segment #1 is extremely difficult for boating and should be paddled only by the most skilled boaters during winter flows. Even during summer flows, there are larger rapids that require care in portaging and should only be run by people with whitewater experience. Below Low Water Crossing, the river flows in an easy class 2 riffles, with occasional obstacles of greater hazard caused by fallen trees, especially during winter flows. In the low and warm flows of summer months, the Chetco's easy waters make it accessible and safe for beginner floaters and boaters.

Regarding bird watching, the Chetco hosts most common river birds, including kingfishers, osprey, great blue herons, mergansers, spotted sandpipers, American dippers, and in lower reaches, bald eagles.

Regarding fishing, I will leave others more engaged in that activity to answer your questions on that topic, but I'll just underscore again that fishing in the Chetco is one of its most outstanding recreational draws.

Our "Wild Rivers Coast" has several National Wild and Scenic Rivers, but compared to the others, the Chetco is unique for several reasons. Because of geography, the water flows from lower and less cold country, and so the water is warmer than other rivers, which makes for more enjoyable swimming. The Rogue also has warmer water, but its water quality is impaired owing to heavy urban use and development in its mid reaches (Rogue Valley). The Chetco is notable for its utterly wild headwaters, which include only a few trail crossings in the Kalmiposis Wilderness. The river has large winter flows that trickle down to low summer flows and yet water quality generally remains very good.

Regarding matters of visitor management, I have heard some anglers complain that fishing use of the Chetco is actually too high and that there are conflicts between fishers during the highest use season, with fall Chinook and winter steelhead runs. In addition, I have several times had the experience of camping up the Chetco when people (presumably kids) used the river bars as a place for late night drag racing and partying. This is, of course, disconcerting when one is camping on a bar. It disturbs not only the quiet, but there is also a safety issue if the high-speed drivers do not notice people sleeping in sleeping bags or tents. There have also been conflicts associated with people driving in the river; this was recently prohibited by a change of state law, and I am not well-versed in whether or not this conflict persists. Finally, there is a problem with people leaving trash on gravel bars.

The greatest threats to study segments you are considering for the Chetco include dredge mining within the river for gold. Not long ago, there was a proposal to mine 25 miles of streambed including the reaches from Nook Bar upstream into the Kalmiposis Wilderness. Fortunately, the claims in the wilderness have been permanently retired, and there is a temporary withdrawal of the river corridor from new mining claims down to the Forest Service boundary. This temporary withdrawal will remain in place until July 2017. A permanent withdrawal is also proposed in the current O&C bill proposed by Oregon's Senator Wyden. If the temporary withdrawal lapses and there is no permanent protection in place, new mining

claims will again be filed. Also, existing valid claims may still be developed, but hopefully these will be small enough and can be sufficiently regulated to prevent degradation to the river.

If drought becomes more common, water quality may be further impaired. This may be best addressed by monitoring of septic systems associated with river front developments and responding to problems accordingly.

I am also including the Chetco entry from Tim Palmer's book, *A Field Guide to Oregon's Rivers*, recently published by OSU Press, which may provide some useful details for your report.

We will look forward to reading your report about our special river.

Cordially,

/s/ Ann Vileisis

President, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

From *A Field Guide to Oregon Rivers*, by Tim Palmer (OSU Press, 2014), here is the Chetco entry:

Chetco River

Length: 57 miles

Average flow: 2,244 cfs

Watershed: 353 square miles

This outstanding, important salmon and steelhead stream with pristine water flows through the heart of the Siskiyou Range and to the ocean at Brookings. Seventh-largest river on Oregon's coast, it's also one of the flashiest statewide. Winter discharges 50 times those of summer can spike from 1,000 to 60,000 cfs in a few days. A hydrologic phenomenon, the small watershed can briefly produce as much water as a high-flowing Willamette or Snake. This is also the wildest major river on the West Coast south of the Olympic Mountains, with no dams, towns, development, or roads along its upper 30 miles, and little below that until near sea level (even the Illinois River has towns above its wilderness canyon). Half the length lies in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and its distinctive, real-life museum of geology and plants. Below, the road-accessible reach is one of the finest for summertime recreation.

Unlike most rivers, which flow somewhat directly out of their mountains, the Chetco wanders its forbidding topography, first north, then west, south, and again west. In the Chetco Gorge, 3 miles above the South Fork, chert boulders were formed undersea from skeletons of microscopic radiolaria, now stunningly striped in earthy tones of red, white, and gray. At the South Fork the valley broadens with spacious blue-gray gravel bars along jade-green water. The world's northernmost naturally growing redwoods tower at Loeb State Park.

Cutthroat thrive throughout, steelhead migrate to upper reaches, coho survive in one of their more southerly enclaves, and Chinook are a storied fishery with occasional 60-pounders and some of Oregon's highest smolt returns.

For three-quarters of its length, down to the Siskiyou National Forest boundary, the Chetco is a National Wild and Scenic River. Headwaters include the longest reach through a designated wilderness on the West Coast. This river and the neighboring Illinois also have the

greatest undammed vertical drop among Oregon's coastal streams. In short, the little-known Chetco is an exceptional river.

The lower 7 miles flow through private land near Brookings and face development pressure; municipal water demands for a new 1,000-home subdivision north of town could overtax summertime flows. Upstream, a gold mining proposal jeopardizes 15 miles in the Wild and Scenic reach; applications in 2011 sought to expand from 4- to 8-inch gasoline-powered dredges—a vast increase in material extracted and then flushed back as silt, which can destabilize the riverbed and destroy invertebrate communities elemental in the food chain. Conservation groups strive to limit the mining and declare new claims off-limits through a congressional bill pending in 2013.

HIKING: From Hwy 101 in south Brookings turn east on North Shore Road. Loeb State Park, 7 miles up, offers access and a 1-mile trail along the Chetco through a fine myrtle grove. The Redwood Nature Trail lies 0.5 miles farther.

Turnoffs for excellent gravel-bar recreation sites and camping are 2.6 miles above Loeb at Miller Bar, 0.3 miles farther at Nook Bar, and 1.4 miles further at Redwood Bar. These all offer dreamy summertime swimming, and the snorkeling may be Oregon's best with clear, warm water and a rocky bottom. The South Fork access is 3 miles farther. Then 1 mile above South Fork bridge, turn left on gravel FR 1407 to Low Water Crossing, where in summer the river can be waded to the west-side Chetco Gorge Trail. This runs 2 miles upstream to Eagle Creek's confluence, just below the formidable boulder garden of Chetco Gorge (volunteer trail maintenance needed!).

More remote, the upper river can nominally be reached by a rougher road: cross South Fork bridge and stay left, go nearly 1 mile, turn right on FR 1917, in another 2.8 miles go left on unsigned FR 060, after 4.4 more miles go left on unsigned dirt 067 and drop 1 mile (high clearance) to south bank access. Avoid Tolman Ranch on the other side.

Farther up, the Chetco is best reached by arduous hiking from the east side of the Siskiyou Mountains. Since the widespread 2002 Biscuit Fire, trails have been in disrepair, but the Siskiyou Mountain Club is upgrading these. Take Hwy 199 north from Cave Junction 5 miles, turn west on Eight Dollar Mountain Road (later FR 4201), in 2.8 miles cross to the west side of the Illinois River, and (if the gate's open) go another 12 steep miles to road's end at Onion Camp. Here the Babyfoot Lake/Bailey Mountain/Chetco River Trail leads southwest 9 miles to the canyon bottom: take the trail on the right, in a quarter mile go left (the right branch is a longer alternate), and in 3 miles switchback right at a junction with the Canyon Peak Trail. In another mile or so, in an open area above an old mine, take the fork leading uphill, continue to the shoulder of Bailey Mountain (mile 7), and drop to the river (see *California Creeks* web site). A shorter trail may open in summer from Chetco Pass, though brush may be thick: from Hwy 199 in Selma turn west on Illinois River Road, go about 12 miles, park at the trailhead if further mileage is gated, cross the Illinois, walk or drive the jeep road 5 miles up to Chetco Pass, then hike 3 steep miles down to the river at Slide Creek. Take a map!

FISHING: Fishing for fall Chinook begins in the tidal reach in September and peaks in November. Winter steelhead below the South Fork peak January—February. Drift boats ply from the South Fork down and use 8 access areas, which also offer bank fishing. The river above tide-line is closed to summer fishing.

BOATING: The upper Chetco through Kalmiopsis Wilderness is Oregon's ultimate epic river adventure for ultra-fit paddlers. It features crystalline water and pristine wilderness as remote as anywhere in the state. After the rigorous hike and boat-carry from the east side (see above), paddle 3-5 days in Class 3-5 rapids plus portages. Avoid high or rising water. Flows are hazardously erratic until late-spring (200-400 at Brookings suits some paddlers), and hundreds of boulders define the word "undercut." In summer, a low-water trip with inflatable kayaks, frequent dragging, and challenging boulder scrambling is a remarkable athletic experience and river adventure on as little as 80 cfs at Brookings.

For a more accessible but still jaw-dropping upper Chetco outing, put in at Tolman (see above) and paddle 6 miles to Steel Bridge (for this takeout, drive 3 miles north from the South Fork on FR 1376, cross the Chetco, and turn left), or continue paddling 8 more miles through the lower gorge. This geologically wondrous wild-river extravaganza includes a tumult of Class 4-5 drops. *Radiolaria* is a colossal blockage of massive boulders requiring a rigorous carry (the name refers to undersea protozoa whose metamorphosed skeletons form the striped, candy-cane-like rock). Soon after, *Conehead* is marked by two pointed monoliths where the river collides into boulders and logs – line and drag with care.

The reach from Low Water Crossing to Brookings Harbor is a superb 20-mile Class 1-2 run on riffles with multiple accesses – one of Oregon's finest trips for early-intermediate paddlers. After winter storms clear, the water turns turquoise-blue. Expansive gravel bars offer fine campsites on this seldom run overnigher – a miniature lower Rogue without the jet-boat roar. Expect headwinds, especially on summer afternoons. Take out at Loeb, or tide-line's Social Security Bar (3.2 miles east of Hwy 101), or go to Brookings harbor. Flows of 2,000 or more feel big; low flows enchant with carefree clarity. All summer the stream is day-trip-boatable with depthless pools and tight gravel riffles that channelize as flows drop; 200 cfs at Brookings is good, but with minor dragging I've enjoyed paddling on as little as 80. Fallen trees, however, pose serious hazards where beginners should wade. Boaters must register at a roadside stop near the Redwood Bar turnoff. I do not leave my vehicle at the South Fork and its weekend-rowdy campsite overnight.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco River Needs Immediate Protection
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:01:50 PM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

The Chetco River is infinitely more valuable than any amount of irrigation water or hydropower that could be seized from it. This River is the epitome of the precious aquatic ecosystems that people of Oregon had the vision and foresight to protect in 1970, and the need has only grown greater since. Please protect the Chetco River immediately.

I am writing today to support adding the Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway network. The exceptionally clear waters of the Chetco River provide exceptional recreation opportunities, produce some of the largest salmon in Oregon, and provide drinking water to coastal communities.

I support the recommendations stakeholder groups have made with regard to the Chetco River segment classifications and the resulting "potential land management rules." These rules strike a balance between maintaining the scenic and ecological integrity of the river corridors and the rights of adjacent private property owners. Maintaining the natural condition of the river corridor will benefit clean water and fisheries for generations to come.

In addition to my support for designating the Chetco a State Scenic Waterway, I urge the state to fully protect instream flows. Natural flows are critical to maintaining the wild and free flowing character of the Chetco, and the state's designation should fully protect base flows, biological triggering flows and channel maintenance flows. As recreation and wildlife depend on these characteristics, flow should be protected appropriately for the highest and best uses identified for State Scenic Waterways.

Sincerely,

Jim Steitz

[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR 97520

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco River approval
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:12:57 AM

OPRD staff,

Good morning. My name is Richard Behrens and my wife and I own property located on the Chetco River, approximately 1 mile downstream from Lobe Park, at [REDACTED] South Bank Chetco River Road.

We are both avid supporters of river health and recreational use and fully support the proposal to add the proposed section of the Chetco River into the State Scenic Waterways Program.

We can be reached at 707-[REDACTED] for comment.

Thank you,

Richard and Christine Behrens

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco River
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 4:08:48 PM

I support designating the Chetco River as a State Scenic Waterway.

Because of my familiarity and love for this beautiful River, am all in favor of continuing recreational opportunities and in the opportunity for conservation education and habitat restoration and protection.

This river deserves this recognition!

Ellen Babin
[REDACTED]
Brookings OR
97415

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Chetco River
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2015 5:44:17 PM

As a thirty five year resident of Brookings Oregon, I support the designation of parts of the Chetco for Scenic status. In the 90's I was fortunate enough to participate wilderness travels in numerous places in the Chetco watershed including Canyon kayak treks sponsored by Allen Wilson of Gold Beach. The scenic qualities of the Chetco need to be protected. The current law with the propose designation is a minimal method to address that protection.

John Babin
[REDACTED]
Brookings, OR
[REDACTED]

From: [Frank, Michael](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Designate the Chetco river a Scenic Waterway
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:50:59 AM

The Chetco river is a unique and exquisite geologic treasure. I grew up in Brookings and enjoyed swimming, hiking and fishing on the river. The unique geology of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness extends down the Chetco drainage system to its rather unique entry into the Pacific, running north and south into Pelican Bay. It is well deserving of the designation of a State Scenic Waterway and certainly deserves protection.

I urge you to designate the Chetco river a Scenic Waterway.

Thank you,

Michael

This e-mail and any attachments thereto may contain confidential information and/or information protected by intellectual property rights for the exclusive attention of the intended addressees named above. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by return e-mail and delete this message and its attachments. Unauthorized use, copying or further full or partial distribution of this e-mail or its contents is prohibited.

From: [Peter Stewart](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Designate the Chetco
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:02:42 PM

Hello, I am writing to you today to express my deep wishes about developing the Chetco river as one of the specifically scenic waterways to be protected. There are only a few rivers in this world as stunningly beautiful and healthy as the Chetco. It supports many living things and flows over rare geologic stone. This river is the type that when you emerge yourself in it, there is a deep refreshment that occurs. We have a responsibility to maintain the clarity and life that this river supplies. Please move toward protecting the entire length of this amazing waterway. Thank you,
Peter Stewart Portland, OR



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Division

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6201

FAX (503) 947-6202

www.dfw.state.or.us/

August 13, 2015

OPRD Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St. Ste C
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Comments on the Chetco River as a State Scenic Waterway

To whom it may concern:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft management plan and scenic flow recommendation for the potential designation of a portion of the Chetco River as a Scenic Waterway.

The Chetco River provides habitat for anadromous salmonids and resident trout, as well as many other native species of fish and wildlife. Instream water rights are currently established on the Chetco River to support the conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, and any other ecological values. ODFW is pleased to see the instream flows proposed as the base of the scenic flows. In addition to meeting this instream flow regime, ODFW recommends scenic flows maintain the natural hydrograph of the system, including allowing the river to reach bank full and flood flows on a natural cycle. These flows provide conditions conducive to creating or maintaining stream morphology and habitat. In addition, land management under the designation should include strong protections for riparian habitats, which provide benefits to numerous species. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Oregon Water Resources Department, should develop final scenic flows and riparian protection to protect all ecological needs of the river.

ODFW is hopeful that establishment of Scenic Waterways across Oregon can aide our mandate to protect and enhance populations of fish, wildlife, and their habitats for public use and enjoyment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-947-6092.

Sincerely,


Danette Faucera
Water Policy Coordinator

From: [Johanna Harman](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Please protect the Chetco because it was our favorite place to hang out in high school, and...
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:39:53 PM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

Please add the Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway network.

In my youth I spent many, many hours 'up the Chetco' at Elephant Rock and further up. I will never forget the profound serenity and beauty of the river that was imparted to me from this place. For this I feel very fortunate. The whole is greater than the parts. Wilderness in its unblemished magnificence is a profound and almost indescribable experience. A masterpiece. Something that evokes such stillness and awe must be preserved for future generations.

Just today I drove 'up the Chetco' with my parents and we remarked how beautiful it still is and how lucky we are to have it so close.

Please add the Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway network, not just for human enjoyment, but because it is critically important habitat for salmon and many other wild creatures. We must maintain both the scenic and ecological integrity of the river corridors for our collective future.

Please also fully protect instream flows. Natural flows are critical to maintaining the wild and free flowing character of the Chetco, and the state's designation should fully protect base flows, biological triggering flows and channel maintenance flows. As recreation and wildlife depend on these characteristics, flow should be protected appropriately for the highest and best uses identified for State Scenic Waterways.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Johanna Harman
[REDACTED]
Talent, OR 97540

From: Alyssa Babin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:04 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Subject: Some Last Minute Chetco Love

Please find attached a video comment in support of the Chetco State Scenic Waterway.

<https://youtu.be/bX8xMCPSzZo>

Let me know if you need an alternative format.

--
Alyssa Babin
Executive Director
Wild and Scenic Rivers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brookings, Oregon 97415
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Yvonne Maitland](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Scenic chetco
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:00:25 PM

Dear Scenic Waterways Program Staff,

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of Oregon Rivers. My husband and I enthusiastically support the State Scenic Waterways Management plan and the proposed designation for the Chetco River. The Chetco has the distinction of producing some of the largest salmon in Oregon. Maintaining the natural conditions of the river will benefit clean water, fisheries and recreation.

I gathered 120 signatures from residents of Brookings and Harbor in support of the proposed designation. Carl Page, fisheries biologist and Chetco River Watershed Council Chair hand delivered the petition to the office of the County Commissioners. Subject: The Chetco River has been nominated for the State Scenic Waterways." We ask Curry County Commissioners to support this designation process. The Chamber of Commerce has marketed the Wild and Scenic Coast as good for business and the State Scenic Waterways designation would enhance those economic benefits.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Maitland



ORCA: Oregon Coast Alliance

P.O.Box 857, Astoria OR 97103

(503) 391-0210

<http://www.oregoncoastalliance.org>

Protecting the Oregon Coast

August 11, 2015

OPRD Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste. C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Designation of a Portion of Chetco River to Scenic Waterway Status

Submitted via email: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

Dear Scenic Waterways Program staff,

Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is an Oregon nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect and restore coastal natural resources and work with coastal residents to enhance and maintain livability of coastal communities.

ORCA supports the designation of segments of the Chetco River for State Scenic Waterway (SSW) designation. The Chetco is an outstanding, unspoiled river for the majority of its length; it has no dams or other impoundments and is free-flowing from the headwaters to the estuary. Its beauty, recreational opportunities and salmon runs are the lifeblood of the City of Brookings, which sits on the river's estuary.

Designation as an SSW enhances the Chetco's reputation as a quality outdoor recreation site. The onus on adjacent landowners is small, consisting mainly of ensuring that buildings enhance, rather than detract from, the overall scenery; leaving a riparian buffer in timber management practices, and designing timber harvest to protect scenic views. Curry County would work with OPRD during the local land use process of any development proposal, and protection of scenic views is worked out in the management plan. 67% of the adjacent lands under study are publicly owned, reducing the small private landowner burden even further.

In other words, to protect the scenic and recreational values that are the mainspring of the local economy, landowners, Curry County and OPRD work together. This is an excellent opportunity for key stakeholders to collaborate in protecting the beauty of an iconic south coast river. ORCA hopes that if the Chetco is designated the partnership will expand to include such things as community trash pick-up events if needed,

identification of potential conflict areas and/or enforcement needs, working to place needed signs and/or interpretive signs in heavily used areas and improve access points.

In addition, OPRD may be able to help landowners find funding for riparian enhancement and other desirable work. Since the SSW program specifically excludes review of existing development and maintenance activities, as well as ranch and agricultural use, this program fits in well with the rural uses most common along the privately owned borderlands of the Chetco.

This designation would also help those at-risk or Threatened/Endangered plant and animal species found in the study area. There are at least forty species in the study area that are considered sensitive by state or federal standards. Adding protections via Scenic Waterways designation would be most valuable, and also encourage people to study and take note of species' importance. Species of concern especially includes salmonids; the Chetco is native habitat for Chinook, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout, as well as Pacific lamprey.

The coho of the Chetco is a core population at high extinction risk, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service; to ensure their survival increasing stream flows, limiting and changing timber-cutting practices and increasing riparian vegetation are all critical – all areas in which SSW designation would be of help to increase collaboration and dialogue about improving riverine and riparian habitats. ORCA especially notes that sport and commercial fishermen prize the Chetco, for both the fishing and the wilderness-type experience. Maintaining high quality fishing opportunities, and engaging the fishing community in protecting salmonid habitat, would be very valuable outcomes of an SSW designation.

ORCA agrees with the 2014 State Scenic Waterway Report on the Chetco that all three sections under study for SSW designation meet the criteria for free-flowing waters, scenery, and natural and recreation values of outstanding quality. As all three segments have been a Federal Wild and Scenic River since 1988, it is clear that the Chetco throughout these areas possesses very high quality, and it attracts many visitors year round. The economy of nearby Brookings also depends on a healthy Chetco River.

In sum, ORCA fully supports designation of these segments of the Chetco River as a State Scenic Waterway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cameron La Follette

Cameron La Follette
Executive Director



August 13, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Chetco River, proposed Scenic Waterway Designation and flow recommendations

Dear OPRD Scenic Waterway Program,

WaterWatch of Oregon supports the proposed designation of the Chetco River as State Scenic Waterway.

