



State Scenic Waterway Report:

Chetco River

October 27, 2014

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
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Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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- A Community Meeting Transcription**
- B Submitted Written Comments**
- C Online Survey Report**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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.

STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate segments of the Chetco River in Curry County, Oregon, to determine if they qualify under the criteria of the Scenic Waterway Act for possible designation as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway; and to prepare information that would help inform a possible management plan for these river sections if they are selected as additions to the Scenic Waterway System.

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 1). The river ranges from a high elevation at around 3700 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 (USDA Forest Service, 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 1, along with nearby State Scenic Waterways.

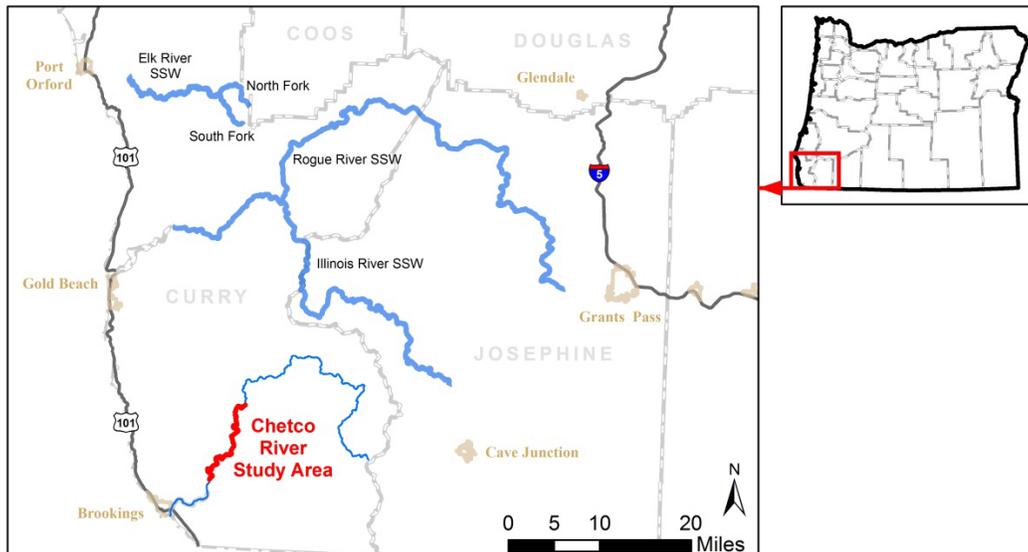


Figure 1. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon

The Chetco River Study Area referred to in this report is defined as follows: The Chetco River and all lands within $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

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 (see: Management Setting).

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 (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 (see: Recreation). 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.

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).

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a vote of the people in 1969, is administered under the authority of the State Parks Commission through the State 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 by designating them. The state program currently includes approximately 1,150 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 2).

