

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

I am emailing in support of the new proposed motorized boat rules for the Lower Willamette River in Portland.

We live in a small neighborhood directly on the river next to Willamette Park in Southwest Portland. We enjoy canoeing and kayaking on the river whenever possible. Unfortunately, especially during the warmer months, the river is oftentimes unusable for us. This is because of the enormous amount and size of waves created by motorized boats pulling tubers, skiers, wakeboarders, and wake surfers. The wakes are oftentimes large enough to capsize a canoe if you aren't skilled enough to navigate them. Jet skiers also add to the problem. They go incredibly fast through this stretch. I have almost been hit several times. Now I tend to go out in the mornings or later in the evenings if possible to avoid the madness.

This stretch of the river sees thousands of SUPs, canoes, and kayaks, and motorized boats because the boat ramp at Willamette Park is one of the best places to access the river for boaters. It becomes a madhouse during the summer. Motorized boats could easily still use the boat ramp, go 5 mph north until they get past the Hawthorne, and enjoy their activities where they will be less disruptive of others.

Thanks,  
Caitlin