The citizens of Oregon passed the Scenic Waterway Act into law in 1970 by a two to one margin. The Act was adopted as a counter balance to existing policies that allowed the building of dams and diversion of water from beloved streams across the state. See ORS 390.815. With increasing development pressures on Oregon's beloved rivers across the state, this is an important tool to protect Oregon's most loved rivers into the future. Recognizing this, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission in 2012 recommends designation of new state scenic waterways as one tool to meet instream water needs into the future.

Once a stream is designated, the Act requires the state to protect streamflows in quantities necessary to support fish, wildlife and recreation. Our comments today are focused on the "pilot" scenic waterway flow recommendation, found in Attachment A.

Scenic waterway approach: The Scenic Waterway Act mandates that the highest and best uses in Scenic Waterways are fish, wildlife and recreation. ORS 390.835(1). To that end, the state is required to protect flows in quantities necessary to protect these values. *Id.* Attachment A notes that the flow framework discussed with the advisory group combines scenic waterway management classifications with the median monthly natural streamflow defined by WARS. As an approach, WaterWatch has concerns with the proposed nexus of streamflow protection and management classifications. The scenic waterway management plans and classifications are directly tied to land use on adjacent lands. ORS 390.845(2). These plans are within the purview of the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. *Id.* at (1). River flow protections, on the other hand, are not tied to land management practices and/or river classifications, but rather are guided by the Act's mandate that the highest and best uses of waters within a scenic waterway are fish, wildlife and recreation. Moreover, streamflow protection mandated under the Act is under the purview of the Oregon Water Resources Commission. ORS 390.835, ORS 390.845(1).

To that end, the state should be protecting the maximum flows available under the Act regardless of the management classification of adjacent lands.

Recommended scenic waterway flows: While we appreciate that the WRD is proposing 100% of the median natural river flow to be protected by the Act (except for Jan-March on the lower segment the recommendation is 95-100%), we do not believe this provides the full protection mandated by the Act. The Act is clear that the state must protect flows in the quantity necessary for fish, wildlife and recreation. ORS 390.835. The concern with using average median flows to meet this standard is that average median flows are not likely to capture the elevated biological triggering flows, channel maintenance flows and/or other streamflow functions associated with high flows needed to support healthy river and fish habitat. The 100% median flow should be the baseflow to build upon for the scenic waterway flow recommendation, not the ceiling. Thus, we urge the state to incorporate elevated flow levels necessary to support biological triggering and channel maintenance, among other things, into the recommended instream flows.

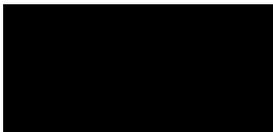
As a related matter, we appreciate that the WRD conditions new water right permits to protect scenic waterway flows and we support this conditioning, but again, unless the scenic waterway flows are protecting the full suite of flows necessary to maintain fish, wildlife and recreation uses then this conditioning does not protect against future development to the extent it should under the Act

And, as a final point, we strongly agree with the “non numeric” recommendation from the advisory group that no new additional water rights should be allocated within or above the proposed scenic waterway. We urge the Water Resources Commission to approve this recommendation.

In conclusion, WaterWatch strongly supports the proposed designation of the Chetco River as a new State Scenic Waterway. However, we urge the state to use the 100% of the median flow as the baseflow, not the ceiling, upon which to build additional recommendations to address elevated flows needed for important fish and river functions.

We thank the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Water Resources Department for their recent efforts to move forward in designating additional state scenic waterways and look forward to the continued attention to this program in years to come.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Kimberley Priestley.

Kimberley Priestley
Sr. Policy Analyst

From: [Joseph Hatcher](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 8:29:42 PM

I am an avid kayaker that has paddled all over the US. I was fortunate to paddle the Chetco last year. It is definitely a remote and pristine area. There was two things that stood out to me the most.

1) The clear water and the marble colored rocks. I have been on other rivers with clear water but the combination of clear water and the rocks with color that popped, you could not tell in the deep pools rather the water was 6" deep or 40' deep.

2) The way the region goes from Cascade range to the Coastal mountain range as it travels to the Coast is phenomenal. You are in hemlock forest then transition to moss covered everywhere.

It is a special place and worth preserving.

Joseph

--

"I was hurting bad, actually, and I just did what I needed to do to pull it out. I just felt like I was in a closet with like clowns laughing and I was dizzy. I just had to get it together." - Randy Rogers

--

"I was hurting bad, actually, and I just did what I needed to do to pull it out. I just felt like I was in a closet with like clowns laughing and I was dizzy. I just had to get it together." - Randy Rogers

From: [Joseph Hatcher](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: "Working Mans Chetco" - trip report
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 8:30:22 PM

This is from a trip report that I wrote in 2014.

The Mission

Complete the **Chetco** River located in Siskiyou National Forest and the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area in Oregon in a weekend. (Feb 28 - Mar 2)



Accomplices

John Wilburn - Grant Pass

The Difficulties

Beta, Hiking information, river levels, takeouts

Put-in Logistics

There are two ways that previous people have hiked in.

1) **Chetco** Pass route

2) Babyfoot Lake/Mt Bailey Trail



NOTES

This is where I probably had the most difficulty finding accurate and reliable information.

The **Chetco** Pass route was the shortest and with time being an issue was the most appealing but I found out that they have a POC gate that they keep closed to help with Port Orford Cedar Root Disease. If you start at the gate and hike the road and then drop down it is the same distance as the Babyfoot but it means climbing over a pass. The advantage is you get to hike the first part on the road which seemed appealing since we would be hiking the first miles in the dark. Even though more grueling it would thus eliminate the possibility of getting lost in the dark.

After finding a way to use gps on my iPhone. The plans changed to the Babyfoot lake trail and I think for the better. The Babyfoot lake trail also puts you 3 miles up higher and allows you to paddle what they call the "Magic Canyon".

Driving

To get to the Babyfoot Lake trail head, you take 199 toward Crescent City and right outside of Selma you turn onto \$8 Mountain Road. Follow this road to the top of the mountain and then take the left fork. There is a parking lot there with a pit toilet. Very easy to find and everything is well marked.

NOTES

We were not sure if 4x4 would be needed or a vehicle with ground clearance, etc. but this is a gravel road, you could take a Mercedes up. I also was warned that it would be completely snowed in

Hiking

Distance - 9 miles



We arrived at the trail head on Friday after work and began hiking at 7pm. We hiked till 11:30 pm and crashed. The temperature was cool and perfect for hiking. That night it started to drizzle/rain. We just pulled out the tarps and rolled up in them like tacos till morning. By morning the rain had stopped, we ate breakfast and started hiking around 8am. We reached the put-in at about noon on Saturday.

NOTES

Hiking with a kayak is difficult. A kayak alone ways 50 lbs then put about 25 lbs gear in it and you are at 75 lbs, not only that but it is large and awkward. These miles are also on trails with loose rocks, limbs and downed trees.

River

The put-in looked low and scrappy. It soon picked up volume. The upper section is tight and technical.



We were able to boat scout and run everything thus moving quicker than I thought we would. We put on about 1pm and paddled till dark and was only about 2 miles from Tolman Ranch having covered about 20 miles.

It rained all night and our shuttle was not going to pick us up till 5pm so it would be lots of waiting around in the rain so we decided to get an early start and push on thus getting the lower Chetco which has Candy Cane rapid and Cone Head, two solid class Vs.



Cone head rapid

We were able to get a text out at the second bridge to our driver with the change of plans to meet us at the start park. We arrived there at 3pm and was back to Grants Pass after picking up our put-in vehicle by 7pm.

Gauge

We had a consistent 1800 on the Chetco gauge near Brookings. This is adequate water but if I were to do it again. I think idea would be 3000 and dropping on the Gauge thus cleaning up a lot of mank in the early sections.

Take-out

Our initial plans were to take out at the first bridge crossing the Chetco. Some reports said bring a rope to get your gear up. Don't be fooled there is an easy trail after the bridge on river right. We ended up taking out at Alfred Leob state park. Ideal takeout would be the South Fork Chetco confluence on River Left. Thus getting the two Class Vs and cutting out the flat water.

Conclusion

It was neat to see and feel how this river starts out as a mountain stream and then gains volume and turn into a river. The vegetation also drastically changes from dry and airy to moss covered and coastal. The rapids are well spaced and I never lost boredom with flat water until below the Sourth Fork junction. The lower rapids had lots of big rocks and different lines and were quite fun.

After 9 miles hiking with a kayak and 40 river miles, I could not wait for a hot shower with a cold beer!



Links

<http://lacemine29.blogspot.com/2013/10/low-flow-chetco.html>

<http://www.nwrafting.com/rivers/chetco>

http://www.nwrafting.com/trip-reports/c..._exploratory

http://www.nwrafting.com/trip-reports/t..._etco-gorge

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVdaJY6SJnM>

http://www.currypilot.com/News/Local-Ne..._to-the-sea

<http://saveourchetco.blogspot.com/>

http://riverlog.blogspot.com/2012/06/wi..._day-1.html

http://riverlog.blogspot.com/2012/07/wi..._day-2.html

[http://riverlog.blogspot.com/2012/08/wi ... day-3.html](http://riverlog.blogspot.com/2012/08/wi...day-3.html)
<http://www.cacreeks.com/chetcojs.htm>
<http://oregonkayaking.net/rivers/chetco/chetco.html>
<http://www.cacreeks.com/chetco.htm>
[https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set ... 012&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set...012&type=3)

Trail map: [http://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q ... 92487&t=t4](http://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q...92487&t=t4)

River gauge: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?14400000>

River level forecast: [http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrogra ... gage=chto3](http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrogra...gage=chto3)

USFS: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsint ... co%20River](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsint...co%20River)

--

"If you're having fun, you're doing as well as anyone ever did." - Jim Snyder

--

"I was hurting bad, actually, and I just did what I needed to do to pull it out. I just felt like I was in a closet with like clowns laughing and I was dizzy. I just had to get it together." - Randy Rogers

--

"I was hurting bad, actually, and I just did what I needed to do to pull it out. I just felt like I was in a closet with like clowns laughing and I was dizzy. I just had to get it together." - Randy Rogers

From: [Steve Prince](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Support for Chetco Scenic Waterway and flow protection
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:30:07 AM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I am writing today to support adding the Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway network.

Sincerely,

Steve Prince


Eugene, OR 97405

From: [Conway Cruickshank](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Support for Chetco Scenic Waterway and flow protection
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:20:49 PM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I am in support of the scenic waterway plan so long as it protects the river corridor from logging, and dams. As the population grows here in Brookings there will be more talk of water issues. The dam builders will come out of the woodwork again. If the designation would keep the Chetco pristine and natural with no dams I would be in favor of the Scenic Waterway Designation.

Sincerely,
C.L. Cruickshank

Conway Cruickshank
[REDACTED]
Brookings, OR 97415

From: [Kimberley Priestley](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [GOLDFARB Gabriela * GOV](#); [BYLER Thomas M](#); [HAVEL Chris * OPRD](#); [Busey Jen * OPRD](#)
Subject: Joint Letter of Support for Designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 6:34:00 AM
Attachments: [scenic waterway final aug 13 pdf.pdf](#)

Dear Scenic Waterways Program,

On behalf of twenty six conservation groups, I am submitting the attached joint letter of support for the proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as state scenic waterways. Please include this letter in your documentation of comments for both the Chetco and Molalla River comment periods (Aug. 13th and Aug 19th, respectively).

We applaud the state for its work to designate new state scenic waterways, and to protect instream flows in the quantities necessary to support fish, wildlife and recreation in these beloved rivers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best, Kimberley

--

Kimberley Priestley
WaterWatch of Oregon
213 SW Ash, Suite 208
Portland, OR 97204
ph: 503-295-4039, x 3
www.waterwatch.org

**American Rivers---American Whitewater---Cascadia Wildlands---Center for Biological Diversity
Columbia Riverkeeper---Hells Canyon Preservation Council---KS Wild---Native Fish Society
Northwest Rafting Company---Oregon Coast Alliance---Oregon Council Trout Unlimited
Oregon Environmental Council---Oregon League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of Oregon---Oregon Natural Desert Association---Oregon Wild
Pacific Rivers Council---Rogue Riverkeeper---Smith River Alliance
Soda Mountain Wilderness Society---The Freshwater Trust---Tualatin Riverkeepers
WaterWatch of Oregon---Western Environmental Law Center---Willamette Riverkeeper
Wild and Scenic Rivers---Wild Rivers Water Rights**

August 13, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Program:

We are writing to express our support of the proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as new state scenic waterways. The outstanding recreational, scenic and fish and wildlife habitat values provided by these rivers are very important to Oregonians and deserve protection.

The State Scenic Waterway Act, voted into law by Oregon citizens in 1970 by a two to one margin, exists to protect Oregon's most beloved wild and scenic rivers. This visionary Act directs that the highest and best uses of waters in state scenic waterways are fish, wildlife and recreation.

Both the Chetco and Molalla rivers are excellent candidates for designation under the state Scenic Waterway Act. The crystal clear waters of the Chetco River on Oregon's southern coast support a myriad of recreational opportunities, are the home to important populations of steelhead trout and salmon and provide exceptionally clean drinking water to downstream communities. People flock from all over the nation to recreate on this unique river. Similarly, the Molalla River in the foothills of the northern Oregon Cascades supports native winter steelhead and salmon runs, is resplendent with unique geological wonders and delivers a wide range of recreational activities including kayaking, rafting, swimming, camping and hiking.

To date, twenty of Oregon's most treasured rivers have been designated as state scenic waterways. The Act calls on the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to undertake continuing study and submit periodic reports to the Governor, in concurrence with the Oregon Water Resources Commission (OWRC), recommending designations of additional rivers or segments of rivers. However, no new rivers have been studied or recommended for designation since 1988. In 2009 the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3369, which, among other things called on the state to develop an Integrated Water Resources Strategy to meet current and future water needs, including instream needs. After extensive public involvement, the OWRC adopted the Strategy in 2012, which, among other things recommends the designation of additional state scenic waterways. In 2013, Governor Kitzhaber directed OPRD to study

a minimum of three new rivers each biennium for recommendation to the Governor for future inclusion in the State Scenic Waterway Program.

We applaud OPRD for its recent work to study and recommend designation of the proposed reaches of Molalla and Chetco Rivers as new state scenic waterways and offer our full support of their designations.

In addition to our full support for state scenic waterway designation for both these rivers, we also urge the state to adopt the full suite of instream flows---including baseflows, biological triggering flows and channel maintenance flows---necessary to maintain the free flowing character of these rivers in the quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife. Designating flows that protect these critical streamflow functions is necessary to provide the full protection required by the Scenic Waterway Act. Protecting these flows will not injure existing senior or downstream water right holders, but will ensure that river flows in the newly designated state scenic waterways are safeguarded against future development for generations to come.

The Chetco and Molalla Rivers provide incredible recreational, habitat and economic value to our state. On behalf of our tens of thousands of members throughout Oregon we support the designation of the proposed sections of the Chetco and Mollala Rivers as State Scenic Waterways, urge adoption of strong instream flow protections and look forward to the continued state attention to Oregon's most special rivers via the State Scenic Waterway program in the coming years.

Sincerely,

David Moryc, Senior Director River Protection Program
American Rivers

Thomas O'Keefe, PNW Stewardship Director
Megan Hooker, Associate Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Josh Laughlin, Interim Executive Director
Cascadia Wildlands

Noah Greenwald, M.S., Endangered Species Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director
Columbia Riverkeeper

Darilyn Parry Brown, Executive Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council

Joseph Vaile, Executive Director
KS Wild

Mark Sherwood, Southern District Manager
Sunny Bourdon, Chetco River Steward
Native Fish Society

Zachary Collier, Owner/Outfitter
Northwest Rafting Company

Cameron LaFollette, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Alliance

Tom Wolf, Executive Director
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Teresa Huntsinger, Water Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Christy Splitt, OLCV External Affairs Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Norman Turrill, President
Oregon League of Women Voters of Oregon

Dan Morse, Executive Director
Oregon Natural Desert Association

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director
Oregon Wild

John Kober, Executive Director
Pacific Rivers Council

Forrest English, Program Director
Rogue Riverkeeper

Grant Werschkull, Executive Director
Smith River Alliance

Dave Willis, Chair
Soda Mountain Wilderness Society

Rob Kirshner, Staff Attorney
The Freshwater Trust

Brian Wegener, Riverkeeper Advocacy and Communication Manager
Tualatin Riverkeepers

Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst
WaterWatch of Oregon

Susan Jane Brown, Staff Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

Travis Williams, Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper

Alyssa Babin, Executive Director
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Gordon Lyford, Agricultural Engineer
Wild Rivers Water Rights

Cc:

Governor Kate Brown

Gabriella Goldfarb, Governor's Office Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Lisa Sumption, Director, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation

Tom Byler, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department

Oregon Water Resources Commission

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100

fax 503 802-8199

nature.org/oregon

August 13, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Parks and Recreation Department,

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to support designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as new State Scenic Waterways. Both of these rivers provide the outstanding scenic, natural and recreational values intended for recognition under the State Scenic Waterways Act.

The Molalla River is the longest free-flowing tributary of the Willamette River. It supports important populations of native fish and wildlife, including federally-threatened winter steelhead and spring Chinook. Both of these species are in significant decline in the Willamette Basin, and the unique run timing of these species in the Molalla River contributes to genetic diversity and species viability. The river also provides habitat for a number of federal species of concern, including the Oregon slender salamander. In addition, the river provides drinking water for the cities of Molalla and Canby, and numerous recreational opportunities including recreational fishing and boating.

The Chetco River, free-flowing from its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, is a well-known gem on the Oregon Coast. At least 40 at-risk plant and animal species are in the area, including populations of federally-threatened coho, as well as important populations of winter steelhead and fall chinook salmon. The lower end of the river includes a rare Oregon example of the coast redwood association (coast redwood-tanoak/Pacific rhododendron forest), and the most northerly naturally occurring redwood stand in the world. The river provides exceptionally clean drinking water to the residents of Brookings-Harbor, and tremendous diversity of recreational uses throughout the year.

We applaud Oregon Parks and Recreation's work studying and evaluating the Molalla and Chetco Rivers and the quality of the reports produced by the Assessment Team. The information clearly supports designation of these two rivers as State Scenic Waterways.

Sincerely,



Catherine Macdonald
Director of Conservation Programs

From: [Daniel Davis](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Feedback on draft management plan for Molalla and Chetco river
Date: Monday, August 17, 2015 12:46:19 PM

I wanted to write a short note as feedback to the proposed management plan for the Molalla and Chetco rivers.

First the Molalla: This is a beautiful waterway that is close to Portland, with many great camping opportunities in addition to the whitewater. My biggest concern with this waterway is really related to what has happened to the Clackamas corridor over the past few years; given its proximity to Portland, it can become overrun with summer weekenders with little regard for the pristine state of the watershed. This is currently a must lesser-known alternative to the Clackamas, but I do not expect that it will stay that way. Enforcement of existing regulations must not be lax, and management should consider requirements of parking passes and other overnight permits to discourage mis-use.

And then the Chetco: This wilderness is not at risk of being overrun as it is very difficult even for the most dedicated kayakers to access. And I think it should stay difficult to access, as this is one of the last pure and wild watersheds in the area.

Thanks again for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment!
Daniel Davis

From: [Tom Berridge](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Please Designate the Molalla & Chetco River Segments as State Scenic Waterways
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:28:02 AM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

As a kayaker, rafter, and general river enthusiast, I want to urge you to add the Molalla and Chetco river segments to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. I have kayaked the Molalla River, which is a very special place that should be preserved in its natural state. I have not had the opportunity to visit the Chetco River, but when I am able to do so, I hope to find it in its natural condition, whether I get there this year or in 10 years.

Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems.

Regards,
Tom Berridge

Tom Berridge

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

From: [Jeff Cruze](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla & Chetco Rivers
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:30:29 PM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to lend my support for the Molalla and Chetco river segments as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

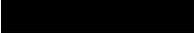
I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems. I fish both of these streams and appreciate the wild, scenic treasures they are.

Regards,

Jeff Cruze

From: [Tommy Swearingen](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Mollala/Chetco Proposal
Date: Saturday, August 01, 2015 8:09:56 AM

I want to register my support for State Scenic Waterway designation for these two rivers. They are excellent whitewater runs and deserving of any degree of state recognition and protection. Many paddlers consider the Mollala one of the premier runs in the state.

Tommy Swearingen, PhD


From: [Kevin Hill](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [Hill, Allison](#)
Subject: Molalla & Chetco - State Scenic Waterways
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 6:40:49 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my strongest support for designating the Molalla and Chetco rivers as State Scenic Waterways. My wife and I moved to Oregon from Wisconsin about one year ago, and the **main** thing that brought us here was whitewater kayaking and the many beautiful rivers in this state. We live in Silverton, and we love the Molalla and many other surrounding rivers. While I have yet to paddle on the Chetco, I know it by reputation, and have seen the amazing pictures. It is on my short list!

Please do everything you can to see that these state treasures remain in as pristine, free-flowing, and available a state as possible for all of us to enjoy for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hill



Silverton, OR 97381

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Susan Elliott](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * ORPD](#)
Subject: Comment on the State Scenic Waterways Designation - Molalla and Chetco
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:13:33 AM

ORPD,

It brings me great joy that the Molalla and Chetco rivers are being considered for designation in the State Scenic Waterways Designation program. These two rivers are pure gems in the paddlesports communities and absolutely deserve to be preserved for this value. I believe it is incredibly important to designate waterways as special, beautiful, and necessary in their natural form if our society is to continue to develop and grow. If we do not set aside waterways, we will never learn to value them. Even more so, our children will never know how valuable they are in their natural state.