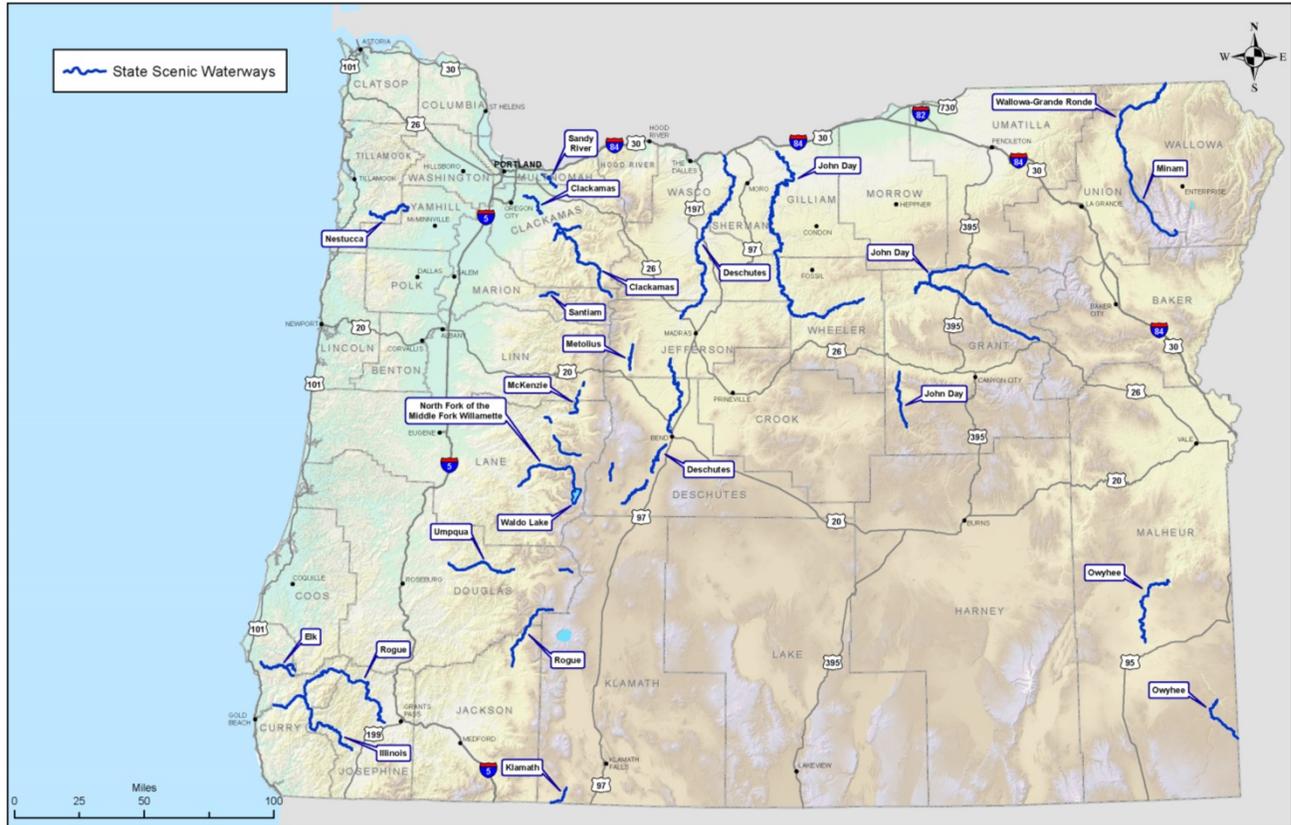


Figure 2. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

The Commission's rules specifically outline the manner in which the Scenic Waterways Act is to be carried out. The Act and the Commission's rules generally require proposed changes of land use within ¼ mile on each side of the river to be evaluated for their potential to impair the natural scene. Property owners wanting to build roads, houses, develop mines, cut timber or do similar activities must notify the Commission in advance. Within one year of notification, the Commission must decide if the proposal will impair the scenic beauty of the river. The Commission relies on its rules for each designated scenic waterway to make the determination. Other local and state agencies must comply with the Act; and the Commission is instructed to study other rivers for possible inclusion in the scenic waterways system.

Filling in the river, removing soil and gravel from the river or changing the riverbank in any way, regardless of the amount of soil or rock involved, requires special prior approval of the State Land Board and the Director of the Division State Lands. The Director of the Oregon Department of Water Resources is required to insure that new water rights issued within the scenic waterway will be used only for human consumption, livestock, fish, wildlife and recreation unless adequate flows can be assured to protect fish, wildlife and recreation. Dams, impoundments, reservoirs and some mining activities are prohibited within the scenic waterway corridor including tributary streams within the ¼ mile boundary. The complete Oregon Scenic Waterways Act and Administrative Rules are available on the OPRD website at: www.oregon.gov/OPRD/RULES/Pages/waterways.aspx

Designation Process for New Scenic Waterways

The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act (ORS 390.855 to 390.865) establishes procedures by which new scenic waterways may be designated (Figure 3). The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is directed to periodically study rivers or segments of rivers and their related adjacent land that may meet scenic waterway qualifications. With concurrence of the State Water Resources Commission, the Oregon State Parks Commission may recommend to the Governor designation of additional scenic waterways. Favorable recommendation is necessary before the Governor may designate a scenic waterway. The Governor may or may not choose to designate the candidate scenic waterway. Scenic Waterway designation by the Governor becomes effective the day following final adjournment of the next or current regular session of the Oregon Legislature. The Legislature could (by joint resolution) act to void all, or part of, the Governor’s designation. Scenic waterways may also be designated by popular vote through ballot measures, and the legislative assembly may also propose additional scenic waterways directly through the usual legislative process.

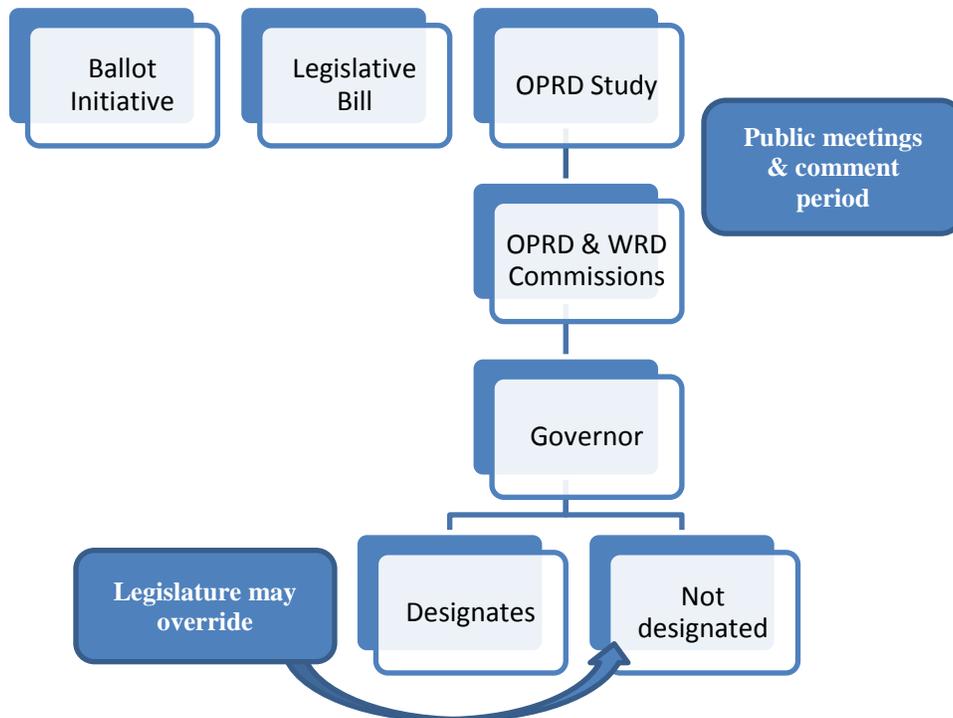


Figure 3. Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway designation options

ORS 390.855 establishes the three criteria for qualification which must be considered in the Commission’s study and report:

1. The river or segment of river is relatively free-flowing and the scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral or these conditions are restorable.
2. The river or segment of river and its setting possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality.

