

Background

The people of Oregon established the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program in 1970, recognizing that wise individual and public use of these special rivers and adjacent lands is necessary. It strives to achieve a balance between protecting the rivers' natural resources and the equally valuable lives and plans of the people who live along them.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department must be notified of certain activities proposed within ¼ mile of the bank of Oregon's designated scenic waterways. Such activities include cutting of trees, mining, construction of roads, railroads, utilities, buildings, or other structures. The proposed uses or activities may not be started until the written notification is approved, or until one year after the notice is accepted.

Process Overview

Written notification to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is required for certain activities proposed within Oregon scenic waterways. Such activities include cutting of trees, mining, construction of roads, railroads, utilities, buildings, or other structures. Commencement of the proposed uses or activities occurs upon OPRD approval, or one year after the notice is accepted.

Review Process

The following materials are on this website for your review and use:

- Scenic Waterways Act, Oregon Revised Statutes 390.805 to 390.940 (See "Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes");
- Scenic Waterways Rules, Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 736, Division 40 (See "Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes");
- Notification of Intent Form (See "Forms");
- Timber Harvest Form (See "Forms"); and,
- Staff Contact Information (See "Contacts").

The Notification of Intent form is for the landowner to make written notification to OPRD. Acceptance of this form is dependent upon completion with the required information and attachments including landowner signature, location, activity, map drawing, etc. We ask that all drawings be no larger than 11"x17".

Upon acceptance of a complete notification by OPRD, the review process begins. Copies of the notification and all associated materials are provided to affected agencies and interested parties for their review and comment. Upon closure of the comment period, OPRD conducts a site visit to review the proposal. OPRD staff, the property owner or representative, and interested agencies typically attend the site visit. During the site visit, staff will consider whether the proposal meets the scenic waterway requirements, or whether modifications are necessary. After the site visit, OPRD determines whether the project will comply with the scenic waterway regulations. If the proposal is in compliance, OPRD will issue a written approval for the project. As required in the statute and rule, this process concludes within one year of receipt of a complete notification; however, OPRD works to finalize reviews within four to six weeks of accepting a complete notification.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the staff person listed for your area.