These two rivers are highly prized by the recreation community in the Northwest. They both are prized for their water quality, their remote nature, and their inviting rapids.

Thank you for protecting these rivers.

Cheers,
Susan Elliott

--

Susan Hollingsworth Elliott
Graduate Student, Water Resource Engineering Program
Oregon State University

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Pierre Caritey](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco and Molalla
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 10:03:46 PM

I am very happy that you are thinking of placing the Molalla and the Chetco in the Oregon scenic waterways category. I live by the Chetco River and have paddled or hiked a good part of it. I really hope it will stay pristine .
You have my complete support
Pierre Caritey

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nathan Pulliam](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla and Chetco Rivers- Scenic Waterways Program
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 3:02:24 PM

Dear OPRD Scenic Waterways Program,

I am emailing you today to let you know that I am in full support of the plans to designate the Molalla and Chetco rivers as State Scenic Waterways. Both of these rivers are very important to myself and many others. It is great to know that these rivers will be conserved for many generations to come and that those generations of people will have the same opportunity to recreationally paddle these rivers.

Thanks for your time and work regarding these two rivers!

Sincerely,

Nate Pulliam

Kayak and Canoe instructor at Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe in Portland Oregon

From: [Jacob cruser](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco and Molalla
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 12:27:40 PM

Both the Molalla and Chetco rivers are gems of Oregon. The Molalla is special because it captures Oregon's beauty in a location easily accessible to the public. The Chetco is special because it is a premium wilderness that captures the essence of Oregon. In a country where many of the wild places have been tamed, the Chetco stands wild and rugged.

Two incredible drainages, each appealing to a different sect of Oregon's population.

-jacob

Re: Support for Chetco Scenic Waterway and flow protection

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I am writing today to support adding the Chetco River to Oregon's State Scenic Waterway network. The exceptionally clear waters of the Chetco River provide exceptional recreation opportunities, produce some of the largest salmon in Oregon, and provide drinking water to coastal communities.

I support the recommendations stakeholder groups have made with regard to the Chetco River segment classifications and the resulting "potential land management rules." These rules strike a balance between maintaining the scenic and ecological integrity of the river corridors and the rights of adjacent private property owners. Maintaining the natural condition of the river corridor will benefit clean water and fisheries for generations to come.

In addition to my support for designating the Chetco a State Scenic Waterway, I urge the state to fully protect instream flows. Natural flows are critical to maintaining the wild and free flowing character of the Chetco, and the state's designation should fully protect base flows, biological triggering flows and channel maintenance flows. As recreation and wildlife depend on these characteristics, flow should be protected appropriately for the highest and best uses identified for State Scenic Waterways.

Sincerely,

Audrey Elicerio	Fairbanks	AK	United States
Dogan Ozkan	Fairbanks	AK	United States
R Dean James	Conway	AR	United States
Terry Tedesco-Kerrick	Phoenix	AR	United States
Barrett Edgar	Wedderburn	AZ	United States
HBruce Raymond	Tucson	AZ	United States
Al Manfred	Chandler	AZ	United States
Christine Covelli	Sun City	AZ	United States
Dianne Douglas	Phoenix	AZ	United States
Janet Chase	Sedona	AZ	United States
Linda Bescrypt	Tucson	AZ	United States
Wendy Russell	Patagonia	AZ	United States
Amber Coverdale Sumrall	Soquel	CA	United States
Amber Tidwell	Los Angeles	CA	United States
AniMae Chi	Ojai	CA	United States
Anne Veraldi	San Francisco	CA	United States
Anthony Montapert	Ventura	CA	United States
Antonia & Andrew Chianis	Blue Jay	CA	United States
Arlene Zimmer	Rancho Palos Verdes	CA	United States
Beverly Greene	Poway	CA	United States
Candy Bowman	Sacramento	CA	United States
Candy LeBlanc	Placerville	CA	United States
Chris Yarnes	Winters	CA	United States
Christie Childs	Arcata	CA	United States
Christopher Lish	Olema	CA	United States
Claire Perricelli	Eureka	CA	United States
Denise Lenardson	Sunland	CA	United States

Eric Zakin	San Mateo	CA	United States
Erin Lindquist	Carsbad	CA	United States
Foster Boone	Etna	CA	United States
Frank Ackerman	Walnut Creek	CA	United States
G Collins	Murrieta	CA	United States
George Sutherland	San Clemente	CA	United States
J Angell	Rescue	CA	United States
Jason Bowman	Placerville	CA	United States
Jennifer Hayes	Modesto	CA	United States
John Pasqua	Valley Center	CA	United States
John Varga	Huntington Beach	CA	United States
Judy Nelson	Encinitas	CA	United States
Karl Koessel	Blue Lake	CA	United States
Kat Gelles	San Francisco	CA	United States
Kathleen McCabe	San Jose	CA	United States
Linda Petrulias	Cazadero	CA	United States
Lissa Englert	Somes Bar	CA	United States
Marty Bostic	Los Angeles	CA	United States
Mary Thomas	Richmond	CA	United States
Matthew Carlstroem	Kensington	CA	United States
Maureen Roche	Petrolia	CA	United States
Melissa Schweisguth	Davis	CA	United States
Natalie Alexander	Irvine	CA	United States
Philip Simon	San Rafael	CA	United States
Probyn Gregory	Los Angeles	CA	United States
Renee Klein	Marine Del Rey	CA	United States
Rob Seltzer	Malibu	CA	United States
Robert Soto	La Quinta	CA	United States
Sharon Nicodemus	Sacramento	CA	United States
Sondra Boes	Campbell	CA	United States
Stephanie Tidwell	Oakland	CA	United States
Susan Knerr	Castro Valley	CA	United States
Sylvia DeRooy	Eureka	CA	United States
Ted Fishman	San Jose	CA	United States
Terry Raymer	Arcata	CA	United States
Twyla Meyer	Pomona	CA	United States
Amanda Bradshaw	Crescent City	CA	United States
Andrew Frishman	Big Pine	CA	United States
Anna Thurman	Simi Valley	CA	United States
Barbara Greenwood	Walnut Creek	CA	United States
Ben Ruwe	Felton	CA	United States
Denice Hart	Crescent City	CA	United States
Ed Filice	Sonoma	CA	United States
Elaine Woodriff	Petaluma	CA	United States
Elizabeth Jackson	Elk Grove	CA	United States
Erica Terence	Somes Bar	CA	United States
Greg Goodman	Concord	CA	United States
Harriet Miller	Redding	CA	United States
Jane Woehl	Sacramento	CA	United States
Janet Maker	Los Angeles	CA	United States

John Sanguinetti	Mt. Shasta	CA	United States
Kathy Govreau	Morongo Valley	CA	United States
Kenneth Burger	Mount Shasta	CA	United States
kx bx	Lanc	CA	United States
Mark Takaro	Berkeley	CA	United States
Michael McKay	Eureka	CA	United States
Michael Tompkins	Crescent City	CA	United States
Patricia Black	Crescent City	CA	United States
Renee Locks	Mill Valley	CA	United States
Robert Fekete	Smith River	CA	United States
Robert Ortiz	Novata	CA	United States
Ron S.	Hathaway Pines	CA	United States
Donna Thompson	Crescent City	CA	United States
Ronald Thompson	Crescent City	CA	United States
Stacey Rohrbaugh	Willits	CA	United States
Stephen Sharnoff	Berkeley	CA	United States
Thomas Mahan	Redding	CA	United States
Vicki Gold	Mount Shasta	CA	United States
Edward G. Mrkvicka	Arvada	CO	United States
Jamie Harris	Broomfield	CO	United States
Jeff Boden	Denver	CO	United States
Jonette Bronson	Telluride	CO	United States
Courtney Meier	Boulder	CO	United States
Deborah Dahlgren	Cromwell	CT	United States
Joann Koch	Lebanon	CT	United States
Christina Crosby	Melbourne	FL	United States
Doug Landau	St. Petersburg	FL	United States
James Brunton	Tampa	FL	United States
Laurel Covington	Lutz	FL	United States
Mervi Rantala	Tampere	FL	United States
Roxanne Ganley	Miami	FL	United States
Virginia Mendez	Miami	FL	United States
Colonel Meyer	North Port	FL	United States
Esther Garvett	Miami	FL	United States
Gudrun Dennis	Gainesville	FL	United States
Janet Robinson	Boca Raton	FL	United States
Joyce Schwartz	Altamonte Springs	FL	United States
Karen Quaritius	Green Cove Springs	FL	United States
Lasha Wells	Saint Petersburg	FL	United States
Panagioti Tsolkas	Lake Worth	FL	United States
Paula Morgan	Hollywood	FL	United States
Susan Dorchin	Delray Beach	FL	United States
Wandalea Walker	Kilauea	HI	United States
Nancy Johnson	Collins	IA	United States
Dameon Hansen	Idaho Falls	ID	United States
Ben Oscar Andersson	Chicago	IL	United States
Joann Butkus	Chicago	IL	United States
Lenore Reeves	Mokena	IL	United States

Letitia Noel	Chicago	IL	United States
Sarah Baker	East Peoria	IL	United States
A. Frank	Beach Park	IL	United States
Carol Jurczewski	Riverside	IL	United States
Cindy Moczarney	Elmwood Park	IL	United States
David Olson	Cambridge	IL	United States
Dori Cole	Wheaton	IL	United States
Gloria Picchetti	Chicago	IL	United States
Jeff Hopkins	Lindenhurst	IL	United States
Katie Oldknow	Champaign	IL	United States
Rhonda Lawford	South Wilmington	IL	United States
Peter Scott	Knox	IN	United States
Russ Cross	Ladoga	IN	United States
Debra Gakeler	Overland Park	KS	United States
Kathe Garbrick	Manhattan	KS	United States
Terry Huey	Lexington	KY	United States
Ann Eastman	Littleton	MA	United States
Bonnie Faith-Smith	Cambridge	MA	United States
Brian Gingras	Braintree	MA	United States
Kate Kenner	Jamaica Plain	MA	United States
Nanette Oggiono	Upton	MA	United States
Patricia Randazzo	Fall River	MA	United States
Virginia Green	Holden	MA	United States
Anette Stauske	Davidsonville	MD	United States
Jennifer Miller	Stevensville	MD	United States
Natasha Salgado	Toronto	MD	United States
Joyce Robinson	Glen Burnie	MD	United States
Nicole Weber	Pasadena	MD	United States
Susan Brown	Baltimore	MD	United States
Karen Stickney	Lewiston	ME	United States
M Leszczynski	Lapeer	MI	United States
Aubrey Guilbault	Grand Blanc	MI	United States
Christina Fong	Grand Rapids	MI	United States
Marc Schoenberg	Farmington Hills	MI	United States
Margaret Beck	Grosse Pointe Farms	MI	United States
Alice Bowron	Robbinsdale	MN	United States
Dennis Honkomp	Florissant	MO	United States
Gynette Cathey	Elsberry	MO	United States
Kamia Taylor	Preston	MO	United States
Kate Grotegut	Plattsburg	MO	United States
Michael Olenjack	St. Louis	MO	United States
Billy Angus	Hamilton	MT	United States
Robin Vogler	Bigfork	MT	United States
Giana Peranio-Paz	Hendersonville	NC	United States
Laura DiPietro	Asheville	NC	United States
George Neste	High Point	NC	United States
Hal Trufan	Charlotte	NC	United States

Doug Krause	Fargo	ND	United States
Janice Banks	Center Barnstead	NH	United States
Dominic Libby	Milton	NH	United States
Julia Ryan	Hudson	NH	United States
Kellie Smith	Deering	NH	United States
Norman Pugliese	Califon	NJ	United States
Dennis Morley	Old Bridge	NJ	United States
Marie DAnna	Ridgefield	NJ	United States
Valeriya Efimova	Jersey City	NJ	United States
B. Thomas Diener	Albuquerque	NM	United States
Paulinha Russell	Carrizozo	NM	United States
Debbie Thomas	Fernley	NV	United States
Zeb Nole	Las Vegas	NV	United States
Derek Gendvil	Las Vegas	NV	United States
Barbara Vieira	Staten Island	NY	United States
Betty J. Van Wicklen	Watervliet	NY	United States
Chris Washington	New York	NY	United States
David Randall	Port Jefferson	NY	United States
Ed Vieira	Staten Island	NY	United States
Erma Lewis	Brooklyn	NY	United States
Janet Forman	New York	NY	United States
Ken Ward	Gloversville	NY	United States
Latonya Walker	Brooklyn	NY	United States
Mary Benesovsky	Coquitlam	NY	United States
Mercedes Armillas	Brooklyn	NY	United States
Michael Chapman	Brooklyn	NY	United States
Nina Clausen	New York	NY	United States
Vicky Moraiti	Athens	NY	United States
Ana Cruz	Valley Stream	NY	United States
Barry Spielvogel	New York	NY	United States
Christopher Panayi	New York	NY	United States
Dalila OUI	Paris	NY	United States
Elizabeth Guthrie	Webster	NY	United States
Emma Spurgin Hussey	Burdett	NY	United States
Fay Forman	New York	NY	United States
John Papandrea	New York	NY	United States
Michael Seckendorf	Carmel	NY	United States
Michele Johnson	Yorktown Heights	NY	United States
Michelle Hayward	Brooklyn	NY	United States
Pamylle Greinke	Peconic	NY	United States
Susan Messerschmitt	Rochester	NY	United States
Thomas Pintagro	Jamestown	NY	United States
Wendi Cohen	Ossining	NY	United States
John Brewer	Marietta	OH	United States
Mitzi Frank	Sharon Center	OH	United States
Amy Schumacher	Beavercreek	OH	United States
Don McKelvey	Euclid	OH	United States
Donald Hyatt	Columbus	OH	United States

Katrina & William Dresbach	Sheffield Lake	OH	United States
Marlene Barrett	Maumee	OH	United States
Nicole Maschke	Cleveland	OH	United States
Patricia Stock	Olmsted Falls	OH	United States
Valerie Hildebrand	Parma	OH	United States
Deborah Smith	Oklahoma City	OK	United States
Lydia Garvey	Clinton	OK	United States
Alden moffatt	Ashland	OR	United States
Alex Budd	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Alma Alvarez	Ashland	OR	United States
Amy Danielson	Portland	OR	United States
Angela Fazzari	Portland	OR	United States
Angelina McClean	Ashland	OR	United States
Anna Bellegia	Ashland	OR	United States
Barbara Comnes	Ashland	OR	United States
Brianne Foster	Talent	OR	United States
Bruce Moffatt	Salem	OR	United States
Carol Ampel	Medford	OR	United States
Catherine Stearns	Corvallis	OR	United States
Cheryl Lewis	Ashland	OR	United States
Christie Nelson	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Christine Garlow	Ashland	OR	United States
Christine Kleiman	Ashland	OR	United States
Christine Perala Gardiner	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Christopher Pond	Idleyld Park	OR	United States
Cindy Harper	Talent	OR	United States
D. Singer	Oakland	OR	United States
Dana Bleckinger	Yachats	OR	United States
Daniel Bastian	Bend	OR	United States
David Gasser	Keizer	OR	United States
David Wolfe	Gold Hill	OR	United States
Dean Baxter	Eugene	OR	United States
Debbi Paden	Ashland	OR	United States
Diane Newll Meyer	Ashland	OR	United States
Diane Taudvin	Talent	OR	United States
Donald Dimock	Monmouth	OR	United States
Donald Wagner	Veneta	OR	United States
Donna Sharp	Veneta	OR	United States
Dorinda Kelley	Portland	OR	United States
Edith Montgomery	Ashland	OR	United States
Elaine Hultengren	Salem	OR	United States
Eliot Fiend	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Ellen Saunders	Manning	OR	United States
Eric Kresh	Ashland	OR	United States
Evelyn Pietrowski-Ciullo	Salem	OR	United States
Fred Hall	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Frederick Jenkins	Trail	OR	United States
Gabriel Sheridan	Portland	OR	United States
Gary Gilardi	Hood River	OR	United States
Gary O'Neal	Gold Hill	OR	United States

Genevieve Long	Portland	OR	United States
George Kuppler	Brookings	OR	United States
Georgia Roelof	Lincoln City	OR	United States
Glyn Deputy	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Grant Ruiz	Ashland	OR	United States
Harriet Edith Roberts	Eugene	OR	United States
Heather Faith	Ashland	OR	United States
Helen Jones	Ashland	OR	United States
Hollie Oakes-Miller	Salem	OR	United States
Jack Duggan	Jacksonville	OR	United States
James Thompson	Portland	OR	United States
Janet VanDeWalle	Yamhill	OR	United States
Janiece Staton	Beaverton	OR	United States
January Jennings	Ashland	OR	United States
Jeff Jackson	Roseburg	OR	United States
Jenny Horvath	Gold Beach	OR	United States
Jim Freeberg	Ashland	OR	United States
John Herberg	Eugene	OR	United States
John Hutton	Ashland	OR	United States
John Riha	Ashland	OR	United States
Jon Kimball	Ashland	OR	United States
Joseph Metzler	Coos Bay	OR	United States
Joseph Waksmundski	Eugene	OR	United States
Karen Horn	Ashland	OR	United States
Kathleen Stasny	Ashland	OR	United States
Kelly Longley	Medford	OR	United States
Ken Morrish	Ashland	OR	United States
Kevin Brinkofski	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Kima Garrison	Portland	OR	United States
Konstantyn Damas	Talent	OR	United States
Lauren Taylor	Ashland	OR	United States
Laurie Solomon	Portland	OR	United States
Lawrence Nagel	Ashland	OR	United States
Linda Lee Showerman	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Lisa Matthews	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Lisa Parrish	Portland	OR	United States
Louise Shawkat	Ashland	OR	United States
Lynn Cardiff	Salem	OR	United States
M McGillivray	Eugene	OR	United States
Margareta Cederroth	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Marguery lee zucker	Eugene	OR	United States
Marian Spath	Eugene	OR	United States
Marie Wakefield	Newport	OR	United States
Marsha Carrino	Phoenix	OR	United States
Maryen Herrett	Ashland	OR	United States
Mason Hall	Tigard	OR	United States
Matthew Hunter	Ashland	OR	United States
Maura Hayes	Ashland	OR	United States
Maureen O'Neal	Portland	OR	United States

Melody Jones	Ashland	OR	United States
Michael Gross	Cascadia	OR	United States
Millie Anderson	Ashland	OR	United States
Morgan Fitzstephens	Corvallis	OR	United States
Morgan Lindsay	Ashland	OR	United States
Nancy Woods	Central Point	OR	United States
Nathalie Prettyman	Ashland	OR	United States
Nona Donahue	Ashland	OR	United States
Opie Heyerman	Ashland	OR	United States
Paul Goff	O Brien	OR	United States
Peter Stewart	Portland	OR	United States
Phillip Hext	Aloha	OR	United States
Raven Sara	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Rich Zellman	Ashland	OR	United States
Rob Inerfeld	Eugene	OR	United States
Robert Helm	Portland	OR	United States
Robert I. Smith	Portland	OR	United States
Robert Parker	Medford	OR	United States
Robynne Whitaker	Ashland	OR	United States
Rod Chambers	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Sarah Deumling	Rickreall	OR	United States
Sarita Nissani	Portland	OR	United States
Scott Sonenshine	Ashland	OR	United States
Shelley Heon	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Sherman Waring	Milwaukie	OR	United States
Steve Sheehy	Klamath Falls	OR	United States
Steve Tichenor	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Steven Mauvais	Tigard	OR	United States
Susan Delles	Rogue River	OR	United States
Susan Longstreth	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Susan Menanno	Gladstone	OR	United States
Susan Smith	Portland	OR	United States
Susan Ward	Portland	OR	United States
Suzanne Seiber	Ashland	OR	United States
Thomas Beveridge	Rogue River	OR	United States
Tom Johnson	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Tom Peil	Ashland	OR	United States
Travis Herb	Ashland	OR	United States
Trina Janssen	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Tzaddi Heatherstone	Ashland	OR	United States
Valerie Miller	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Veroune Chittim	Selma	OR	United States
Walt Mintkeski	Walton	OR	United States
Wayne Kelly	Ashland	OR	United States
Wayne Reilly	Ashland	OR	United States
Wil Thompson	Ashland	OR	United States
Will Sears	Talent	OR	United States
William Ward	Eugene	OR	United States
A Michael Dianich	Corbett	OR	United States
Adam Elson	Ashland	OR	United States