3. The river or segment of river and its setting are large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource quality or the recreation experience.

Before a river can be designated a State Scenic Waterway it must be found to meet these qualifications.

Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas

Initial coarse level screening of Oregon’s waterways indicated that this section of the Chetco River may meet the criteria necessary to be considered as a state scenic waterway. The Chetco River has been listed by the National Park Service (NPS) in the National River Inventory (NRI), a “listing of free-flowing river segments...that are believed to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance” since 1982 (National Park Service, 2014). Currently the upper portion of the Chetco, which was designated at the federal level in 1988, is no longer in the inventory, however, the eleven miles of river from the Wild and Scenic River boundary to the mouth, listed as having outstanding geologic and fish resources remains in the inventory (National Park Service, 2012).

The river was also listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987) in which it was found to have “outstanding recreational resources” and has been on various lists, including those developed as part of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) as a potential addition to the system (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1975); (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1988). A large portion of the river (from its headwaters to the National Forest boundary just above Loeb State Park) has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River since the passage of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1988. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified by the United States Forest Service are recreation, water quality and fisheries (USDA Forest Service, 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 T. , 2014). The ORVs identified by the Forest Service are consistent with the qualities of Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway system. The portion below the currently designated Wild and Scenic River is listed as having outstanding geology and fish values in the NRI (National Park Service, 2012).

Management of New Scenic Waterways

If the river segments studied in this report were designation as part of the Oregon Scenic Waterway System, the law requires OPRD to administer the area in order to protect and enhance the value which caused the scenic waterway to be included in the system. Management would be based on the “special attributes of each area” and give primary emphasis to protecting the scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The aim of the program is to maintain the scenic “status quo” condition of the area without “turning back the clock” on land developments. If directed to do so by designation, OPRD would classify the rivers, or segments of the river according to the level

of existing development, into one or more of six possible classifications. Once the classifications are set then specific guidelines for development are established as state rules. The classifications have been established by the Commission and are in use on other scenic waterways. The classifications and their general management direction are described as follows:

1. **Natural River Areas** are generally inaccessible except by trail or river with primitive or minimally developed shorelands. Preservation of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this classification.
2. **Accessible Natural River Areas** is reserved for relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by road or railroad. Management emphasis is to preserve the primitive qualities of the area.
3. **Scenic River Areas** may be accessible by roads but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Management seeks to preserve the undeveloped nature of the area.
4. **Natural Scenic View Areas** are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character while the opposite bank is accessible and developed. Preservation of the natural primitive qualities are sought after by management.
5. **Recreational River Areas** are readily accessible by road or railroad with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks. Management is aimed at allowing development consistent with what is present while protecting the view and other natural features.
6. **River Community Areas** are highly developed areas of commercial or residential uses in natural settings. Allowing development with an eye toward maintaining the natural setting is the aim of management.

The rules established for each classified river segment generally allow continuation of the use of existing structures or improvements. In fact, though some improvements would require notification/review/approval by the Commission, many others do not. For example, on some other scenic waterways, notification and approval is not 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 garages adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in home site 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 requiring approval. River classification and the rules or guidelines that follow determine exactly how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

If designation on the Chetco River takes place, then further work will be done to specifically outline the details of how each river segment would be managed. Public hearings will be held and the OPRD and Water Resources Commission must approve the final management plan. The following is the “best guess” of the appropriate classifications and management direction that could be applied to each river segment.

Segment 1: The segment from the Steel Bridge to the Old Low Water Bridge

A Scenic River Area may have nearby development, but for the most part is undeveloped and natural appearing. The dominant human influences in a Scenic River Area are agriculture and grazing. Roads may be nearby, but are lightly traveled and not easily seen from the waterway. A Scenic River Area is managed to protect the scenic quality created by the combination of agricultural and natural features. Agriculture and recreation activities compatible with existing land uses are allowed.

Segments 2&3: From Old Low Water Bridge to South Fork and again from South Fork to Loeb

A Recreational River Area category contains, mixed agricultural, residential and commercial development along the shore and adjacent lands. This type of area is often rural or pastoral in character and easily accessible from local roads. These areas are managed to protect the views from the river, allow development consistent with existing land uses and provide for a wide range of recreational activities within the scenic waterways.

In general:

- Development is allowed if it does not interfere with the natural scene from the river. On scenic waterways where the natural landscape is dominant, this means that development other than that requires screening. On other rivers where development is visible and dominant, development may be visible if it meets certain requirements for screening, density or use.

WATERWAY ELIGIBILITY FINDINGS

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.

The evaluation (see: Waterway Characteristics and River Segment Eligibility for Scenic Waterway Designation) uses a combination of tools to help determine how well, if at all, the segment is eligible for scenic waterway consideration (e.g., free-flowing nature of the waterway; scenic quality, as viewed from the river; and natural and recreational resources, including the ability of the waterway and its setting to sustain recreational use).

