

National Wild and Scenic Rivers

Congress established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1968 to preserve the nation's "outstandingly remarkable, free-flowing rivers." As in Oregon's Scenic Waterway legislation, the federal law emphasizes protection of scenic, historic, natural and recreational qualities.

Today, more than 40 of Oregon's rivers boast National Wild and Scenic River status. Twenty of these are also Oregon Scenic Waterways. The Rogue River was among the nation's eight "charter rivers" included in the system.

Detailed information about Oregon Scenic Waterways and National Wild and Scenic Rivers is available in "The Oregon Scenic Waterways Program: A Landowner's Guide."

For additional state park information contact:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

1115 Commercial St NE, Suite 1
Salem, OR 97301-1002
1-800-551-6949



Check out
Oregon State Parks by visiting
www.oregonstateparks.org



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This brochure is available in alternative formats on request.
Write to OPRD, 1115 Commercial St NE Suite 1, Salem, OR 97301-1002;
or call (503) 378-6305 (for the hearing impaired 1-800-735-2900).

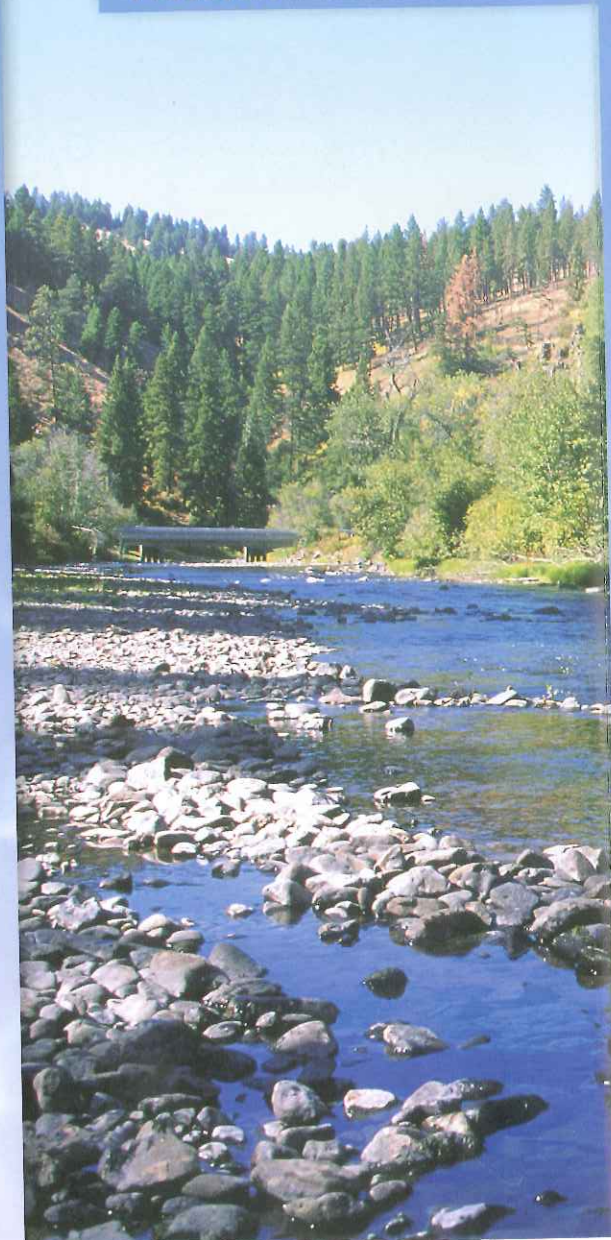
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Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Oregon's Scenic Waterways

Protection & Preservation



Above: Owyhee River
On Cover: North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River

Oregon's Scenic Waterways

Oregon is blessed with a diversity of river systems that contributes richly to our quality of life. Some of these rivers have received special recognition as Scenic Waterways for their outstanding natural qualities, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

Oregon's Scenic Waterways program was created to enable all federal, state, and local agencies, individual property owners and recreational users to work together to protect and wisely use Oregon's rivers. Its goals are to:

- Protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers;
- Protect and enhance scenic, aesthetic and natural values; recreation; scientific features; and fish and wildlife qualities;

- Promote expansion of the scenic waterways system;
- Protect private property rights, and
- Encourage other agencies to act consistently with the goals of scenic waterways management.

The Act

Oregon's Scenic Waterways Program was born in 1970 when Oregon citizens voted, by a two-to-one margin, for an initiative establishing the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. Passing this law showed that Oregonians could come together to improve and protect an environment they love, and want to pass on to generations to come.

The Program

Oregon's Scenic Waterways system originally included 496 miles of the Deschutes, Illinois, John Day, Owyhee and Rogue rivers, plus all of the Minam. Between 1972 and 1987 an additional 113 miles of the Sandy, Clackamas, Santiam and Upper Deschutes rivers, plus the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, were added. In 1988, the system doubled when 573 river miles were added by the passage of a voter initiative. Today the program has a total of 19 rivers and one mountain lake in its designation.