Alan Sasha Lithman	Ashland	OR	United States
Albert Collinet	Brookings	OR	United States
Albert Wilson	Brookings	OR	United States
Alison Laughlin	Ashland	OR	United States
Allan Peterson	Ashland	OR	United States
Allen Ames	Medford	OR	United States
Anouschka Andresen	Ashland	OR	United States
Arden Erlichman	Ashland	OR	United States
Ava Collopy	Portland	OR	United States
Ayani Mikasi	Talent	OR	United States
Barbara Heyeman	Ashland	OR	United States
Barbara Watrous	Corvallis	OR	United States
Basey Klopp	Bend	OR	United States
Bob Hannigan	Corvallis	OR	United States
Bob Thomas	Myrtle Creek	OR	United States
Bonnie Shaffer	Ashland	OR	United States
Brenda Amick	Talent	OR	United States
Brian Wegener	Tualatin	OR	United States
Burton Lazar	Portland	OR	United States
Carol J. Loomis	Portland	OR	United States
Caroline Tinker	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Casey Jo Remy	Days Creek	OR	United States
Cassandra Browning	Salem	OR	United States
Charles Gehr	Ashland	OR	United States
Charlotte Nuessle	Ashland	OR	United States
Cheryl Rawson	Ashland	OR	United States
Connie Lynn	Ashland	OR	United States
Crystal McMahan	Klamath Falls	OR	United States
Cynthia Waislen	Obrien	OR	United States
Dave Dunkak	Portland	OR	United States
Dave Maize	Cave Junction	OR	United States
David Calahan	Jacksonville	OR	United States
David Cornell	Talent	OR	United States
David Kalinowski	Ashland	OR	United States
Debra McGee	Eugene	OR	United States
Dominic Lovato	Gresham	OR	United States
Don Ewing	Cottage Grove	OR	United States
Dorise Treiger	Ashland	OR	United States
Doug Hutton	Brookings	OR	United States
Douglas Schoellkopf	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Dustin Lyons	Ashland	OR	United States
Dustin Rhoades	Ashland	OR	United States
Eileen Chieco	Ashland	OR	United States
Elizabeth Gilbert	Lake Oswego	OR	United States
Emily Berlant	Talent	OR	United States
Eric Peterson	Central Point	OR	United States
Erika Giesen	Talent	OR	United States
Erin Kelly	Phoenix	OR	United States
George Holland	Ashland	OR	United States
George Lescher	Ashland	OR	United States

Gloria and Bob Ziller	O'Brien	OR	United States
Gloria Schwartz	Ashland	OR	United States
Gordon Carrier	Ashland	OR	United States
Greg Lincon	Ashland	OR	United States
H Berg	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Hal Anthony	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Heather Dale	Wilsonville	OR	United States
Herb & Wendy Everett	Eugene	OR	United States
Hope Rose	Phoenix	OR	United States
Hugh Null	Chiloquin	OR	United States
James & Rita Grauer	Ashland	OR	United States
Jan Bromann	Ashland	OR	United States
Jane Civiletti	Oak Grove	OR	United States
Jason Plotts	Ashland	OR	United States
Jason Winnett	Ashland	OR	United States
Jeffrey Land	Ashland	OR	United States
Jeffrey White	Forest Grove	OR	United States
Jeffry Hanus	NA	OR	United States
Jen Ei	Beaverton	OR	United States
Jill Iles	Talent	OR	United States
Jim Fety	Rogue River	OR	United States
Jim Goes	Cottage Grove	OR	United States
Joan Franklin	Talent	OR	United States
Joanne Eggers	Ashland	OR	United States
John and Polly Wood	Hood River	OR	United States
John Brinkley	Eugene	OR	United States
John Gardiner	Cave Junction	OR	United States
John Harkrider	Ashland	OR	United States
John Nettleton	Portland	OR	United States
John Stadelman	Ashland	OR	United States
John Zigler	Ashland	OR	United States
Jon Bauer	Ashland	OR	United States
Joseph Vaile	Ashland	OR	United States
Josh Lusher	Eugene	OR	United States
Joyce Kowalewski	Brookings	OR	United States
Julie Allemand	Talent	OR	United States
Karen Debraal	Springfield	OR	United States
Karen Dwyer	Ashland	OR	United States
Karen Munson	Brookings	OR	United States
Katharine Cotrell	Portland	OR	United States
Kirk Kowalke	Medford	OR	United States
kristine corrigan	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Laura M. Ohanian	Eugene	OR	United States
Laurie Nielsen	Rogue River	OR	United States
Lila Spiritwalker	Rogue River	OR	United States

Linda Bernhardt	Talent	OR	United States
Lorie Ruskin	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Lorraine Markoff	Eugene	OR	United States
Lorrie Coey	Ashland	OR	United States
Luke Merriam	Talent	OR	United States
Luke Ruediger	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Marcie Laudani	Shady Cove	OR	United States
Maria Kelly	Ashland	OR	United States
Marion Hadding	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Marissa Athens	Eugene	OR	United States
Marjorie Reynolds	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Martha Clemons	Corvallis	OR	United States
Martha Wilhelm	Talent	OR	United States
Melanie Feder	Blodgett	OR	United States
Melba & Dan Dlugonski	Portland	OR	United States
Michael Nacrelli	Clackamas	OR	United States
Michael O'Leary	Portland	OR	United States
Mike Klauss	Tualatin	OR	United States
Mike Nelson	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Miriam Reed	Ashland	OR	United States
ML Moore	Ashland	OR	United States
Monica Card	Portland	OR	United States
Natalie Van Leekwijck	Beaverton	OR	United States
Nathan Wetzel	Newberg	OR	United States
Nathaniel Green	Ashland	OR	United States
Neilia Pierson	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Oceanah D'amore	Talent	OR	United States
Park Walker	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Patricia Benton	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Patricia Goodin	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Paul Baker	Eagle Point	OR	United States
Paul Borcharding	La Grande	OR	United States
Paul Botsford	Medford	OR	United States
Paul Doty	Ashland	OR	United States
Peter Sergienko	Portland	OR	United States
Phillip Hoff	Gladstone	OR	United States
Ray Tokareff	Ashland	OR	United States
Rich Nawa	Selma	OR	United States
Richard Hernandez	Merlin	OR	United States
Robert (Sam) Simpson	Ashland	OR	United States
Robert Mumby	Phoenix	OR	United States
Robin Wisdom	Roseburg	OR	United States
Rod Rochambeau	Eugene	OR	United States
Ruth McD	Redmond	OR	United States

Sagen Smith	Ashland	OR	United States
Sally Purbrick-Illek	Salem	OR	United States
Sarah Breckenridge	Ashland	OR	United States
Sharon Monroe	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Stephen Canning	Port Orford	OR	United States
Stu and Kat O'Neill	Ashland	OR	United States
Susan Brennan	Ashland	OR	United States
Susan Evans	Days Creek	OR	United States
Susanna DeFazio	Walton	OR	United States
Susie Stevens-Briody	Ashland	OR	United States
Suzanne Adams	Ashland	OR	United States
Suzanne Zook	Cave Junction	OR	United States
Suzie aufderheide	Ashland	OR	United States
Suzie Savoie	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Tashina Wilkison	Ashland	OR	United States
Ted Kozlowski	Portland	OR	United States
Thomas Pike	Ashland	OR	United States
Thomas Pott	Gold Beach	OR	United States
Tom & Jean Buechele	Ashland	OR	United States
Tom Powell	Jacksonville	OR	United States
Valerie Blackmore	Columbia City	OR	United States
Vicky Bolen-OHara	Brookings	OR	United States
Victoria Vining-Gillman	Portland	OR	United States
Wendell Wood	Chiloquin	OR	United States
Wendy Eppinger	Ashland	OR	United States
Wendy McGowan	Eugene	OR	United States
William Bodden	Redmond	OR	United States
William OBrien	Beaverton	OR	United States
Zechariah Heck	Grants Pass	OR	United States
Barbara Gibson	Philadelphia	PA	United States
Dawn Mason	Pottsville	PA	United States
Llew Taylor	Darlington	PA	United States
Sheila Conry	Edgeworth	PA	United States
Carol Thompson	South Park	PA	United States
Garry Taroli	Wilkes Barre	PA	United States
Ellen Goodman	Riverside	RI	United States
Eric Schmidt	Charlestown	RI	United States
June Cattell	West Columbia	SC	United States
Ronald Ratner	Sioux Falls	SD	United States
Chris Drumright	Murfreesboro	TN	United States
Larry Olivier	Chattanooga	TN	United States
Lorelei Stierlen	Plano	TX	United States
Reynaldo Reyna	Roma	TX	United States
Steve Lucas	Austin	TX	United States
Vince Mendieta	Austin	TX	United States
Amy Elepano	Richmond	TX	United States
Carly Steel	Leander	TX	United States
John Hines	Hines	TX	United States
Julia Hummel	San Antonio	TX	United States

Luis Tirado	Lubbock	TX	United States
Terrie Williams	Vidor	TX	United States
Jeanne Hayes	Salt Lake City	UT	United States
Lorenz Steininger	Hohenwart	VA	United States
Mary Calvert	Virginia Beach	VA	United States
Tami Palacky	Springfield	VA	United States
Clayton Conway	Seattle	WA	United States
Marc Gauthier	Spokane	WA	United States
Russell and Deborah Anthes	Malo	WA	United States
Timothy Coleman	Republic	WA	United States
Brian P. Infalt	Lynnwood	WA	United States
Bronwen Evans	Vancouver	WA	United States
Dolores Darst	Port Angeles	WA	United States
Ellyn Sutton	Spokane	WA	United States
Hugh Lentz	Olympia	WA	United States
James Mulcare	Clarkston	WA	United States
John Seeburger	Lakewood	WA	United States
Rae Ann Engdahl	Mercer Island	WA	United States
Jackie Tryggeseth	Grand Marsh	WI	United States
Richard Heinlein	Trevor	WI	United States
Whitney Metz	Mannington	WV	United States
Sandra Materi	Casper	WY	United States
Rebeca Steinberg			NA
Annie Wei	Queensland		Australia
Carmen Calleja	Melbourne		Australia
Karen Baker	Maryland		Australia
Peter Cummins	Cairns		Australia
Rahnie Tranter	Brisbane		Australia
Tessa Coupar	Boronia		Australia
Margit Otterbach	Wien		Austria
Daniel Orey			Brasil
Doris Matte	Porto Alegre		Brasil
Danielle Tran	Calgary		Canada
Ella Reeves	Vancouver		Canada
J. David Scott	Ontario		Canada
Jennifer Simbrow	Ontario		Canada
Kenneth Lapointe	Ottawa		Canada
Marten Nichols	Ontario		Canada
Suneet Srivastava	Toronto		Canada
Una Rose	West Toronto		Canada
Mauricio Carvajal	Santiago		Chile
Line Ringgaard	Herning		Denmark
Sonja Nielsen	Glostrup		Denmark
Lucy Kelly	London		England
Ernst Mecke	Helsinki		Finland
Sandra Schaefer	Strasbourg		France
Florence Robin	Vilde Guingalan		France
Isabelle Fernandes	Meudon		France

Monique Tonet	Nice	France
Eve Saglietto	Seeshaupt	Germany
Heike Brown	APO	Germany
M. Dürrenberg	Hamburg	Germany
Nicolette Ludolphi	Bremen	Germany
Maria Peteinaraki	Crete	Greece
Sandra Arapoudis		Greece
Pragati Harde	Nagpur	India
Geraldine Ring	Cork	Ireland
Talila Stan	Tel Aviv	Israel
Alessandro Zabini	Bologna	Italy
Daniela Rossi	Rome	Italy
Fulvio Cessari	Albano Laziale	Italy
Mario Giannone	Florence	Italy
Pamela Bonaventura	Taormina	Italy
Stella Gambardella	Rome	Italy
Marthese Cassar	Gudja	Malta
Melania Padilla	Managua	Nicaragua
Isabel Carapeto	Lisbon	Portugal
Sheila Ward	San Juan	Puerto Rico
Лариса Новикова		Russia
Maria Svorenova	Bratislava	Slovakia
Flora Pino García	Madrid	Spain
Niina Turunen	Stockholm	Sweden
Chris Schneebeli	Geneve	Switzerland
Therese Fromaigeat	Moutier	Switzerland
Arthur Riding	Marlborough	United Kingdom
Donna Hamilton	Great Yarmouth	United Kingdom
Elizabeth Brown	London	United Kingdom
Phillip Anderton	Poole	United Kingdom

RE: Please Designate the Molalla & Chetco River Segments as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to lend my support for the Molalla and Chetco river segments as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems. The Molalla and Chetco are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be a fitting way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Regards,

Randall Hughes	Alameda, CA
Dave Van Domelen	Amity, OR
Jim McCarthy	Ashland, OR
Mort Smith	Ashland, OR
Ken Morrish	Ashland, OR
Bob & Karen Robinson	Ashland, OR
Robyn Janssen	Ashland, OR
Yancy Lind	Bend, OR
George Wuerthner	Bend, OR
Jim Myron	Canby, OR
Fred Pendergast	Cupertino, CA
Nancy Nichols	Deadwood, OR
Kathy Giesen	Eugene, OR
Jen Matthews	Eugene, OR
Glen and Rhoda Love	Eugene, OR
Bob Bumstead	Eugene, OR
Kay and Daniel Robinhold	Eugene, OR
John Brinkley	Eugene, OR
Ken MacDonald	Gresham, OR
Thomas Blacklidge	Lake Oswego, OR
Jeff Evershed	Lake Oswego, OR
Dale Madden	Maupin, OR
John Forsyth	Medford, OR
Tom Derry	Molalla, OR
Larry and Jo Ellen Turigliatto	Napa, CA
Tracy Buckner	Oregon City

Steve & Randi Kobak	Portland, OR
Matt Deniston	Portland, OR
Laurie Todd	Portland, OR
Genevieve Long	Portland, OR
Edith Gillis	Portland, OR
Kris N	Portland, OR
Stan Chesshir	Portland, OR
John Warren	Portland, OR
Jacob Reiss	Portland, OR
Robert Bernstein	Portland, OR
Courtney Wilson	Portland, OR
Nick Rowell	Portland, OR
Amy Simpson	Portland, OR
Sarah Deumling	Rickreall, OR
Borst Engineering & Construction Borst	Rogue River, OR
Russ & Delana Beaton	Salem, OR
Lee & Marilyn Rengert	Salem, OR
Corinne Sherton	Salem, OR
Ayani Mikasi	Talent, OR
Mr. Peter Ware	Talent, OR
Ken Anderson	Vancouver, WA
Barrett Edgar	Wedderburn, OR
Phillip Mamula	West Linn, OR
Richard Hafele	Wilsonville, OR
Jim Ruff	Wilsonville, OR

RE: I Support Designating the Molalla & Chetco Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'd like to offer my support for the Molalla and Chetco rivers as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these wild, free flowing watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be valued foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

I appreciate that both the Molalla and Chetco draft State Scenic Waterway management plans have been developed with input from local stakeholders including River Stewards and staff from Native Fish Society, who provided suggestions based on their on-the-ground knowledge of these rivers and their natural values.

I support the recommendations these stakeholder groups have made with regard to both the Molalla and Chetco river segment classifications and the resulting "potential land management rules." These rules strike a balance between maintaining the scenic and ecological integrity of the river corridors and the rights of adjacent private property owners. Maintaining the natural condition of the river corridor will also benefit the wild, native fish by protecting water quality and maintaining free flowing characteristics.

I support the "potential management recommendations" found in both the Molalla and Chetco draft management plans. Both communities indicate the need for additional support and partnership with the OPRD to assist with local cleanups, maintenance and improvements to access and bathroom facilities, additional interpretive signage and partnerships to attract future habitat restoration investments.

One of the most important benefits for wild, native fish in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows. Fish benefit from safeguards to the natural hydrological fluctuations of a wild river; which moves sediment, redistributes and collects large woody debris and reclaims side channel habitats critical for rearing salmonids. For these reasons I support allocating 100% of the available flows as part of the scenic flow allocations for both the Molalla and Chetco.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the OPRD's draft State Scenic Waterway management plans. The Molalla and Chetco are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be a fitting way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Regards,

Charles Gehr	Ashland, OR
William Morrish	Ashland, OR
Aaron Bento	Beaverton, OR
Steven S. Lent	Beaverton, OR
Dennis Miller	Bend, OR
Ron Thompson	Bend, OR
Peter Murray	Bend, OR
Troy Leedy	Bend, OR
Caryn Graves	Berkeley, CA

Mark Sherwood	Brookings, OR
Richard Kelllogg	Camp Sherman, OR
John Larison	Corvallis, OR
Shawn Donnille	Eugene, OR
Doug Heiken	Eugene, OR
Brent Ross	Eugene, OR
Christopher I Hiatt	Eugene, OR
Josh Lusher	Eugene, OR
Lawrence P. Leine	Glide, OR
Dennis Biggins	Hillsboro, OR
Forrest Jones	Hood River, OR
Melissa van scoyoc	Klamath Falls, OR
Douglas Robertson	Lake Oswego, OR
Robert C. Watzke	Lake Oswego, OR
Greg Hogensen	Lake Oswego, OR
Brian Silvey	Maupin, OR
Eric Ellingson	McMinnville, OR
David A Wang DDS	Medford, OR
Erin Mahanay	Medford, OR
NA	Mount Shasta, CA
Dale Greenley	Myrtle Creek, OR
David Charles Quinn	Ocean Shores, WA
Russell Loeb	Oregon City, OR
James Baggett	Oregon City, OR
Bill Percy	Philomath, OR
Tim Knecht	Portland, OR
Michael Jolliffe	Portland, OR
Jake Crawford	Portland, OR
Henry Carlile	Portland, OR
Brian Emerick	Portland, OR
River Steenson	Portland, OR
Charles Carroll	Portland, OR
Nathan Hall	Portland, OR
Jon Kellogg	Portland, OR
Tyler Allen	Portland, OR
Edward L. Marxer	Portland, OR
Danny McGinley	Portland, OR
Cliff Canepa	Portland, OR
Dan Ellis	Portland, OR
Kenneth Bierly	Salem, OR
Matt Neznanski	Salem, OR
Charles Hammerstad	San Jose, CA
Jeff Perin	Sisters, OR
Edward Filice	Sonoma, CA
Shawn Scriven	Springfield, OR
Rob Perkin	Tigard, OR
Jessica Ahlstrom	Tucson, AZ
Douglas Rohn	Tucson, AZ

Brad Staples
Andrew Miller
Don Titterington
Jeremy Quinlan

West Linn, OR
West Linn, OR
Wilsonville, OR
Woodland Hills, CA

DRAFT

Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan

Molalla River

October 2015



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE Suite C, Salem, Oregon 97301



Acknowledgements

Advisory Committee

- John Atkins, President, Molalla River Alliance
- Jerry Bailey, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Connie Derry, Glen Avon Neighborhood Association
- Pete Giordano, Blue Sky Rafting
- Jack Hammond, Molalla River Alliance
- Bob Loucks, Molalla Retreat
- Scott Marlega, Weyerhaeuser Company
- Mike McCallister, Clackamas County
- Jeffrey McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management
- Mike Moody, Molalla River Alliance
- Gary Potter, Canby Water Utility
- Mark Schmidt, Property and Local Business Owner
- Bill Taylor, Molalla River Watch (Watershed Council)
- Becky Wolf, Recreational User, Oregon Equestrian Trails
- Sam Wurdinger, Molalla Chapter, Northwest Steelheaders

Staff

- Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)
- Andrea Berkley, Natural Resource Specialist, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Dwight French, Water Rights Services Administrator, WRD
- Chris Havel, Associate Director, OPRD
- Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Specialist, OPRD
- Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator, OPRD
- Amy Kim, Watermaster, WRD
- Carrie Lovellette, Integrated Park Services Assistant, OPRD
- Rachel LovellFord, Hydrologist, WRD
- Kenneth Stahr, Hydrographics, Measurement, and Reporting Section manager, WRD
- Trevor Taylor, Stewardship Manager, OPRD

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, 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.

In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. This decision was based on the waterway eligibility findings and public support. 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 for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address, an online survey and a local community meeting was to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with 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. Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program.

The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with local advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification [reports](#) for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan for a 13.2 mile stretch of the upper Molalla River, in Clackamas County, Oregon.

Management Planning

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is the protection of scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the *existing* scenic condition of the area, without "turning back the clock" on existing land uses.

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 20, June 15) and one public workshop (July 20) for each waterway designed to obtain public feedback on the draft plans for the waterway. The Advisory Groups consist of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. Input provided in these meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plan. A summary of public comments received is included in the Appendix.

In order to define and achieve management goals, if designated, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations (Fig. 3). Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain *the existing* scenic condition of the river. As proposed, the river would be managed (if designated and not altered during public rule-making) in three segments, a Scenic River Area from the Confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek, a Recreational River Area from the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek and a River Community Area from the Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge.

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations, along with proposed regulations specific to each management category. Additionally, a set of proposed management recommendations were developing including those about improving public access, interpretive information and signage.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing new water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)).

Contents

Background	2
Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study	2
Eligibility Study Purpose.....	3
Study Location and Area	3
Waterway Eligibility Findings	5
Program Goals.....	7
Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program.....	8
Management of Scenic Waterways	9
The Management Planning Process.....	9
Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan.....	9
Scenic Waterway Classification.....	10
Scenic Waterway Land Management Program	12
Table Rock Fork Confluence to Pine Creek Confluence: Scenic River Area	12
Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek: Recreational River Area.....	14
Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge: River Community Area.....	16
<i>Potential</i> Land Management Rules.....	18
For all scenic waterway areas	18
Scenic River Area.....	18
Recreational River Area	18
River Community Area	19
<i>Potential</i> Management Recommendations.....	20
Works Cited.....	21
Appendix A: WRD scenic flow document (placeholder)	22
Appendix B: Public Comment Summary	23

Figures

Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System	2
Figure 2. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon	4
Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications	10
Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership	17

Background

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a ballot initiative in 1970, is administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission through the Oregon 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 on the one hand, and adjacent property rights on the other. Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor, the legislature, or by the citizens of Oregon through ballot initiative. For example, in 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. The state program currently includes approximately 1180 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 1).