Decisions made during the evaluation of each segment were based on research of natural resource and recreational data available for the study area. Maps, aerial photographs, eye-level photography and video, on-site investigations (including floating the river, where feasible) and interviews with experienced users and recreation and natural resource managers including residents, local government officials and state and federal agency personnel.

Waterway Characteristics

Cultural Resources

Ethnographic Context

The study area is contained within the Northwest Coast “culture area”. This particular region has been delineated by the similarities shared by the numerous tribal groups living along the coast. Many of these shared cultural traits are a result of habitation in a similar environment. The Northwest Coast is an incredibly rich and relatively stable biotic environment providing numerous resources for Native American groups to utilize in the past (Aikens, Connolly, & Jenkins, 2011).

In the early 1800’s, the Oregon coast was occupied by a wide array of Native American tribes including various bands of Chinook, Tillamook, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Tututni, and Tolowa peoples (Suttles, 1990). Together these peoples make up a distinctive Northwestern Coast culture area characterized by maritime lifeways, elaborate technology, high population, sophisticated art and architecture, and sociopolitical complexity (Moss & Erlandson, 1993).

Ethnographic records suggest that the project area was previously occupied by the Althabaskan Chetco peoples. The Chetco, which was the settlers interpretation of the word “Cheti” which means, “close to the mouth of the stream” inhabited the area from near the mouth of the Winchuck to around Cape Ferrello (Unk, 2001). The Chetco likely spoke a dialect of the Tolowa

language and had similar, yet distinct, culture to the Tolowa who lived to the south near the Smith River (Allen, 2003). Some evidence suggests that there were up to nine villages in the area at one point, likely extending as far upland to encompass the entire study area and likely beyond (Hodge, 1912; USFS, unpublished report). During early contact with Euro Americans who documented their travels in the area, river navigation by Chetco peoples occurred approximately eighteen miles from the mouth (USFS, unpublished report). The Chetco hunted, gathered plants and fished as well as lived in the general vicinity of the study area (USFS, unpublished report). Plank slab homes built of cedar and sometimes more temporary ones of river grass provided shelter (Beckham & Hartman, 1978). Nearby high ground likely provided refuge during high water events (floods and/or previous large tsunamis like the one in 1700) and are discussed in Tolowa creation and flood myths (USDA-FS, unpublished report); (Rice, 2005).

Contact with Euro Americans had a significant impact on the Chetco. By 1854, an estimate made by the Indian Agent Isiah Parrish totaled 242, and by 1877 only 63 remained on the Siletz Reservation, where many Chetco were removed to shortly after it was created (Walling, 1884); (Hodge, 1912). Today some Chetco descendants are enrolled as members of the Siletz Tribe yet others are working to get recognized as a separate tribe.

Historic Context

Gold was discovered in Curry County, including the Chetco River, in the 1850's and initial settlement concentrated in areas where precious metal were found, primarily along the coast. Given a lack of direct transportation routes, the area remained relatively isolated but along with mining, a few settlers farmed and grazed the lands (USDA-FS, unpublished report). The valley through which the Chetco River flows was first settled by Euro-Americans in July 1853 by a company of twelve men, including Christian Tuttle from Michigan, A.F. Miller and James Jones from Iowa, Thomas Van Pelt from Illinois, and James W. Taggart of Indiana. Augustus F. Miller located near the mouth on the right bank of the river and kept a ferry and public house. He burned down the Native American houses in the area, driving the Chetco tribe from the north side of the river, reportedly the impetus for the fighting between the groups and disrupting what had previously been an amenable relationship between the Chetco and the settlers (Dodge, 1898). A post office named Chetco was among the earliest in southwestern Oregon, established March 3, 1863, with A.F. Miller as first postmaster. It was discontinued November 15, 1910. Old maps show this office at various places on the coast between the mouth of the Chetco River and the Oregon-California state line (McArthur, 1992).

Other industries in the area included cattle ranching and logging. Harrison G. Blake prospected at Gold Beach and then went into ranching to become one of the largest landholders in Curry County. He and Mary Geisel, were married in 1863. Their house remains a few miles south of Brookings and is occupied by the Chetco Historical Society. In an 1884 description, the Chetco had two ferries across it, and the port of landing occasionally welcomed merchandise and carried "away wool, hides and dairy products...There are no mills, either for lumber or flour making in Chetco" "but there are "two small fisheries" (Walling, 1884). Logging ramped up in the area after a mill went in around twelve miles up the river but particularly after the first railroad (including a bridge across the river) was built in the early 1900's and thrived through the 1920's and again after World War II

through the 1970's and 1980's (USFS, unpublished report). Brookings Timber and Lumber Company purchased its first mill up the Chetco River in 1907, and in 1912 built a railroad up the Chetco River. The mill operated until the mid 1900's. Large floods in the 1950's and 60's have changed the river channel, including filling in deeper pools and changing channel configuration (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014). The mouth and the estuary of the river were changed dramatically by the installations of the jetties in the 1960s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Loeb State Park is located on both sides of the Chetco River. The first land acquired for this park was a gift of 160 acres from the State Board of Forestry on July 11, 1958. It was named after Alfred A. Loeb of Portland, the previous owner of the land. Through a recreational patent on December 18, 1962, another 120.23 acres, containing a good stand of redwood trees, was acquired for \$2.50 per acre from the Bureau of Land Management who had set it aside for recreational purposes in 1908 (Armstrong, 1965).