In order for a body of water to become an Oregon Scenic Waterway, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) must first conduct a study to determine if the body meets the standards of a scenic waterway. The study determines if the river is relatively free-flowing, if the scene from the river is pleasant and undisturbed, if the segment and setting possess outstanding recreational and natural value, and if it is large enough so that recreational use will not cause damage to the natural setting. OPRD and the Water

Resources Commission must then recommend the river for scenic waterway recognition. Oregon Scenic Waterways can also be designated by voter initiative. Once recommended, a river can receive designation from the Governor.

Although this program is designed to protect designated waterways, most existing uses, developments and water rights are allowed. The Act also does not allow public use of

private property without the landowner's consent.

Some activities, such as construction of dams and impoundments, are prohibited under the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. Property owners wishing to build roads, houses, develop mines, cut timber or make other changes within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of each side of a designated river must notify OPRD in advance. OPRD then decides if the change will affect the scenic beauty of the river. Very few proposals are denied, but if they are, OPRD has the right to purchase the land in question.

The Division of State Lands requires a permit to fill or remove any material from the bed and banks of State Scenic Waterways. A simplified permit is available for recreational or small-scale placer mining disturbing less than 25 cubic yards per year. No permit is needed for recreational, non-motorized prospecting. For permits, contact DSL at 503-378-3805 or go online to "Removal-Fill" at <http://statelands.dsl.state.or.us>.

Throughout the years, fishing on the Rogue River has attracted stars such as legendary actor Clark Gable.

1 Clackamas River

- North Fork (12 miles)
- South Fork (4 miles)
- Main stem from Ollallie Lake Scenic Area to North Reservoir (54 miles)
- River Mill Dam to Carver (12 miles)

2 Deschutes River

- Upper Deschutes: various segments from Little Lava Lake (headwaters) to Lake Billy Chinook (99 miles)
- Lower Deschutes: Pelton Reregulating Dam to the confluence with the Columbia River (100 miles)
- Source to confluence w/South Fork
- Source to confluence w/North Fork

3 Elk River

- North Fork (5 miles)
- South Fork (5 miles)
- Main stem from confluence of North and South Forks to Elk River Fish Hatchery (11 miles)

4 Grande Ronde River

- Confluence with Wallowa River to Washington border (42 miles)

5 Illinois River

- Deer Creek to Rogue River (46 miles)

6 John Day River

- North Fork from North Fork John Day Wilderness boundary to River Mile 20.2 above John Day Fossil Beds Monument (56 miles)
- South Fork from Post-Paulina Road crossing to Murderer's Creek Wildlife Area above Dayville (29 miles)
- Middle Fork from Crawford Bridge crossing to confluence with North Fork (71 miles)
- Main stem from Parrish Creek to Tumwater Falls (160 miles)

7 Klamath River

- John Boyle Dam powerhouse to California border (12 miles)

8 McKenzie River

- South Fork from Three Sisters Wilderness boundary to main stem, excluding Cougar Reservoir (21 miles)
- Main stem from Clear Lake to Paradise Forest Service Campground, three segments (16 miles)

9 Metolius River

- Metolius Springs to Candle Creek (14 miles)

10 Minam River

- Minam Lake to confluence with Wallowa River (45 miles)

Waldo Lake is known for being one of the three purest bodies of water in the world. On a clear day, you can see to depths of 100 feet.



The Deschutes River, known as the "Riviere aux Chutes," or river of falls, displays nearly 25 million years of history in its steep canyon walls.

11 Nestucca River

- Main stem from McGuire Dam to Blaine (23 miles)

12 North Fork of the Middle Fork Willamette River

- Waldo Lake to River Mile 1.5 near Westfir (43 miles)

13 Owyhee River

- Main stem from confluence with Crooked Creek to confluence with Birch Creek (42 miles)
- South Fork Owyhee from Idaho border to Three Forks (25 miles)

14 Rogue River

- Upper Rogue: Crater Lake National Park to River Mile 172.8 (42 miles)
- Lower Rogue: Applegate River to Lobster Creek Bridge (88 miles)

15 Sandy River

- Bull Run River to Stark Street Bridge (12 miles)

16 North Santiam River

- Little North Fork: Battle Ax Creek to River Mile 16.7 at Willamette National Forest boundary (7 miles)

17 North Umpqua River

- Mt. Thielsen Wilderness boundary to Lemolo Reservoir (6 miles)
- Soda Springs Dam powerhouse to Rock Creek (34 miles)

18 Walker Creek

- Source to confluence with Nestucca River (3 miles)

19 Wallowa River

- Confluence with Minam to confluence with Grande Ronde (10 miles)

20 Waldo Lake

- 6,672 acres, 13 miles north of Oregon Highway 58