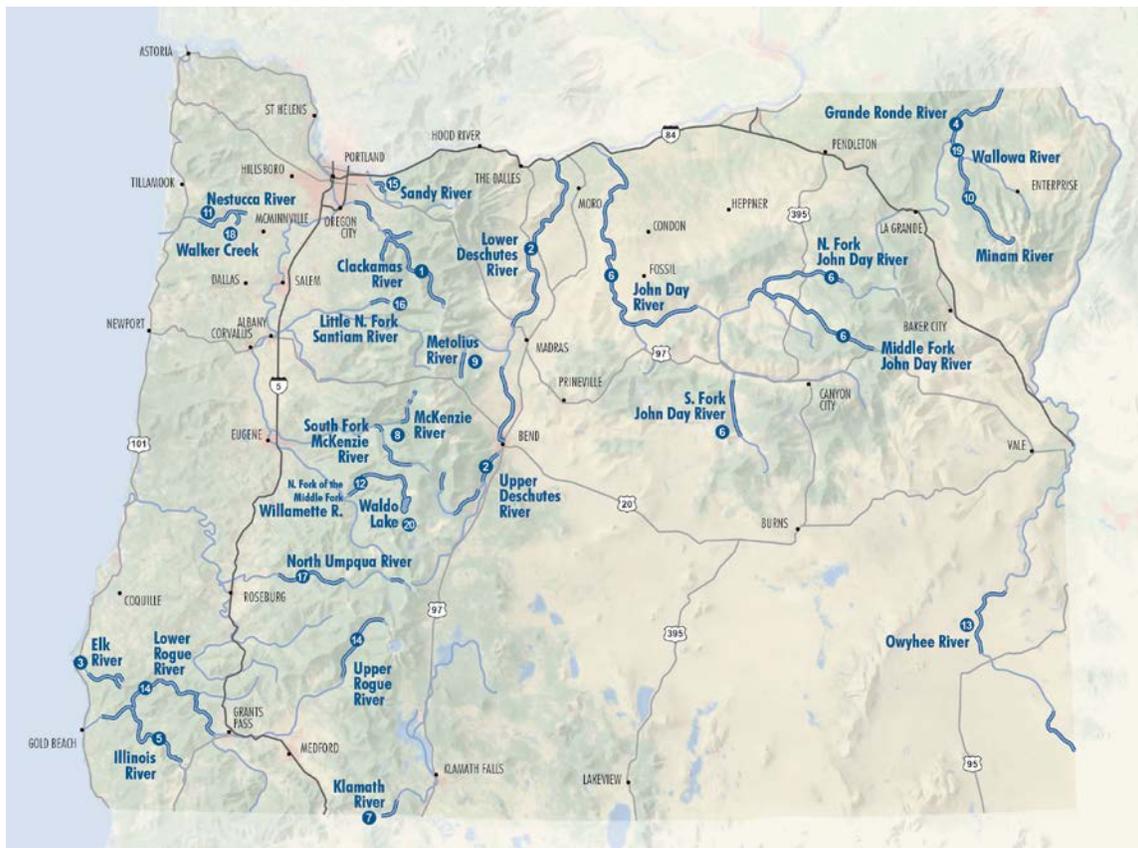


Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (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 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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, 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. In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification reports for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan (see: The Management Planning Process). A summary of the eligibility study results is included below as background information.

Eligibility Study Purpose

An Oregon Scenic Waterway study, initiated by OPRD in 2014, 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 Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The study, covering approximately 13 miles on the upper Molalla River, constitutes the first step - a report to the OPRD Commission. The study 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.

Study Location and Area

The Molalla River has its headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in the lower west slopes of Oregon's Cascade Range in rural Clackamas County, eventually flowing after around 51 miles into the Willamette River near Canby, Oregon. OPRD studied one ~13.2 mile upper river segment, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork and ending at Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon (Figure 2). The study area ranges from a high elevation at around 1196 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low at the Glen Avon Bridge at 528 feet above MSL, with a drop of about 51 feet/mile. Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, portions of which are both designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways. The study area on the Molalla River is shown below in red, in Figure 2 along with nearby State Scenic Waterways, shown in blue.

The Molalla River Study Area referred to in the scenic waterway study is defined as follows: The Molalla River Study Area referred to in this report is defined as follows: The Molalla River and all lands within ¼ mile of each bank, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork downstream approximately 13.2 miles to the Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon.

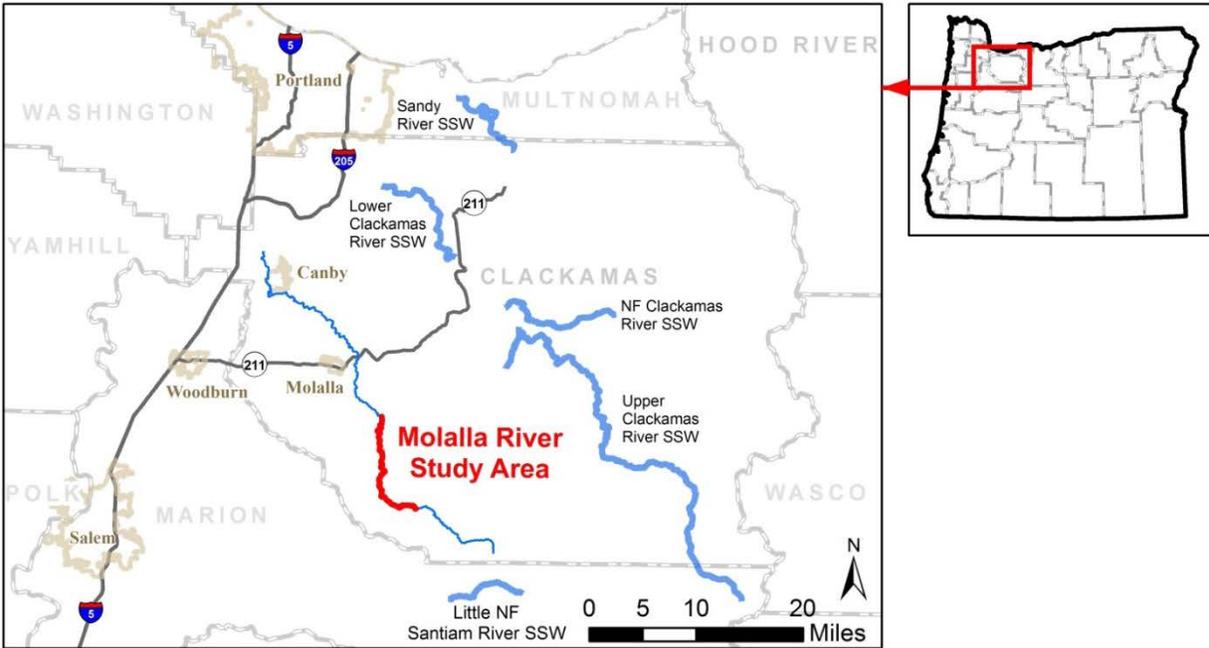


Figure 2. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon

While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients, the lower thirteen mile study area is less steep as it flows through a series of pools riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). In some sections, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including a dramatic basalt rosette. The steep hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Copper Creek Fork of the Molalla, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek. The North Fork of the Molalla enters the main-stem just below the study area. The upper study section is primarily composed of federal public lands, with some private industrial timberlands, while the lower portion is primarily private lands with a mix of rural residential development and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands.

The free-flowing river provides drinking water for the residents of Canby and Molalla, is home to native fish runs including wild salmon and steelhead trout, and attracts a variety of recreational users. Only a day-trip away from the Portland and Salem Metropolitan areas, the Molalla offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, swimming/wading, kayaking, rafting, picnicking, scenic enjoyment and adjacent trail-use for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Fishing for salmon and steelhead is at its peak once the rains start along with whitewater kayaking, which extends through the spring. In the summer, swimming, fishing, camping, sightseeing and picnicking are the major attractions (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

The clear water, forested setting, and interesting geological features provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks. Thousands of visitors

are drawn to the river for the geology and other scenic and recreational qualities of the river corridor. An approximately 15.1 mile portion of the upper river (and a section of the Table Rock Fork) has been proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River and there have been several bills in Congress over recent past sessions.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

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). The criteria (ORS 390.855) were broken down into specific scenic, natural and recreational factors.

Based on the results of this evaluation, the entire study area meets the criteria (ORS 390.855) for eligibility as a state scenic waterway.

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

The Molalla River is completely free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, or major modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. The river is also naturally flowing (without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness to the Willamette River (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). Notably, it is the Willamette’s longest un-dammed tributary. The Molalla flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads (e.g., some bank stabilization efforts including retaining walls). The river has generally regular and somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow various seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, and to some extent, seasonal snow-melt.

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 the study area ranges from moderate, but pleasing to exceptional river-scape views with unique geology and clear water in a mostly remote-feeling (although it is close to the road in parts), forested setting. The BLM notes that scenery on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas, setting it apart from other rivers (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Water clarity, interesting geology and hydrology combine to create the overall visual quality of the river corridor.

The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property

with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as “Bee Ranch” located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that 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.”

The Molalla was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having “outstanding recreational resources”, particularly for canoeing/kayaking, salmon and steelhead fishing and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including rafting, trout fishing, and “other recreation” which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). Boating, coupled with fishing and other activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Molalla River. The BLM estimates that approximately 50,000 visitors are attracted to the Molalla River corridor from the local and surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland, Canby, and Salem (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

The BLM notes that recreation on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the river-related resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Key recreational uses that were found to be exceptional include fishing, day-hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, and swimming/wading. Recreational opportunities include day-use pursuits (e.g., hiking, scenic enjoyment, picnicking) and camping at newly developed BLM campgrounds, along with seasonal recreational fishing opportunities. Fishing, as allowed by fishing regulations (e.g., below Turner Bridge), is primarily from those that hike-in or fish from the banks from one of the many pedestrian access points on public lands. The BLM found that the “presence of year-round angling opportunities is important (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)”.

Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafts and other float devices) is possible throughout this whole stretch during much of the year with multiple put in and take out spots on public lands. Boating is becoming increasingly popular in this section, with access possible via roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. During various water levels, kayaking the “3 Bears Run” is a regional favorite amongst intermediate to expert paddlers. Experienced whitewater kayakers, canoeists and some on rafts paddle the river during higher water months (typically Nov-May, depending on rains), when the challenging Class 3-4 (and higher depending on flows) rapids of the Molalla River “3 Bears Run” surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Mama, Papa, Baby-Bear, Porridge Bowl, and Goldilocks rapids are a draw.

Overall the recreation opportunities on this section of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, additionally they are relatively rare within the region with only a few rivers, like the nearby Clackamas, offer *somewhat* similar experiences. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature of recreation on this river is notable.

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. Five species listed under the federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest in the riparian areas, which also provide visual interest especially in areas with wet cliff walls that have hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages. While much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, some impressive late-seral forest is present and unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)."

It appears that the study area meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain the existing, substantial, levels of recreation use. The nature of the existing water-based uses and surrounding lands in the study segment indicates it meets the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the river as important habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statute requires that both criteria be met.

Program Goals

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state and local), individual property owners and recreation users.

Five general program goals include:

1. To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments and some forms of placer mining activities are currently allowed on scenic waterways.
2. To protect and enhance scenic, natural, recreation, scientific, fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
3. To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners and/or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by dredging. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
4. To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.

5. To encourage other local, state and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-040) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water line, on each side of the river, for their potential impacts on the existing special attributes of the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses; extract minerals and aggregate, harvest timber, or other similar projects, may need to provide written notification to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). OPRD's evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. OPRD relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is inconsistent with the designated classification. OPRD works with the landowner to reach a resolution of conflicts. Where such resolution cannot be reached the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

OPRD coordinates the program with local, state, and federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with Scenic Waterway Act, administrative rules and resource management plans.

Management of Scenic Waterways

The Management Planning Process

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is the protection of aesthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific, and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the area, without “turning back the clock” on existing land uses.

Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan

OPRD held two Advisory Group meetings (April 20, June 15) and one public workshop (July 20) for the waterway. The Advisory Group consists of local landowners, recreational users, local business owners, and local government members. These meetings provided the foundation for the final recommendations contained in the draft management plan.

The mechanisms for protection and enhancement to be included in this draft management plan are:

Scenic Waterway Classification - Within the management plan, scenic waterways are classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the character of the landscape and the amount and type of existing development.

Administrative Rules – If scenic waterway designation occurs, classifications are set in a management plan and specific guidelines for new development are established as state administrative rules through a public rule-making process.

Other Management Recommendations - Suggestions for actions to protect or enhance corridor values are also included in the management plan. Implementation could be through the OPRD, other state agencies, federal agencies or local agencies, organizations or persons. This includes input to OWRD’s recommendation of scenic flows to the Water Resources Commission.

Concurrently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff began preparing a scenic flow recommendation to assist the Water Resources Commission in their consideration of designation of the proposed scenic waterways. Following designation (if that occurs), the Water Resources Commission will request that the Water Resources Department (WRD) identify flow quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses before issuing water rights within or above designated Scenic Waterways (ORS 390.835(1)). WRD recommends Scenic Waterway flows to the Water Resources Commission through a formal staff report. The Commission then amends and/or and approves the staff report and flow protections are implemented through the water right process for new water rights within and above the scenic waterway. Input from the OPRD Pilot Advisory Group and Public Comment regarding the recreational flow needs of the Scenic Waterway informs the recommendation that WRD puts forward to the Commission.

Scenic Waterway Classification

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.345), the scenic waterway program is administered by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OPRD works to protect scenic values, recreation and fish and wildlife, based on special attributes of each river. OPRD strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

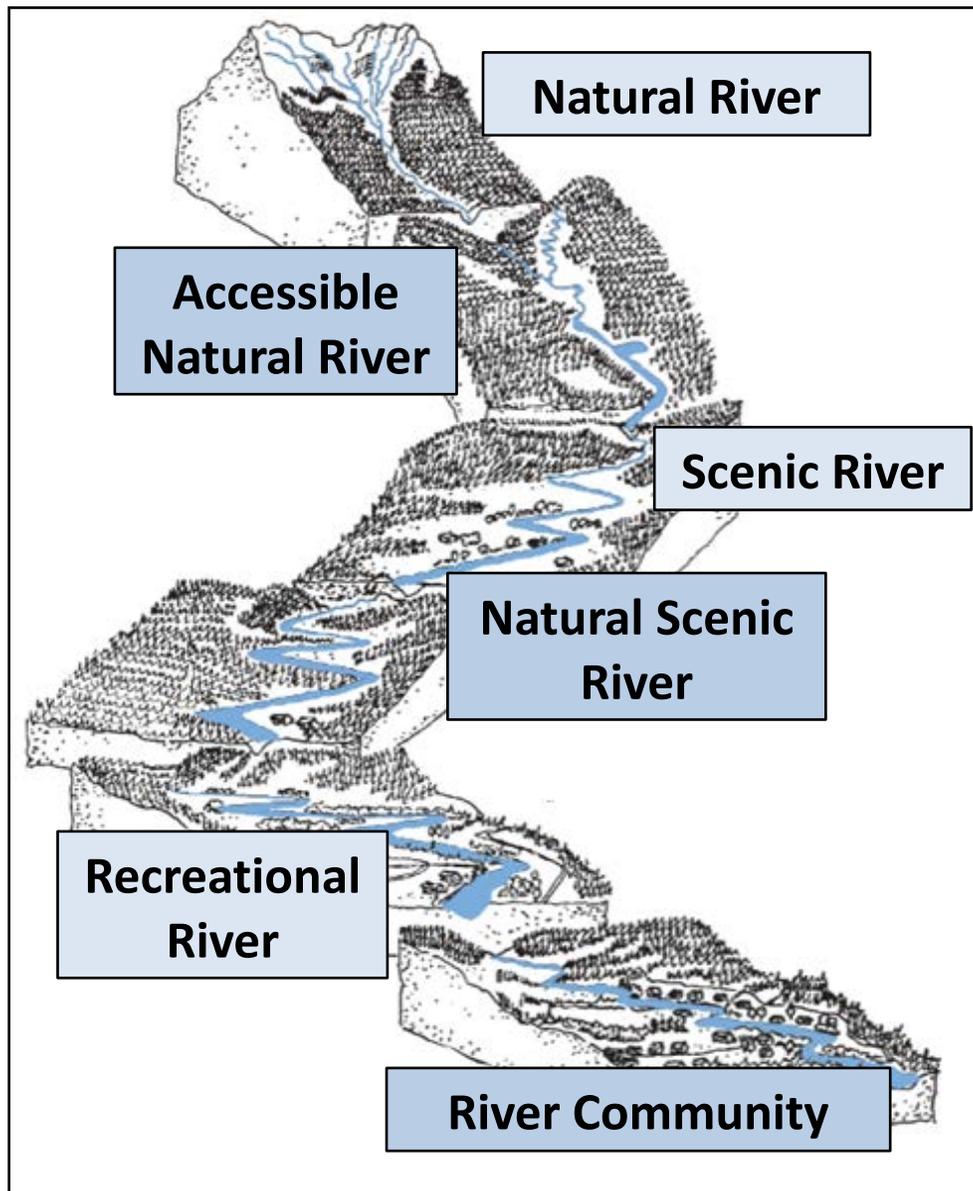


Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

In order to define and achieve management goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations. Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape

alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in the scenic waterways program:

1. Natural River Areas are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with related adjacent lands and shorelines essentially primitive. These areas may include an occasional lightly traveled road, airstrip, habitation or other kind of improvement already established, provided the effects are limited to the immediate vicinity. These areas will be administered to preserve their natural, wild and primitive condition while allowing compatible recreational and other uses. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.

2. Accessible Natural River Areas are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road but otherwise possess the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area. These areas are administered to protect or enhance their scenic character, while allowing compatible outdoor recreational use.

3. Scenic River Areas may be accessible in places by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Scenic River Areas may not include long stretches of conspicuous or well-traveled roads paralleling the river in close proximity, but may include extensive areas in agricultural use. River segments considered "Scenic" are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fisheries and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continued agricultural land use.

4. Natural Scenic View Areas are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character (possesses the qualities of a Natural or Scenic River Area) while the opposite bank and related lands are accessible and developed. These areas are administered, as appropriate, to preserve or enhance their essentially primitive scenic character, while allowing compatible public outdoor recreational use.

5. Recreational River Areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered "Recreation" are managed to allow continuance of a wide range of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.

6. River Community Areas are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered "Community Areas" are managed to allow development that is compatible

with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

Due to the individual character of each scenic waterway, administrative criteria within each of the six classifications may vary from one scenic waterway to another. Examples can be found in the [administrative rules for existing state scenic waterways](#).

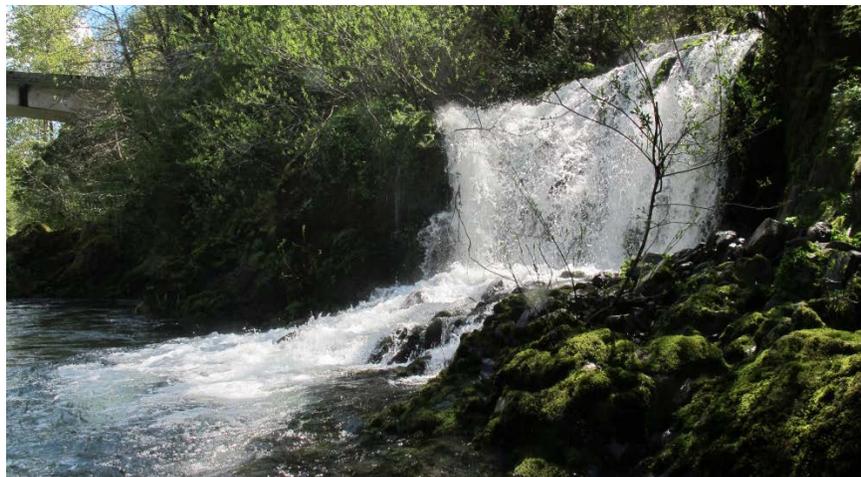
The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally needed for construction 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 garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in 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 typically requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, proposes to apply three classifications to given segments of the proposed Molalla State Scenic Waterway. Classification locations and explanations for each river segment are provided below (see **Figure 4** for map):

Table Rock Fork Confluence to Pine Creek Confluence: Scenic River Area

From the confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek the river is proposed to be classified as a Scenic River Area. This section of river is accessible in a few places by roads and trails, but is largely undeveloped. The Table Rock Fork merges with what becomes the main-stem of the Molalla River at



Horse Creek Falls and Bridge on the Upper Molalla River

the beginning of this section, after which the river narrows (after approximately one mile) to form Horse Creek Canyon. In some sections, namely through a few narrow gorges, including Horse Creek Rapid, and an area of basalt canyon walls that surround the area known as the Molalla basalt rosette, or “eye of the Molalla”, where the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations.

The geology, hydrology (e.g., numerous small waterfalls), remote setting and water clarity combine to make this section of river outstandingly scenic. It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout this section by floating the river, when water levels allow. This segment is almost entirely in public (BLM) ownership with river access limited to a few undeveloped river access points, though hiking, kayaking, hunting, and primitive camping uses are evident. Turner Creek Bridge is the only trailhead along this road with parking and restrooms. River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access points, however, the BLM has developed plans to construct a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. Potential sites for improvements (e.g, signing, pedestrian ramps for kayaks and rafts) include Turner Bridge. The BLM currently maintains two new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks (in the recreational section, see below) along with a planned campground near Pine Creek. BLM previously had dispersed campground along the corridor but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds.