Natural features

Landscape/geology

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. This section of the river was notable to early visitors who described it as "a sort of vein of boulders, some of them as large as 500 tons" several miles above which the river "assumes the character of a mountain torrent (Shunk, 1893)." 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. Large floods in the 1950's and 60's have changed the river channel, including filling in some of the larger holes (Maguire, 2001). Downstream of the study area, closer to the mouth, the jetties have also changed the river and the estuary.

Water features

From the headwaters of the river in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness (~3700 ft) to where the river empties into the Pacific Ocean near Brookings, the river drops an average of 66.6 feet/mile with an average discharge of 2,265 cubic feet per second (USDA Forest Service, 1993). Precipitation in the area decreases from an average of approximately 120 inches near the upper reaches to around 80 inches closer to the coast with the majority falling between October and June in the form of rain, along there is some snow in the upper reaches (USFS, unpublished report). Major tributaries in the study area include Eagle Creek, South Fork and Emily Creek.

The river is 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 river has somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow varies seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, springs, and some seasonal snow-melt. The river has been described as “one of the flashiest statewide” because of winter flows that can spike from “1,000 to 60,000 cfs” in a few days (Palmer, 2014).

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a water gauge on the Chetco which is located near the end of the study area, just above Loeb State Park near Second Bridge. The quantity of water, as demonstrated in Table 1, varies substantially over the year, with the late fall through early spring months have the highest flows, and late summer and early fall have the lowest. The lower section of the river also has the benefit of being spring-fed.

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)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean cfs	5,110	4,250	3,910	2,520	1,230	632	204	117	180	532	3,130	5,370

Below is a hydrograph of expected monthly streamflow for the Chetco River. These values represent modeled natural streamflow (50% exceedance flow) minus estimated consumptive use. For a detailed description of the methodology used to develop these values, please refer to the report titled Determining Water Availability in Oregon (OWRD Open File Report SW 02-002).

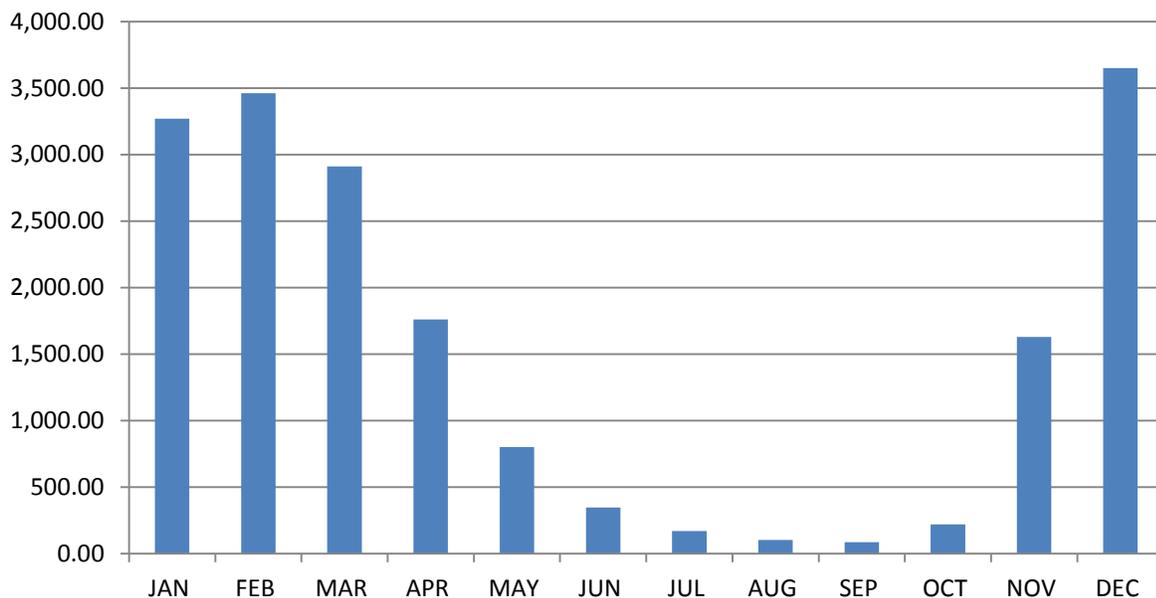


Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation for the Chetco River. Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS). Annual volume at 50% exceedance in Acre-Feet. Source: Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

The maximum discharge was recorded at 76,100 cfs in November 1996 with a minimum discharge 45 cfs recorded in October 1974 (Figure 5). During the floods that occurred in 1964, before the period of record, the discharge was reported at 85,400 cfs (Farnell, 1981).

Water quality is listed as an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) by the USFS based on the “striking color and clarity” which contributes to both recreation and the quality of the river for fish and wildlife (USFS, 1993). The Chetco River is the source of water for the communities of Brookings and Harbor, Oregon.