Basalt rosette on the Molalla River

The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation, clear water in an area used seasonally by recreationists. The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor modifications made for the bridges and roads. The few developments that do exist are localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural setting of the area. Horse Creek Bridge (shown above) and Turner Creek Bridge cross the river, and Pine Creek Bridge marks the end of this section. Other developments along the river include some visible impacts from

timber harvest and one residential home on private lands, although it is partially screened as viewed from the river and blends in with the scene.

The proposed management goal is to preserve the area’s high scenic quality, recreation value and fisheries and wildlife habitat by ensuring that all new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape while preserving the largely undeveloped character associated with existing uses.

Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek: Recreational River Area

From the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek, the river is proposed to be classified as Recreational River Area. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, some of the river cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road. Frequent trails allow pedestrian access to the river. The road (S. Molalla Forest Road) provides the primary access to the river south of the Glen Avon Bridge and runs adjacent to BLM property starting about 1.5 miles after the bridge. The only major day-use trailhead along this road with parking and restrooms is Hardy Creek Trailhead. Other trailheads include Amanda’s Trailhead, Americorp’s Trailhead, Sandquist’s Trailhead, and Annie’s Cabin Trailhead. Paddlers typically put in for the “3 Bears Run” near Turner Bridge (in the scenic section, above) or higher up on the river for a longer run. Some kayakers will also put in higher up on the river (above the study area), both on the Table Rock Fork, or, for the challenging Copper Creek rapids known as Lightning Lonnie (Class IV) and Dungeon, located near Dungeon Cr. (Keller, 1998).



Rapids on the “3 Bears Run” of the upper Molalla River

Most of the recreation focal points are minimally developed and at dispersed locations within the Molalla River Recreation Area, operated by the Salem BLM District. River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access

points, however, the BLM has it in their plans to develop a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. The BLM maintains several new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including Three Bears Recreation Site and Cedar Grove. BLM previously allowed dispersed campgrounds along the corridor, but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds.

Annually, thousands visit the Molalla River Recreation Corridor for year-round recreation including hiking, kayaking and white water rafting (and the use of other types of floatation devices in the low-water months), touring and mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, nature watching, or to simply enjoy the sounds and sights of the river. There are more than 30 miles of non-motorized trails which access numerous waterfalls and vistas.

The Molalla is well known as a recreational river for visitors from the surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland and Salem. However, it is also beloved by locals from Molalla and surrounding communities in Clackamas County for its swimming holes, scenery, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. Facilities include restrooms, fire-rings, picnic tables, potable water, restrooms and river access. Cedar Grove, a group-camp operated by special recreation permit, is located at milepost 6 on the Molalla Forest Road. The area offers pleasing river-scape views with interesting and colorful vegetation, and clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists. A summer recreation user study conducted for the BLM (White & Virden, 2007) found that a majority of survey respondents noted that viewing the scenic beauty is very important to them along with recreation in the corridor (White & Virden, 2007).

The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor modifications, mainly those made for the bridges and roads. The few developments that do exist are localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural setting of the area. Glen Avon Bridge crosses the river below this section and in a few places the road and associated structures (e.g., riprap, retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized disturbances. Other developments along the river include visible impacts from timber harvest (mostly outside of the study area and buffer) and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river (and are concentrated at end of the study area in the proposed river community area). The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features provides outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

While there is more private property in this section than the upper section, most existing development is focused to the north of Trout Creek (in the river community area, see below). Public access is available in this segment because of multiple public access points on BLM property. Existing development includes a few residential homes, although most of the homes are not visible from the river due to topography and existing vegetation. Those that are visible are usually partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tone).

The management goal in this section of river (as proposed) is to preserve and promote the area’s recreational quality by ensuring that any new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape and are compatible with existing county zoning.

Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge: River Community Area

From the Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge, the river is proposed to be classified as River Community Area.

There is significantly more private property in this section than the other two sections with most existing development occurring north of the Glen Avon Bridge (and not visible from the proposed designated section, which ends at the bridge). A large percentage of the private property ownership in this section is industrial timberlands. Existing development includes a few residential homes, although most of the homes (including the Molalla Retreat buildings) are not visible from the river *upstream* of the bridge (the designated section, *from which any potential impacts of future (new) development would be determined*) due to topography and existing vegetation. Those few that are visible above the bridge are partially screened and blend into the environment (e.g., occur in natural tones). There is a primitive paddling access on river left (east bank) near the bridge.

The management goal in this section of river is to allow development that is compatible with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.



The Molalla River as seen from below the Glen Avon Bridge

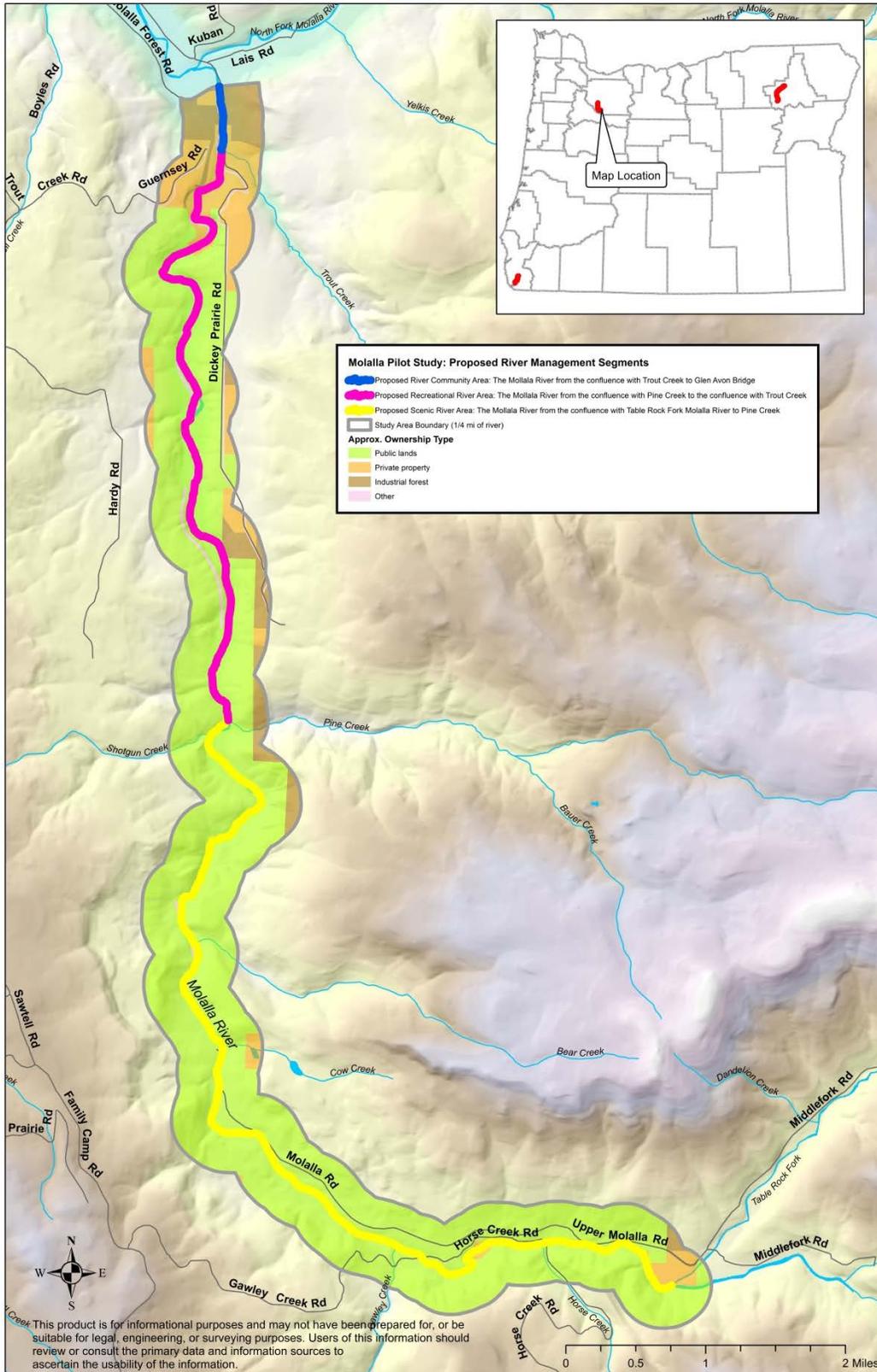


Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

Potential Land Management Rules

For all scenic waterway areas

All new structures, improvements and development should be in compliance with the Public Use of Scenic Waterways Rules ([OAR 736-040-0025](#)) and Land Management Rules ([OAR 736-40-030 and 0035](#)) and be consistent with applicable BLM and Clackamas County land use and development regulations.

Scenic River Area

From the Confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.
- Natural evergreen vegetation shall be maintained between new improvements and the river. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of new structure(s) as seen from the river if not blocked by topography.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “ in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Rivers found suitable are managed with interim protections until the river is released from consideration or designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as scenic river area under the State Scenic Waterway program. BLM currently has assigned the area into Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The objective of Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape, with only low level changes allowed to the landscape that do not attract the attention of the casual observer.

Recreational River Area

From the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek

Rule guidance:

- Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river but shall be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape as much as possible.
- New roads, mines and similar forms of development shall be set back from the river consistent with Clackamas County zoning and land development requirements and be screened from view from the river by topography or by existing or established evergreen vegetation.
- Existing natural evergreen vegetation will be maintained between new structures and the river, unless removal does not impact the view as seen from the river.

- The establishment of additional vegetative screening (preferably native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of the new structure(s) as seen from the river, if not otherwise blocked by topography or existing vegetation. The condition of “vegetation screening” shall consist of a density and mixture of native evergreen and deciduous vegetation to obscure or allow only a filtered view of the proposed structures or improvements.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). This management guidance is generally consistent with designation as recreational river area under the State Scenic Waterway program.

River Community Area

From the Confluence with Trout Creek to Glen Avon Bridge

Proposed draft rule guidance:

- No land north of the Glen Avon Bridge and north of Dickey Prairie Rd west of the bridge affects the view from the waters within the proposed scenic waterway, therefore those areas are deemed to be “non-related adjacent land, and *are not included in the designation* and will **not be subject to scenic waterway review**.
- For areas north the bridge, existing federal, state and local (e.g., Clackamas County’s river protection plan) rules are sufficient.
- Future development and land management activities should be consistent with Clackamas County’s river protection plan.

Note: The BLM *manages* this section of river as “recreational” as it was found to be “suitable” for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System “ in recognition of its outstanding recreational, scenic and geologic values” (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Rivers found suitable are managed with interim protections (on federal lands) until the river is released from consideration or designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). However, this section was not included in the various bills/proposed designation legislation. National Wild and Scenic designations apply primarily to federal lands, which is part of the reason for the establishment in many states of complementary state programs.

Potential Management Recommendations

1. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to develop and install small interpretive signs with messages about the river corridor (*potential topics* include: river stewardship, leave no trace, recreation, cultural resources, fisheries, wildlife, geology, water quality, hydrology, respecting private property) in key areas.
2. Collaborate with local partners and public agencies to develop a water trail recreation guide to facilitate river-based recreation opportunities, protect natural resources and private property. The guide may include maps and information showing property boundaries, river launch sites, day use areas, camping areas, other facilities, along with safety and other interpretive information.
3. Develop signs that identify public access for put in and take outs and/or developed recreation areas that are visible from the river and from the road access points.
4. Collaborate with local partners and land managers to explore funding to improve river access points (including boat ramps and access roads) to facilitate river recreational opportunities and improve visitor safety.
5. Develop organized regular river clean-up activities (e.g., trash and other debris) within the Scenic Waterway, particularly at river access points.
6. Explore opportunities to form partnership to exploring improvements in water quality, planting native species and invasive species management and/or monitoring efforts.
7. Use the Oregon Forest Practices Act to manage forest management activities on non-federal lands.
8. Follow BLM's Management Plan to manage federal lands. This includes application of applicable visual resource management categories to BLM lands (currently assigned to VRM Class II).
9. Explore excluding the segment studied and found eligible between Trout Creek and Glen Avon Bridge from designation (see suggested rule language).

For a summary of recommendations on flow levels necessary to protect the recreation, fish, and wildlife needs of the Molalla River, refer to Appendix A.

Works Cited

- Bureau of Land Management. (1993). *Resource Assessment of the Molalla River*. Salem, Oregon: Salem District.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2010). *Molalla River-Table Rock Recreation Management Plan*. United States Department of Interior, Salem.
- Keller, R. (1998). *Paddling Oregon*. Helena: Falcon Publishing.
- Oregon Department of Transportation. (1987). *Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers*. Salem, Oregon: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division.
- Palmer, T. (2014). *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.
- Schuhmann, C. (2012). *Moon Oregon Fishing*. Berkeley: Avalon Travel.
- White, D. D., & Virden, R. J. (2007). *Molalla River Recreation Corridor and Table Rock Wilderness Visitor Survey*. School of Community Resources and Development. Phoenix: Arizona State University.

Appendix A

This is a placeholder for the Draft Water Resources Commission staff report on scenic waterway flow recommendations.

Appendix B: Public Comment Summary

In April 2015, OPRD and Water Resources Department (WRD) held the first collaborative meeting with the advisory groups for each river. These groups, made up of local landowners, community leaders, recreation users and land managers, met again in late June 2015 to finalize the Draft Management Plan and Draft Scenic Waterway Flow Recommendation documents.

The resulting documents were presented in an open-house style public meeting on July 20 in Molalla which kicked-off a public comment period that ended on August 19. Approximately 16 members of the public attended the public meeting along with OPRD and WRD agency staff. The summary presented here (Tables 1-2) is for the comment period held in connection with the development of the draft management plan in coordination with local advisory committees. A separate public comment period was held in 2014. The results from the 2014 public comment period are included in the eligibility study report. Additional information, including the eligibility reports and meeting information is available online at <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

140 comments were received during the comment period (135 in support of designation and/or the management plan, and five in opposition). One comment (counted under designation/plan opposition) received did not state the person was actually opposed to the plan or designation; rather they questioned the scenic quality and eligibility of the waterway due to roadway stabilization features. The main concerns of two of the remaining four commenters were that the designation impacts the area below the Glen Avon Bridge. The land north of the Glen Avon Bridge and north of Dickey Prairie Road west of the bridge has been removed from the area under consideration for designation or future scenic waterway program review (see: [River Community Area](#) and Figure 4). That area has been removed from the study area map, and it is being recommended that it not be subject to future scenic waterway reviews or rules. The additional comments addressed concerns about private timberland (almost all of which is not likely visible from the river) and the potential impacts of designation as well as general concerns about increased visitation resulting in safety concerns and negative impacts to private property owners (e.g., trespassing) and river health.

Table 1. Summary of public comments received during the proposed Molalla River Scenic Waterway draft management plan comment period (7/20/2105-8/19/2015)

Written Comment Type	Oppose plan/designation	Support plan/designation
Individual emails and letters	5	21
Public meeting comment forms	0	2
Email form letters-both rivers	0	112
Total written comments (2015)	5	135

Public comments received during the proposed Molalla River Scenic Waterway comment period by location of residence are shown in the below table. The vast majority (91%) of those submitting comments in support of the Molalla River designation live in Oregon, 6% reside in California, and 3% in

other states. 44% of comments from Oregon were from the Portland Metro area, 32% from the Willamette Valley and 12% from Southern Oregon (Table 2). All of the (4) comments received in opposition to designation and/or the management plan were from the Molalla area.

Table 2. Summary of public comments received by location of residence

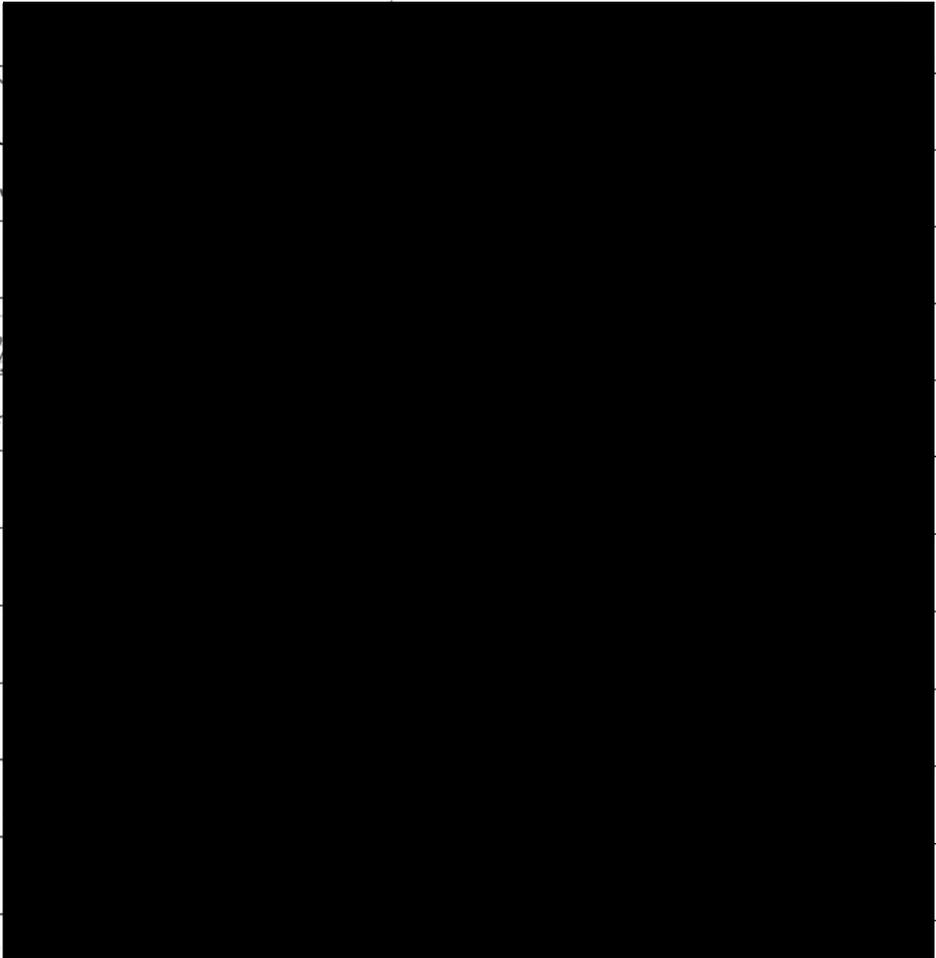
State	Total (%)
Oregon	91
California	6
Other	3
Regions	
Portland Metro	44
Willamette Valley	32
Southern Oregon	12
Central Oregon	8
The Coast	3
The Gorge	1



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY ~~ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING~~
PUBLIC

DATE: July 20 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Jack Hammond (AC)	
Jan Nelson	
Sandy Kosik (AC)	
Jim Myron (AC)	
Christ Walsh	
Karen Graves	
Gary Potter (AC)	
Scott Marcella (A/C)	
Rainey Castleberry	
Corky Moore	
Mark Schmidt	
Kimberley Priestley	



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Public

DATE: July 20 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Tom + Bill Taylor	[REDACTED]
Bruce Steward	[REDACTED]

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 19, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I believe that adopting a protective section on the Molalla is needed and would benefit the community of Molalla.

The benefits of the existing Molalla Corridor can already be seen.

Thank you for all those people who work toward this end.

Rainey Castleberry

(Additional space on reverse side)

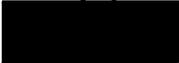
Molalla

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

This comment card is provided for your convenience. Please write your comments on the card and hand it to OPRD staff before you leave; or mail comments to: OPRD Scenic Waterways Program, 725 Summer St. Suite C, Salem, OR 97301; or email comments to: scenic.waterways@oregon.gov. The comment period ends **August 19, 2015**, in this phase of the planning process. Additional public input opportunities will be available if the waterway is designated. For more information on the plan and the Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Program, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.

I THINK THE PLAN SHOULD BE
ADOPTED. NOT ONLY DOES THE
CITY OF MOLALLA DEPEND ON A
CLEAN WATER SUPPLY, BUT MORE
AND MORE IT IS BEING USED FOR
RECREATIONAL PURPOSES: SWIMMING
BOATING, CAMPING ETC. IT IS ONE OF
THE MOST PRISTINE PLACES CLOSE TO
PORTLAND AND SALEM. Henry Moore

(Additional space on reverse side)

 S. WRIGHT RD.

AVISON LUMBER CO.

PO BOX 419
MOLALLA, OR 97038

503-829-9001 Office
503-210-1200 Fax

August 16, 2015

OPRD Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St. Ste C
Salem, OR. 97301

RE: Comments on Proposal for the Molalla River to be designated as a Scenic Waterway.

Avison Lumber Co. is an owner of Property within 1/4 mile of the Molalla River proposed Molalla River Pilot Study Area Boundary (as depicted on the attached map).

We are concerned that if our private property were to be included in the Scenic Designation that we would not be able to perform historic forestry activities at all or in a timely manner.

Those historic activities including fire suppression, harvesting, thinning, road maintenance, culvert repair and stand improvement need to be preserved.

Since it is apparent that our property is not visible from the Molalla River (immediately below our property, and a tall stand of BLM timber buffering any view), it is not clear why our Property needs to be included in the Scenic River designation which potentially would create another private property rights overlay.