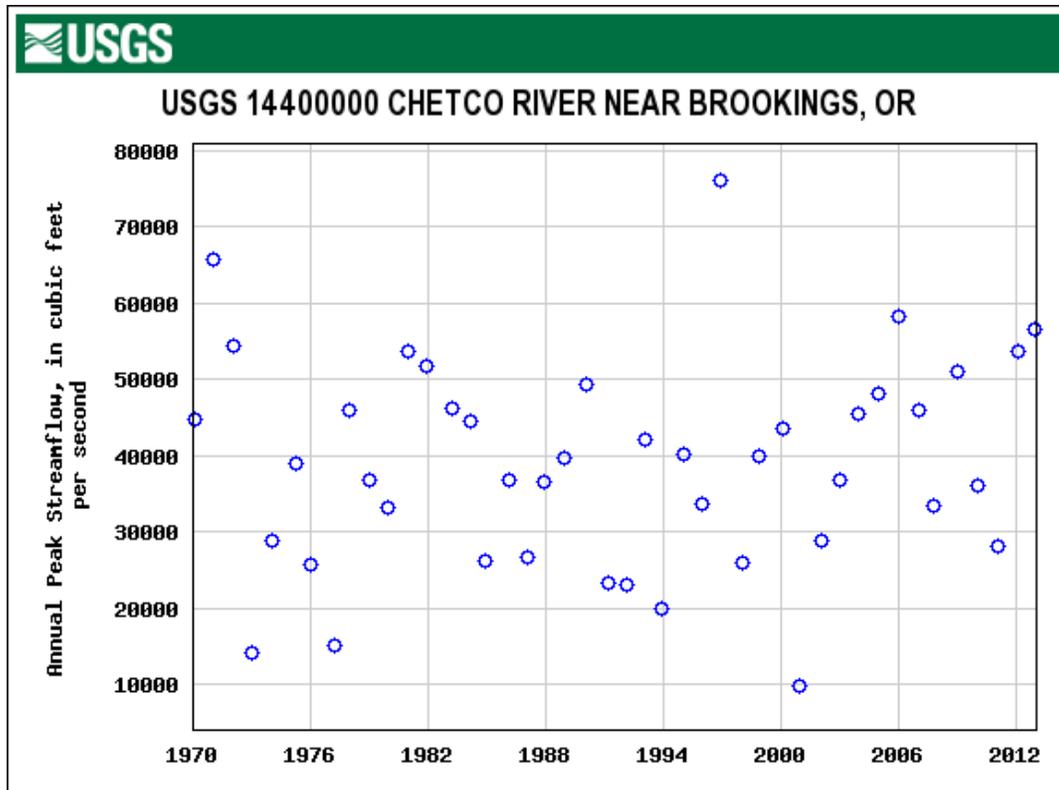


Figure 5. Peak streamflow as recorded by the USGS near Brookings on the Chetco River (1970-2013)

Based on his research, Farnell (1981) found that there were grounds to determine the Chetco navigable from its mouth to river mile 18.5, near the South Fork, at the start of segment two of the study area. The basis of Farnell’s claim was the “carriage of supplies by early settlers, a commercial fishery, lumber carriage in the lower reach...and present heavy use by commercial guides (Farnell, 1981). DSL has not since conducted an official navigability study for the Chetco pursuant to ORS 274.400-274.412. The Chetco River has been determined by Federal courts (in 1994) to be navigable from the mouth to “at least RM 11 (Department of State Lands, 2014).”

Ecoregion

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 (Coastal Siskiyou) along with the Coast Range Ecoregion (Southern

Oregon Coastal Mountains). The ecoregions in the vicinity of the study area, shown in red, are shown in Figure 6, below.

The *Klamath Mountains Ecoregion* is further described by the Chetco Watershed Council (Maguire, 2001) as

“Highly dissected, folded mountains, foothills, terraces, and floodplains occur and are underlain by igneous, sedimentary, and some metamorphic rock. The mild, sub-humid climate of the Klamath Mountains is characterized by a lengthy summer drought. It supports a vegetal mix of northern California and Pacific Northwest conifers. A portion of the Chetco River watershed...include[s] the Coastal Siskiyou, the Redwood Zone and the Serpentine Siskiyou. The Coastal Siskiyou reflect the steep southwest mountains located within 60 miles of the coast. The Redwood Zone occurs in a small portion of southern Curry County, near the California border. Finally, the Serpentine Siskiyou are the southwestern Oregon mountains with soils derived from serpentine.”

The Coastal Siskiyou are the ecoregion at the upper end of the study area, a transitional region still modified by the ocean, with a blend of northern and southern vegetation and high species diversity (Figure 6). Key characteristics taken from the Watershed Council assessment (Maguire, 2001) include:

- A wetter and milder maritime climate than elsewhere in the ecoregion with productive forests on a dissected, mountainous landscape
- High stream density within the watershed
- Moderate climate with mean temperatures ranging from 38/50 F in January to 50/76 in July and average annual precipitation of between 70-130 inches.
- Stream channels with a mix of gravel, cobbles and bedrock

The *Coast Range Ecoregion* is further described by the Chetco Watershed Council (Maguire, 2001) as

“The Coast Range contains highly productive, rain drenched coniferous forests that cover low elevation mountains. Sitka spruce forests originally dominated the fog-shrouded coast, while a mosaic of western red cedar, western hemlock, and seral Douglas-fir blanketed inland areas. Today, Douglas-fir plantations are prevalent on the intensively logged and managed landscape. A portion of the Chetco River watershed is situated within...the Southern Oregon Coastal Mountains. The Southern Oregon Coastal Mountains include the southern coastal area from Bandon to Brookings, extending inland from 5 to 20 miles.”

The Southern Oregon Coastal Mountains are the ecoregion at the lower end of the study area, a transitional mountainous area with an ocean-modified climate (Figure 6). Key characteristics taken from the Watershed Council assessment (Maguire, 2001) include:

- Complex geology, like that of the Siskiyou Mountains, but with lower mountains that aren't as dissected
- High stream density due to high precipitation, moderately steep gradients and fractured geology.
- Moderate climate with mean temperatures ranging from 36/52 F in January to 52/76 in July and average annual precipitation of between 70-140 inches.
- Stream channels with a mix of gravel, cobbles and bedrock

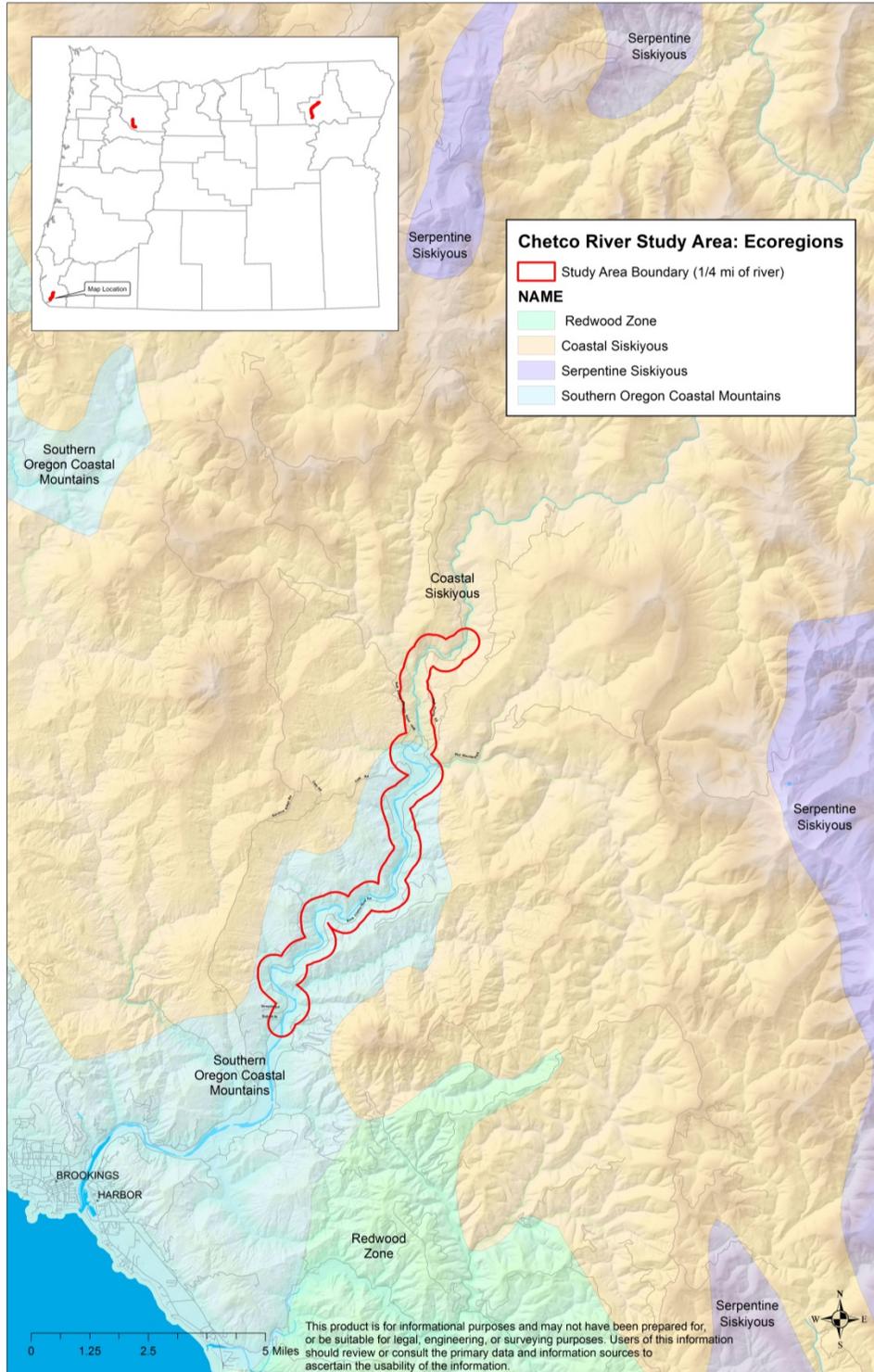


Figure 6. Ecoregions surrounding the Chetco River study area

Vegetation

The upper reaches of the assessed area are more pristine than the lower reaches. Development and recreational use in the lower reaches has resulted in sporadically abundant weed infestations and evident human modification of the landscape. The forests at Alfred A. Loeb State Park (Loeb) range from very recently logged areas, young second growth forests (including some redwoods) to some of the oldest of a very few, old-growth, redwood forests in the state (OPRD, 2003). Rare plant communities found in the vicinity of Alfred A. Loeb State Park include the 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).



Myrtle groves within the campground at Loeb

Riparian vegetation of gravel bars and wet toe-slopes with soil is typically characterized by white alder, Oregon ash, willows, coltsfoot, torrent sedge, and California wild grape. Wet rock outcroppings and mossy streamside cliffs are often colonized by interesting communities of ferns, bryophytes, and flowering forbs. Conifers are infrequent in the riparian zone. Upland habitats adjacent to the waterway are usually mixed conifer and broadleaf forest composed of douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, pacific madrone, canyon live oak, tanoak, and alder. Vine maple, californian beaked hazelnut, oceanspray, and swordfern are common understory plants. 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.