Currently we operate any timber activities on the Property under the Oregon Forest Practice's Act - rules, which as you may be aware, are the strictest in the Country. We would recommend that you allow industrial timber property owners within a Scenic designation, to continue to operate under the ODF practices without additional rules that could cause delays and encumbrances affecting our ability to efficiently deal with any urgent forestry issue.

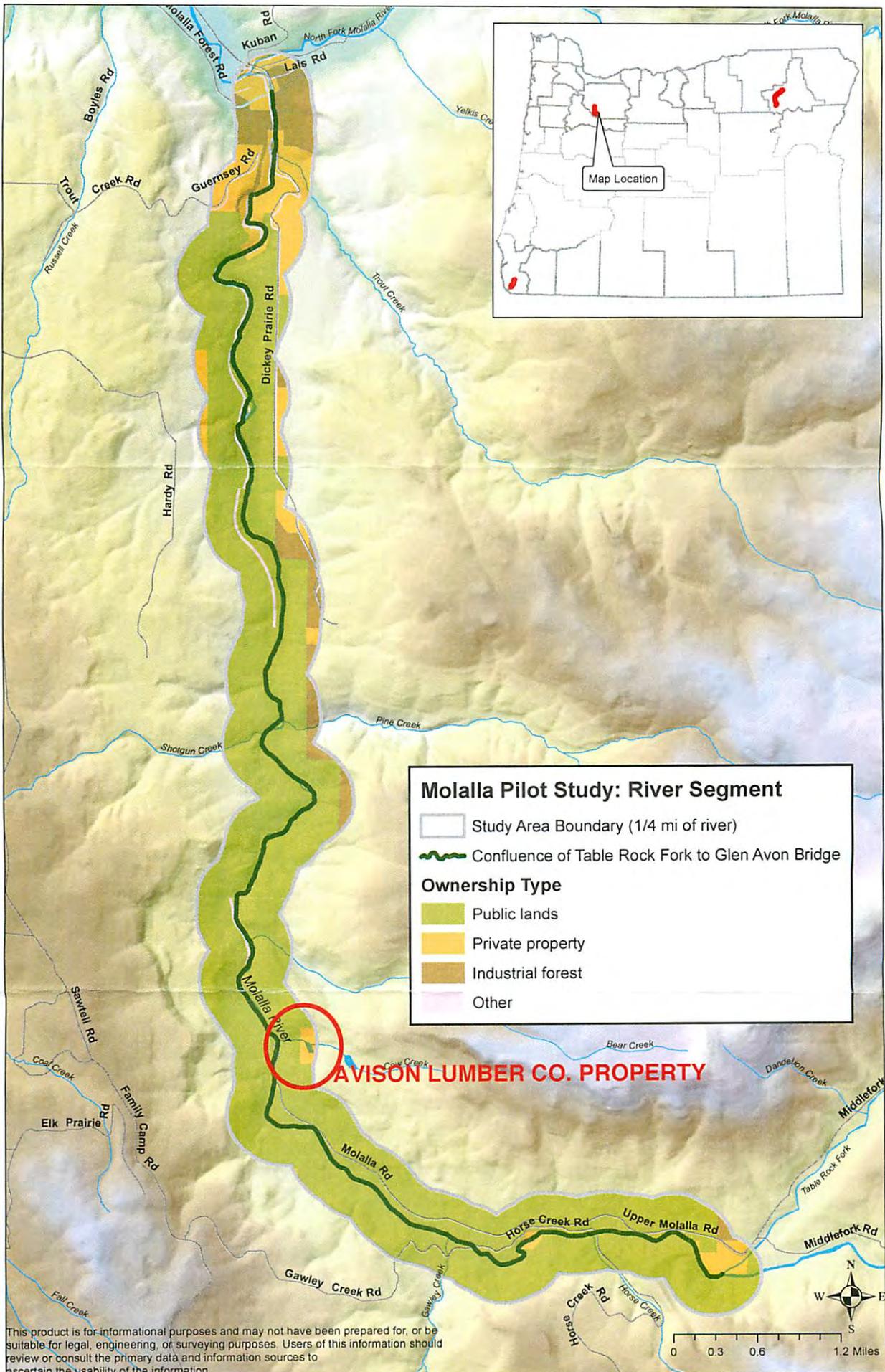
Please call us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

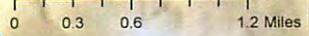
Avison Lumber Co.



William J. Avison
President



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



Will you be so bold as to attempt to control the flow of the Molalla? The Reach of the Trees? The blooms of the flowers? Where the wildlife lives?

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

Nature shares with man abundantly. The corridor is not a trophy. It is not for sale.

It is not meant to be domesticated with asphalt, concrete, heavy foot, bike and horse traffic.

It is meant to be shared. It is already being shared. The corridor is not yours to take.

It already belongs to the collective whole. Many parts privately owned are also already shared. It is not a commercial endeavor.

The Molalla Corridor is not developed for the masses. It can continue to belong to the people, the flora, the wildlife and the current property owners. Its enjoyment as it is can be continued without changes.

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

The impact and costs to the area would be significant and unsupported.

The only space available for the additional infrastructure needed for this kind of endeavor is people's existing yards, homes, hard earned purchases and ways of life. It will even negatively affect businesses already established.

These implied changes would be a benefit to a select and affluent few at an enormous cost to the whole and detriment to many as well as the area and its wildlife.

Beginning in this initial pursuit of action opens the possibilities of a larger plan which is even more

detrimental to area, residents, and nature. Everything costs in this society- we know this. Pretty brochures and marketing campaigns as well as ego induced pet projects help fuel more impact and more costs to all and the environment.

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

Please Step back and look at your motivations, ambitions and pride. Who does this taking benefit? Imagine if you will... your own current home... Imagine this coming to your neighborhood. Visualize the impact and then ask yourself: Do you like stepping out your front door onto a freeway? Do you like the idea that they may want to widen the road and remove your existence without payment or consideration? Do you want to increase crime in your neighborhood? Do you want to give your livelihood up? Do you want to be relocated against your will?

People make sacrifices and pay more daily to move to rural areas to get away from this chaos.

If you are purely looking to spend money, provide garbage service, provide more free campsites, eliminate the hardened criminals, increase rescue services. Reward those companies and private owners who already are sharing.

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

Doing so will increase pollution, crime, dangers to wildlife (and humans who come in contact with wildlife), increase traffic in an area where emergency response is limited (It is not the locals dying while recreating on the River...it is the out of town visitors), and this project will be an ongoing burden.

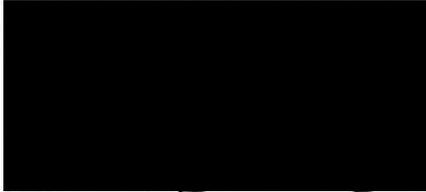
Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

It will decrease recreation for locals who cannot afford to go elsewhere. It will cause a loss of property rights and homes and home values. It will remove established traditions, it will decrease recreational opportunities that are already in existence, it will decrease sale-ability with greater encumbering restrictions, it will decrease a way of life for current residents and it will decrease commerce by interfering with employment currently experienced in this area.

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.

There is a lack of infrastructure to support the numbers of people you are inviting to a dead end road. This is not a thoroughfare.

Please do not create a Molalla Scenic Waterway from Table Rock to the Glen Avon Bridge.



Aimee Davis

Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
725 Summer St. Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

August 11, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

Thanks you for the opportunity to offer my comments in support of scenic waterway designation for the upper Molalla River.

The Molalla is a pristine river offering unique geological formations, beautiful scenery and fabulous recreational opportunities. It is important to protect instream flows and habitat for salmon and steelhead.

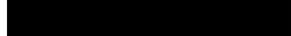
The Molalla River is an integral part of the cultural, historical and aesthetic values of the community of Molalla. Scenic waterway river status will enhance economic prospects for the greater Molalla community.

I encourage you to designate the upper Molalla River as a state scenic waterway.

Thank You,



Bill Taylor



Molalla, OR 97038

Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
725 Summer St. Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

August 11, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

Thanks you for the opportunity to offer my comments in support of scenic waterway designation for the upper Molalla River.

The Molalla is a pristine river offering unique geological formations, beautiful scenery and fabulous recreational opportunities. It is important to protect instream flows and habitat for salmon and steelhead.

The Molalla River is an integral part of the cultural, historical and aesthetic values of the community of Molalla. Scenic waterway river status will enhance economic prospects for the greater Molalla community.

I encourage you to designate the upper Molalla River as a state scenic waterway.

Thank You,


Fran Taylor *(1)*


Molalla, OR 97038

August 1, 2015

Hello Park Planners,

I am encouraging you to include both the Molalla River and the Chetco River in the State Scenic Waterway Program.

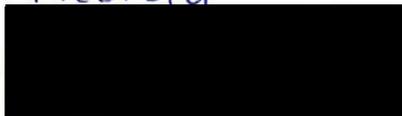
I have been paddling the Molalla River from the Table Rock Fork to the Glen Avon bridge (and also below Glen Avon) yearly for 35 years. I often paddle there five or more times each winter. (I sometimes visit the Molalla for a cool swim on a hot summer day, too.) The canyon section through the Three Bears rapids is exceedingly beautiful. To experience that beauty from river level is truly remarkable. The class III rapids are challenging and fun + mostly forgiving since the river is "pool drop" below Turner Bridge. Wildflowers are abundant in the springtime - I often see Calypso orchids at the "Old Bridge" put-in area.

I have yet to paddle the Chetco River in southern Oregon, but I have seen pictures of that beautiful river + read

reports of its stunning scenery and
flora. I look forward to visiting
that area someday soon.

Thank you for your efforts to
include both the Molalla + the Chetco
Rivers in the State Scenic Waterways
program.

Sincerely



Laurie Pavay



Corvallis, OR 97333

From: [Molalla Retreat](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla Scenic Waterways
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:54:11 AM

Scenic Waterways Staff,

As a resident of Glen Avon I feel that the inclusion of our neighborhood within the boundaries of the Scenic Waterways system is unnecessary and a bureaucratic certainty that is being forced on a group of unwilling citizens.

It became very clear early in the process of public involvement that the OPRD had set a boundary at the Glen Avon bridge and was unwilling to move the line no matter how much pushback they received. As an advisor to the process, I tried many times and in many ways to get the the Glen Avon subdivision out of the jurisdiction of this act but to no avail. The OPRD kept giving little snippets of ground and ultimately has offered us the carrot of a "Non-Related Adjacent Land" designation. Since none of us are lawyers, we are relying on the OPRD's word that this will keep us from having to deal with the regulation of this act, but none of us are really sure if that is the case. And certainly we are unsure what this designation will look like 20, 30, 50 years from now.

The Glen Avon neighborhood has endured regulation of the Timber (TBR) designation and the Clackamas County Principle River Conservation District for many years and now we are being forced to have another layer of bureaucratic regulation put on top of those. From a citizens view, it seems that our State and County government feels that duplicate regulation by every jurisdiction makes for a better Oregon, when in fact, in our opinion, it just shows how wasteful and overburdening our government is.

This subdivision was established by the Davies family (Ivor Davies) in 1931 and we have been good stewards of our properties for the last 80 years. An act that duplicates what the County government already has in place will not do one good thing for the river that is not already being done. All it really does is increase the power of the state government over it's citizens which sometimes appears to be the governments only aim.

Ultimately what we would like is for the OPRD to make the boundary stop at the Glen Avon Bridge and not continue it's 1/4 mile arc north of that point. It would be very easy to say that the bridge is a deadline but it does not seem to register with the state that deviation from a prescribed path is possible. This issue has been addressed repeatedly with the OPRD staff but getting beyond "this is just how we do it" mentality seems beyond a mere advisors ability.

Sincerely,

Bob Loucks

Resident Glen Avon and Advisor to the Scenic Waterway staff

From: [Rocky Stone](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Scenic Molalla River Waterway comment
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 4:44:24 PM

The Molalla River has four large wire basket retaining walls along its banks that I know of. Each one is hundreds of feet in length. How does this serve or meet the definition of a Natural Undisturbed Unaltered Oregon Scenic Waterway.

From: [Rae](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla Scenic Waterway
Date: Monday, August 17, 2015 9:01:38 AM

Attention: Laurel Hillmann and Rocky Houston

I am writing as a Molalla River homeowner to express my thoughts about the plan to include my property in OPRD state scenic waterway.

I see no good reason for this inclusion, as it appears to be nothing more than a "land grab", for which the OPRD has offered nothing but; "it is to protect the river". Who are you protecting it from? The homeowners in my neighborhood annually have to pick up garbage that appears behind our homes after the spring run-off. This does not seem to come from downstream. It is thrown in the river by those use it as a recreation area.

In your correspondence, you list the north designation boundary is the Glan Avon bridge. In reality, it is one quarter mile north of the bridge which includes 20 plus private properties. It would be more appropriate to make the north boundary end at Trout Creek. By your rules, this would extend the "true" boundary one quarter mile, which would be very near the Glan Avon bridge.

By making that correction, you would be assured of our support in your effort to "protect" the waterways for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Jack Rae JR

[REDACTED]

Molalla, OR

From: [Rae](#)
To: [HOUSTON Rocky * OPRD](#); [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla River - Potential Designation of State Scenic Waterway
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 4:37:29 PM

Dear Mr. Houston,

My wife and I recently were made aware that the OPRD was reviewing a plan to include our property as part of a state scenic waterway. We strongly disagree with this designation and the need for it. We are already managed by Clackamas County as to setbacks, building regulations, tree cutting, etc. To have the State Parks Division regulating the same thing is onerous to the property owners as well as a waste of tax payers money and time.

We also resent the fact that meetings and much discussion has gone on without making it clear that your proposal does not stop at the Glen Avon Bridge but, actually extends 1/4 mile north of it . This is all private property with no public access so why would you even consider putting it under OPRD regulation.

Certainly there must be other ways you can use your energy and tax payer resources than pressing for more regulations on the taxpaying residents in our neighborhood.

Most Sincerely,

Jack Rae

[REDACTED]
Molalla, Or 97038
[REDACTED]



P.O. Box 867 Molalla, Oregon 97038-0867 503-829-7858

riverwatch@molalla.net
www.molallariverwatch.org

August 11, 2015

Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
725 Sumner St, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

Molalla River Watch Watershed Council wholeheartedly supports Oregon Scenic Waterway designation for the upper Molalla River as outlined in the Draft Management Plan.

The Molalla River is an Oregon natural treasure located within a one hour drive of Portland and Salem. It is one of the few undammed rivers in the Pacific Northwest, home to the recovering and recently delisted Oregon chub, and provides drinking water for the cities of Canby and Molalla. The River is noted for its geological, historical and cultural values. It offers varied recreational opportunities including swimming, fishing, rafting and kayaking, horseback riding, camping, hiking, picnicking and bicycling. The proposed river segment begins at the lower end of the Table Rock Wilderness Area.

The Oregon DEQ lists the Molalla River as impaired due to low summer flows and high water temperatures. Preservation of instream flows and riparian habitat will help protect listed salmon and steelhead as well as other plants and wildlife.

We urge you to recommend the Molalla River as proposed in the Draft Management Plan for Oregon Scenic Waterway status.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Bill Taylor.

Bill Taylor, Chair
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Division

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6201

FAX (503) 947-6202

www.dfw.state.or.us/

August 19, 2015

OPRD Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St. Ste C
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Comments on the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway

To whom it may concern:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft management plan and scenic flow recommendation for the potential designation of a portion of the Molalla River as a Scenic Waterway.

The Molalla River provides habitat for anadromous salmonids and resident trout, as well as many other native species of fish and wildlife. Instream water rights are currently established on the Molalla River to support the conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, and any other ecological values. ODFW is pleased to see the instream flows proposed as the base of the scenic flows. In addition to meeting this instream flow regime, ODFW recommends scenic flows maintain the natural hydrograph of the system, including allowing the river to reach bank full and flood flows on a natural cycle. These flows provide conditions conducive to creating or maintaining stream morphology and habitat. In addition, land management under the designation should include strong protections for riparian habitats, which provide benefits to numerous species. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Oregon Water Resources Department, should develop final scenic flows and riparian protection to protect all ecological needs of the river.

ODFW is hopeful that establishment of Scenic Waterways across Oregon can aide our mandate to protect and enhance populations of fish, wildlife, and their habitats for public use and enjoyment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-947-6092.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Danette Faucera
Water Policy Coordinator



August 19, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Molalla River, proposed Scenic Waterway Designation and flow recommendations

Dear OPRD Scenic Waterway Program,

WaterWatch of Oregon supports the proposed designation of the Molalla River as State Scenic Waterway.

The citizens of Oregon passed the Scenic Waterway Act into law in 1970 by a two to one margin. The Act was adopted as a counter balance to existing policies that allowed the building of dams and diversion of water from beloved streams across the state. See ORS 390.815. With increasing development pressures on Oregon's beloved rivers across the state, this is an important tool to protect Oregon's most loved rivers into the future. Recognizing this, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission in 2012 recommends designation of new state scenic waterways as one tool to meet instream water needs into the future.

Once a stream is designated, the Act requires the state to protect streamflows in quantities necessary to support fish, wildlife and recreation. Our comments today are focused on the "pilot" scenic waterway flow recommendation, found in Attachment A.

Scenic waterway approach: The Scenic Waterway Act mandates that the highest and best uses in Scenic Waterways are fish, wildlife and recreation. ORS 390.835(1). To that end, the state is required to protect flows in quantities necessary to protect these values. *Id.* Attachment A notes that the flow framework discussed with the advisory group combines scenic waterway management classifications with the median monthly natural streamflow defined by WARS. As an approach, WaterWatch has concerns with the proposed nexus of streamflow protection and management classifications. The scenic waterway management plans and classifications are directly tied to land use on adjacent lands. ORS 390.845(2). These plans are within the purview of the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. *Id.* at (1). River flow protections, on the other hand, are not tied to land management practices and/or river classifications, but rather are guided by the Act's mandate that the highest and best uses of waters within a scenic waterway are fish, wildlife and recreation. Moreover, streamflow protection mandated under the Act is under the purview of the Oregon Water Resources Commission. ORS 390.835, ORS 390.845(1).

To that end, the state should be protecting the maximum flows available under the Act regardless of the management classification of adjacent lands.

Recommended scenic waterway flows: The WRD is proposing between 85 to 100% of the median natural flow to be protected as scenic waterway flows, depending on the reach. At the very least, the WRD should be protecting 100% of the median natural flow in all reaches. That said, even at that, we do not believe this provides the full protection mandated by the Act. The Act is clear that the state must protect flows in the quantity necessary for fish, wildlife and recreation. ORS 390.835. The concern with using average median flows to meet this standard is that average median flows are not likely to capture the elevated biological triggering flows, channel maintenance flows and/or other streamflow functions associated with high flows needed to support healthy river and fish habitat. The 100% median flow should be the baseflow to build upon for the scenic waterway flow recommendation, not the ceiling. Thus, we urge the state to incorporate elevated flow levels necessary to support biological triggering and channel maintenance, among other things, into the recommended instream flows.

As a related matter, we appreciate that the WRD conditions new water right permits to protect scenic waterway flows and we support this conditioning, but again, unless the scenic waterway flows are protecting the full suite of flows necessary to maintain fish, wildlife and recreation uses then this conditioning does not protect against future development to the extent it should under the Act

And, as a final point, the Chetco advisory group recommended a “non numeric” recommendation that no new additional water rights should be allocated within or above the proposed scenic waterway. We did not see this recommendation associated with the Molalla. We urge the Water Resources Commission to adopt a similar protective measure for the Molalla.

In conclusion, WaterWatch strongly supports the proposed designation of the Molalla River as a new State Scenic Waterway. However, we urge the state to use the 100% of the median flow as the baseflow, not the ceiling, upon which to build additional recommendations to address elevated flows needed for important fish and river functions.

We thank the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Water Resources Department for their recent efforts to move forward in designating additional state scenic waterways and look forward to the continued attention to this program in years to come.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Kimberley Priestley
Sr. Policy Analyst



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY**
PO BOX 411
LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON 97034

August 8, 2015

Mr. Steve Kay
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Scenic Waterways Public Comment

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

The Clackamas County League of Women Voters supports the designation of the Upper Molalla River from Table Rock Wilderness to Glen Haven Bridge near Molalla as an Oregon Scenic Waterway. The League believes that our waterways are a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms.

This section of the Upper Molalla River should be given consideration as a waterway of critical environmental concern for several important reasons. First, it is the source of water for the cities of Molalla and Canby. It is an important resource for native fish and a variety of other wildlife. Also, it offers a wide range of recreational uses. Thus, we believe the river is a prime candidate for becoming a Scenic Waterway and should be given this designation.

The League applauds the interagency cooperation between Oregon Parks and Recreation, the State Parks Commission, and the Water Resources Commission that this recommendation represents. Thank you for this opportunity to offer our input on this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Marge Easley
Action Chair, League of Women Voters of Clackamas County

From: [Joseph Blowers](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Please add Molalla as a Scenic Waterway
Date: Friday, August 07, 2015 3:05:24 PM

I'm writing to urge you to add the Molalla River as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway. I live on a farm less than two miles from the Molalla River. I use the area for bird watching as well as hiking and mountain biking.

The Molalla River is amazing in that it is one of the largest completely free-flowing rivers in the state and certainly among the largest in the Willamette Valley. As you probably know, the lower reaches harbored Oregon Chub at a time when that species was critically endangered. The upper reaches have runs of both salmon and steelhead. The reach you are considering is an amazing recreational gift to the community of Molalla, providing kayaking, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching and swimming to many, many people. It also provides the drinking water for the cities of Molalla and Canby.

I look forward to the additional recognition and protection that the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program can provide for the Molalla River.

Joseph Blowers

[REDACTED]

Molalla, OR 97038

From: [Michael Cerbone](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla River
Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:16:15 AM

Please accept this in support of the designation of the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway. I urge you to designate the entire length of the river. One of our favorite canoe floats in the state is from Aurora on the Pudding River, we float to the Molalla and then take that to the Willamette and pull out at Molalla River State Park. While the Three Bears is a great section (above Glen Avon), the two sections immediately below Glen Avon are also very scenic and worthy of the designation.

If you are looking for other rivers that are worth, I would suggest the Pudding River, it is great, very scenic and very relaxing.

Thanks,

Michael Cerbone, AICP

Community Development Director
City of Cornelius
(503) 357-3011
www.ci.cornelius.or.us

From: [Jack and Sue Hammond](#)
To: [HOUSTON Rocky * OPRD](#); [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [John Atkins](#); ["Mark Schmidt"](#); [REDACTED]; ["Taylor"](#); ["Gary Potter"](#)
Subject: RE: Teleconference information for upcoming Molalla scenic waterway advisory committee meeting
Date: Friday, August 14, 2015 3:22:28 PM

Greetings Rocky and Crew,

Unfortunately on August 24 I will be completely off the grid except by satellite phone which I don't have. Google "Nelson Lagoon- Aleutian Adventures" and you will see where. It My destination is the Steelhead River 40 miles from Nelson Lagoon, a small metropolitan city of 62 members the First Nation Aleut People. I will be accompanied by seven other fly fishing fanatics, 4 Aleut guides, 1 Bear Hunter [for protection] , 3 spey rods and 3 one handed fly rods of varying sizes.

I have appreciated very much the outstanding job you have done regarding the Proposal to designate the Upper Molalla River as an Oregon Scenic River, the first such designation since 1988. I am in full accord with that Proposal as well as the contents of the draft Management Plan including the new language concerning the nonapplicability of the Management Plan to residents north of the Avon Bridge.

Thanks and Wish me Tight Lines

Jack Hammond

From: [Kimberley Priestley](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [GOLDFARB Gabriela * GOV](#); [BYLER Thomas M](#); [HAVEL Chris * OPRD](#); [Busey Jen * OPRD](#)
Subject: Joint Letter of Support for Designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 6:34:00 AM
Attachments: [scenic waterway final aug 13 pdf.pdf](#)

Dear Scenic Waterways Program,

On behalf of twenty six conservation groups, I am submitting the attached joint letter of support for the proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as state scenic waterways. Please include this letter in your documentation of comments for both the Chetco and Molalla River comment periods (Aug. 13th and Aug 19th, respectively).

We applaud the state for its work to designate new state scenic waterways, and to protect instream flows in the quantities necessary to support fish, wildlife and recreation in these beloved rivers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best, Kimberley

--

Kimberley Priestley
WaterWatch of Oregon
213 SW Ash, Suite 208
Portland, OR 97204
ph: 503-295-4039, x 3
www.waterwatch.org

**American Rivers---American Whitewater---Cascadia Wildlands---Center for Biological Diversity
Columbia Riverkeeper---Hells Canyon Preservation Council---KS Wild---Native Fish Society
Northwest Rafting Company---Oregon Coast Alliance---Oregon Council Trout Unlimited
Oregon Environmental Council---Oregon League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of Oregon---Oregon Natural Desert Association---Oregon Wild
Pacific Rivers Council---Rogue Riverkeeper---Smith River Alliance
Soda Mountain Wilderness Society---The Freshwater Trust---Tualatin Riverkeepers
WaterWatch of Oregon---Western Environmental Law Center---Willamette Riverkeeper
Wild and Scenic Rivers---Wild Rivers Water Rights**

August 13, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Ste C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Program:

We are writing to express our support of the proposed designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as new state scenic waterways. The outstanding recreational, scenic and fish and wildlife habitat values provided by these rivers are very important to Oregonians and deserve protection.

The State Scenic Waterway Act, voted into law by Oregon citizens in 1970 by a two to one margin, exists to protect Oregon's most beloved wild and scenic rivers. This visionary Act directs that the highest and best uses of waters in state scenic waterways are fish, wildlife and recreation.

Both the Chetco and Molalla rivers are excellent candidates for designation under the state Scenic Waterway Act. The crystal clear waters of the Chetco River on Oregon's southern coast support a myriad of recreational opportunities, are the home to important populations of steelhead trout and salmon and provide exceptionally clean drinking water to downstream communities. People flock from all over the nation to recreate on this unique river. Similarly, the Molalla River in the foothills of the northern Oregon Cascades supports native winter steelhead and salmon runs, is resplendent with unique geological wonders and delivers a wide range of recreational activities including kayaking, rafting, swimming, camping and hiking.

To date, twenty of Oregon's most treasured rivers have been designated as state scenic waterways. The Act calls on the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to undertake continuing study and submit periodic reports to the Governor, in concurrence with the Oregon Water Resources Commission (OWRC), recommending designations of additional rivers or segments of rivers. However, no new rivers have been studied or recommended for designation since 1988. In 2009 the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3369, which, among other things called on the state to develop an Integrated Water Resources Strategy to meet current and future water needs, including instream needs. After extensive public involvement, the OWRC adopted the Strategy in 2012, which, among other things recommends the designation of additional state scenic waterways. In 2013, Governor Kitzhaber directed OPRD to study

a minimum of three new rivers each biennium for recommendation to the Governor for future inclusion in the State Scenic Waterway Program.

We applaud OPRD for its recent work to study and recommend designation of the proposed reaches of Molalla and Chetco Rivers as new state scenic waterways and offer our full support of their designations.

In addition to our full support for state scenic waterway designation for both these rivers, we also urge the state to adopt the full suite of instream flows---including baseflows, biological triggering flows and channel maintenance flows---necessary to maintain the free flowing character of these rivers in the quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife. Designating flows that protect these critical streamflow functions is necessary to provide the full protection required by the Scenic Waterway Act. Protecting these flows will not injure existing senior or downstream water right holders, but will ensure that river flows in the newly designated state scenic waterways are safeguarded against future development for generations to come.

The Chetco and Molalla Rivers provide incredible recreational, habitat and economic value to our state. On behalf of our tens of thousands of members throughout Oregon we support the designation of the proposed sections of the Chetco and Mollala Rivers as State Scenic Waterways, urge adoption of strong instream flow protections and look forward to the continued state attention to Oregon's most special rivers via the State Scenic Waterway program in the coming years.

Sincerely,

David Moryc, Senior Director River Protection Program
American Rivers

Thomas O'Keefe, PNW Stewardship Director
Megan Hooker, Associate Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Josh Laughlin, Interim Executive Director
Cascadia Wildlands

Noah Greenwald, M.S., Endangered Species Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director
Columbia Riverkeeper

Darilyn Parry Brown, Executive Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council

Joseph Vaile, Executive Director
KS Wild

Mark Sherwood, Southern District Manager
Sunny Bourdon, Chetco River Steward
Native Fish Society

Zachary Collier, Owner/Outfitter
Northwest Rafting Company

Cameron LaFollette, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Alliance

Tom Wolf, Executive Director
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Teresa Huntsinger, Water Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Christy Splitt, OLCV External Affairs Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Norman Turrill, President
Oregon League of Women Voters of Oregon

Dan Morse, Executive Director
Oregon Natural Desert Association

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director
Oregon Wild

John Kober, Executive Director
Pacific Rivers Council

Forrest English, Program Director
Rogue Riverkeeper

Grant Werschull, Executive Director
Smith River Alliance

Dave Willis, Chair
Soda Mountain Wilderness Society

Rob Kirshner, Staff Attorney
The Freshwater Trust

Brian Wegener, Riverkeeper Advocacy and Communication Manager
Tualatin Riverkeepers

Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst
WaterWatch of Oregon

Susan Jane Brown, Staff Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

Travis Williams, Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper

Alyssa Babin, Executive Director
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Gordon Lyford, Agricultural Engineer
Wild Rivers Water Rights

Cc:

Governor Kate Brown

Gabriella Goldfarb, Governor's Office Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Lisa Sumption, Director, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation

Tom Byler, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department

Oregon Water Resources Commission

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100

fax 503 802-8199

nature.org/oregon

August 13, 2015

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterways Program
725 Summer St., Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Parks and Recreation Department,

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to support designation of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as new State Scenic Waterways. Both of these rivers provide the outstanding scenic, natural and recreational values intended for recognition under the State Scenic Waterways Act.

The Molalla River is the longest free-flowing tributary of the Willamette River. It supports important populations of native fish and wildlife, including federally-threatened winter steelhead and spring Chinook. Both of these species are in significant decline in the Willamette Basin, and the unique run timing of these species in the Molalla River contributes to genetic diversity and species viability. The river also provides habitat for a number of federal species of concern, including the Oregon slender salamander. In addition, the river provides drinking water for the cities of Molalla and Canby, and numerous recreational opportunities including recreational fishing and boating.

The Chetco River, free-flowing from its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, is a well-known gem on the Oregon Coast. At least 40 at-risk plant and animal species are in the area, including populations of federally-threatened coho, as well as important populations of winter steelhead and fall chinook salmon. The lower end of the river includes a rare Oregon example of the coast redwood association (coast redwood-tanoak/Pacific rhododendron forest), and the most northerly naturally occurring redwood stand in the world. The river provides exceptionally clean drinking water to the residents of Brookings-Harbor, and tremendous diversity of recreational uses throughout the year.

We applaud Oregon Parks and Recreation's work studying and evaluating the Molalla and Chetco Rivers and the quality of the reports produced by the Assessment Team. The information clearly supports designation of these two rivers as State Scenic Waterways.

Sincerely,



Catherine Macdonald
Director of Conservation Programs

From: [Daniel Davis](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Feedback on draft management plan for Molalla and Chetco river
Date: Monday, August 17, 2015 12:46:19 PM

I wanted to write a short note as feedback to the proposed management plan for the Molalla and Chetco rivers.

First the Molalla: This is a beautiful waterway that is close to Portland, with many great camping opportunities in addition to the whitewater. My biggest concern with this waterway is really related to what has happened to the Clackamas corridor over the past few years; given its proximity to Portland, it can become overrun with summer weekenders with little regard for the pristine state of the watershed. This is currently a must lesser-known alternative to the Clackamas, but I do not expect that it will stay that way. Enforcement of existing regulations must not be lax, and management should consider requirements of parking passes and other overnight permits to discourage mis-use.

And then the Chetco: This wilderness is not at risk of being overrun as it is very difficult even for the most dedicated kayakers to access. And I think it should stay difficult to access, as this is one of the last pure and wild watersheds in the area.

Thanks again for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment!
Daniel Davis

From: [Tom Berridge](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Please Designate the Molalla & Chetco River Segments as State Scenic Waterways
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:28:02 AM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

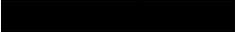
As a kayaker, rafter, and general river enthusiast, I want to urge you to add the Molalla and Chetco river segments to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. I have kayaked the Molalla River, which is a very special place that should be preserved in its natural state. I have not had the opportunity to visit the Chetco River, but when I am able to do so, I hope to find it in its natural condition, whether I get there this year or in 10 years.

Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems.

Regards,
Tom Berridge

Tom Berridge

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

From: [Jeff Cruze](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla & Chetco Rivers
Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:30:29 PM

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to lend my support for the Molalla and Chetco river segments as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

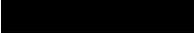
I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems. I fish both of these streams and appreciate the wild, scenic treasures they are.

Regards,

Jeff Cruze

From: [Tommy Swearingen](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Mollala/Chetco Proposal
Date: Saturday, August 01, 2015 8:09:56 AM

I want to register my support for State Scenic Waterway designation for these two rivers. They are excellent whitewater runs and deserving of any degree of state recognition and protection. Many paddlers consider the Mollala one of the premier runs in the state.

Tommy Swearingen, PhD


From: [Kevin Hill](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Cc: [Hill, Allison](#)
Subject: Molalla & Chetco - State Scenic Waterways
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 6:40:49 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my strongest support for designating the Molalla and Chetco rivers as State Scenic Waterways. My wife and I moved to Oregon from Wisconsin about one year ago, and the **main** thing that brought us here was whitewater kayaking and the many beautiful rivers in this state. We live in Silverton, and we love the Molalla and many other surrounding rivers. While I have yet to paddle on the Chetco, I know it by reputation, and have seen the amazing pictures. It is on my short list!

Please do everything you can to see that these state treasures remain in as pristine, free-flowing, and available a state as possible for all of us to enjoy for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hill



Silverton, OR 97381

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Susan Elliott](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Comment on the State Scenic Waterways Designation - Molalla and Chetco
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:13:33 AM

ORPD,

It brings me great joy that the Molalla and Chetco rivers are being considered for designation in the State Scenic Waterways Designation program. These two rivers are pure gems in the paddlesports communities and absolutely deserve to be preserved for this value. I believe it is incredibly important to designate waterways as special, beautiful, and necessary in their natural form if our society is to continue to develop and grow. If we do not set aside waterways, we will never learn to value them. Even more so, our children will never know how valuable they are in their natural state.

These two rivers are highly prized by the recreation community in the Northwest. They both are prized for their water quality, their remote nature, and their inviting rapids.

Thank you for protecting these rivers.

Cheers,
Susan Elliott

--

Susan Hollingsworth Elliott
Graduate Student, Water Resource Engineering Program
Oregon State University

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Pierre Caritey](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco and Molalla
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 10:03:46 PM

I am very happy that you are thinking of placing the Molalla and the Chetco in the Oregon scenic waterways category. I live by the Chetco River and have paddled or hiked a good part of it. I really hope it will stay pristine .
You have my complete support
Pierre Caritey

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nathan Pulliam](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Molalla and Chetco Rivers- Scenic Waterways Program
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 3:02:24 PM

Dear OPRD Scenic Waterways Program,

I am emailing you today to let you know that I am in full support of the plans to designate the Molalla and Chetco rivers as State Scenic Waterways. Both of these rivers are very important to myself and many others. It is great to know that these rivers will be conserved for many generations to come and that those generations of people will have the same opportunity to recreationally paddle these rivers.

Thanks for your time and work regarding these two rivers!

Sincerely,

Nate Pulliam

Kayak and Canoe instructor at Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe in Portland Oregon

From: [Jacob cruser](#)
To: [Waterways Scenic * OPRD](#)
Subject: Chetco and Molalla
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 12:27:40 PM

Both the Molalla and Chetco rivers are gems of Oregon. The Molalla is special because it captures Oregon's beauty in a location easily accessible to the public. The Chetco is special because it is a premium wilderness that captures the essence of Oregon. In a country where many of the wild places have been tamed, the Chetco stands wild and rugged.

Two incredible drainages, each appealing to a different sect of Oregon's population.

-jacob

RE: Please Designate the Molalla & Chetco River Segments as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to lend my support for the Molalla and Chetco river segments as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be protected foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

Moreover, I am writing to ask that the state adopt instream flow protections necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of these river segments in the full quantities necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife – including baseflows, biological triggering flows, and channel maintenance flows. One of the most important benefits for fish populations in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems. The Molalla and Chetco are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be a fitting way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Regards,

Randall Hughes	Alameda, CA
Dave Van Domelen	Amity, OR
Jim McCarthy	Ashland, OR
Mort Smith	Ashland, OR
Ken Morrish	Ashland, OR
Bob & Karen Robinson	Ashland, OR
Robyn Janssen	Ashland, OR
Yancy Lind	Bend, OR
George Wuerthner	Bend, OR
Jim Myron	Canby, OR
Fred Pendergast	Cupertino, CA
Nancy Nichols	Deadwood, OR
Kathy Giesen	Eugene, OR
Jen Matthews	Eugene, OR
Glen and Rhoda Love	Eugene, OR
Bob Bumstead	Eugene, OR
Kay and Daniel Robinhold	Eugene, OR
John Brinkley	Eugene, OR
Ken MacDonald	Gresham, OR
Thomas Blacklidge	Lake Oswego, OR
Jeff Evershed	Lake Oswego, OR
Dale Madden	Maupin, OR
John Forsyth	Medford, OR
Tom Derry	Molalla, OR
Larry and Jo Ellen Turigliatto	Napa, CA
Tracy Buckner	Oregon City

Steve & Randi Kobak	Portland, OR
Matt Deniston	Portland, OR
Laurie Todd	Portland, OR
Genevieve Long	Portland, OR
Edith Gillis	Portland, OR
Kris N	Portland, OR
Stan Chesshir	Portland, OR
John Warren	Portland, OR
Jacob Reiss	Portland, OR
Robert Bernstein	Portland, OR
Courtney Wilson	Portland, OR
Nick Rowell	Portland, OR
Amy Simpson	Portland, OR
Sarah Deumling	Rickreall, OR
Borst Engineering & Construction Borst	Rogue River, OR
Russ & Delana Beaton	Salem, OR
Lee & Marilyn Rengert	Salem, OR
Corinne Sherton	Salem, OR
Ayani Mikasi	Talent, OR
Mr. Peter Ware	Talent, OR
Ken Anderson	Vancouver, WA
Barrett Edgar	Wedderburn, OR
Phillip Mamula	West Linn, OR
Richard Hafele	Wilsonville, OR
Jim Ruff	Wilsonville, OR

RE: I Support Designating the Molalla & Chetco Rivers as State Scenic Waterways

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'd like to offer my support for the Molalla and Chetco rivers as additions to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Both of these wild, free flowing watersheds are valuable assets to local communities and deserve to be valued foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

I appreciate that both the Molalla and Chetco draft State Scenic Waterway management plans have been developed with input from local stakeholders including River Stewards and staff from Native Fish Society, who provided suggestions based on their on-the-ground knowledge of these rivers and their natural values.

I support the recommendations these stakeholder groups have made with regard to both the Molalla and Chetco river segment classifications and the resulting "potential land management rules." These rules strike a balance between maintaining the scenic and ecological integrity of the river corridors and the rights of adjacent private property owners. Maintaining the natural condition of the river corridor will also benefit the wild, native fish by protecting water quality and maintaining free flowing characteristics.

I support the "potential management recommendations" found in both the Molalla and Chetco draft management plans. Both communities indicate the need for additional support and partnership with the OPRD to assist with local cleanups, maintenance and improvements to access and bathroom facilities, additional interpretive signage and partnerships to attract future habitat restoration investments.

One of the most important benefits for wild, native fish in the Chetco and Molalla State Scenic Waterways proposals are instream water allocations for scenic flows. Fish benefit from safeguards to the natural hydrological fluctuations of a wild river; which moves sediment, redistributes and collects large woody debris and reclaims side channel habitats critical for rearing salmonids. For these reasons I support allocating 100% of the available flows as part of the scenic flow allocations for both the Molalla and Chetco.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the OPRD's draft State Scenic Waterway management plans. The Molalla and Chetco are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be a fitting way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Regards,

Charles Gehr	Ashland, OR
William Morrish	Ashland, OR
Aaron Bento	Beaverton, OR
Steven S. Lent	Beaverton, OR
Dennis Miller	Bend, OR
Ron Thompson	Bend, OR
Peter Murray	Bend, OR
Troy Leedy	Bend, OR
Caryn Graves	Berkeley, CA

Mark Sherwood	Brookings, OR
Richard Kelllogg	Camp Sherman, OR
John Larison	Corvallis, OR
Shawn Donnille	Eugene, OR
Doug Heiken	Eugene, OR
Brent Ross	Eugene, OR
Christopher I Hiatt	Eugene, OR
Josh Lusher	Eugene, OR
Lawrence P. Leine	Glide, OR
Dennis Biggins	Hillsboro, OR
Forrest Jones	Hood River, OR
Melissa van scoyoc	Klamath Falls, OR
Douglas Robertson	Lake Oswego, OR
Robert C. Watzke	Lake Oswego, OR
Greg Hogensen	Lake Oswego, OR
Brian Silvey	Maupin, OR
Eric Ellingson	McMinnville, OR
David A Wang DDS	Medford, OR
Erin Mahanay	Medford, OR
NA	Mount Shasta, CA
Dale Greenley	Myrtle Creek, OR
David Charles Quinn	Ocean Shores, WA
Russell Loeb	Oregon City, OR
James Baggett	Oregon City, OR
Bill Percy	Philomath, OR
Tim Knecht	Portland, OR
Michael Jolliffe	Portland, OR
Jake Crawford	Portland, OR
Henry Carlile	Portland, OR
Brian Emerick	Portland, OR
River Steenson	Portland, OR
Charles Carroll	Portland, OR
Nathan Hall	Portland, OR
Jon Kellogg	Portland, OR
Tyler Allen	Portland, OR
Edward L. Marxer	Portland, OR
Danny McGinley	Portland, OR
Cliff Canepa	Portland, OR
Dan Ellis	Portland, OR
Kenneth Bierly	Salem, OR
Matt Neznanski	Salem, OR
Charles Hammerstad	San Jose, CA
Jeff Perin	Sisters, OR
Edward Filice	Sonoma, CA
Shawn Scriven	Springfield, OR
Rob Perkin	Tigard, OR
Jessica Ahlstrom	Tucson, AZ
Douglas Rohn	Tucson, AZ

Brad Staples
Andrew Miller
Don Titterington
Jeremy Quinlan

West Linn, OR
West Linn, OR
Wilsonville, OR
Woodland Hills, CA