Mimulus cardinalis, the scarlet monkeyflower provides color along the banks of the Chetco River

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

There is habitat for a few relatively rare, but unlisted plant species including the giant purple trillium (*Trillium kurabayashii*), shown below in Table 2. The old-growth forests at Loeb and the surrounding USFS lands are rare in their own right (as some of the only redwoods in Oregon and some of the largest remaining myrtle trees) support a number of listed wildlife species, described below in the fish and wildlife section.

Table 2. At-risk plant species documented in study area¹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
<i>Arcangeliella camphorate</i>	fungus			S1
<i>Dudleya farinose</i>	Sea-cliff stonecrop			
<i>Lathyrus delnorticus</i>	Del Norte pea			
<i>Orthodontium gracile</i>	Moss			S2
<i>Orthodontium pellucens</i>	Moss			S2
<i>Trillium kurabayashii</i>	Giant purple trillium			S2

¹ Source: ORBIC. State heritage rankings 1-4; 1=extremely rare to 4=concern.

Fish and Wildlife

Mammals and birds present in the general area include black bear, black tailed deer, elk, rabbits, mice, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, mountain lion, beaver, raccoon weasel, martins, otters, quail, song-birds, owls, buteos, raptors and pelagic birds (USDA-FS, unpublished report). Salmonids native to the Chetco River watershed include chinook, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout although information about historic numbers and distribution is not well understood (Maguire, 2001); (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014). A table detailing the life history patterns of anadromous salmonid in south coast watersheds is available in the Chetco River Watershed Assessment (Maguire, 2001).

Generally salmonoids are believed to be present either in the main-stem of the Chetco or its tributaries as spawning adults, eggs, or young for much of the year, although it varies by species as the life cycle of each varies. Other fish known to occur in the area include Pacific lamprey, three-spined stickleback, and assorted sculpin (USDA Forest Service, 1993). Lots of newts (some people say the river should be called the “Newt River”), skunk, various birds as well as a few non-native crawfish were noted during the field visit.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Animal Species

At-risk wildlife species are those experiencing population declines or are otherwise at risk. They include federal endangered, threatened, candidate species and species of concern; state endangered, threatened, and candidate species; state critical and vulnerable species, and species with a state Heritage rank of S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability), and S3 (rare, uncommon, or threatened). This list was determined by compiling documented species occurrences in databases maintained by ORBIC, USFS, eBird, ODF, and ODFW, as well as potential habitat within the study area buffer determined from the Oregon GAPS vegetation project. 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 (Table 3). None of these species were found during the course of the present study, although specific animal surveys were not conducted.

Table 3. At-risk animal species occurrences in study area¹

<i>Scientific Name</i>	Common Name	Occurrence	Federal Listing	State Listing	State Rank
<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	Western toad	Present		SV CS	S4
<i>Aneides ferreus</i>	Clouded salamander	Present		SV CS	S3S4
<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Coastal tailed frog	Present	SOC	SC	S3
<i>Batrachoseps attenuatus</i>	California slender salamander	Present			S3
<i>Plethodon elongatus</i>	Del Norte salamander	Present	SOC	SV	S4
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog	Present	SOC	SC/SV CS	S2S3
<i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	Southern torrent salamander	Present	SOC	SV CS	S3
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	Vicinity			S3
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	Vicinity			S3
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled murrelet	Present	FT	ST CS	S2
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Bufflehead	Present			S2B
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common nighthawk	Vicinity		SC	S5B
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-tailed kite	Vicinity			S2B,S3N
<i>Grus canadensis canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane	Vicinity			S3N
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	Vicinity		SV CS	S4B,S4N
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted chat	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S4B
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis's woodpecker	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B,S2?N
<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	Mountain quail	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed pigeon	Present	SOC	CS	S3B

<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked grebe	Potential		SC	S1B,S4N
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple martin	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western bluebird	Present		SV	S4B,S4N
<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	Northern spotted owl	Present	FT	ST	S3
<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Coho Southern Oregon Coast ESU	Present	FT	SV	S2
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead, winter Klamath Mountains Province ESU	Present			S2S3
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Chinook, fall Southern Oregon Coast ESU	Present		SV	S2
<i>Pomtiopsis binneyi</i>	Robust walker	Present		SV	S3
<i>Arborimus albipes</i>	White-footed vole	Potential	SOC		S3S4
<i>Arborimus longicaudus</i>	Red tree vole	Potential	PS:FC	SV CS	S3
<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Ringtail	Vicinity		SV	S3
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	Present	SOC	SC CS	S2
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired bat	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3S4
<i>Martes Americana</i>	Pacific marten	Present		SV	S3S4
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared myotis	Potential	SOC		S4
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged myotis	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	Potential	SOC		S3
<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Western gray squirrel	Potential		SV	S4
<i>Actinemys marmorata marmorata</i>	Western Pond Turtle	Present	SOC	SC CS	
<i>Lampropeltis zonata</i>	California mountain kingsnake	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4

¹ FE: Federally endangered; FT: Federally threatened; FC: Federal candidate for listing; SOC: Federal Species of Concern; ST: State threatened
SC: State critical; SV: State vulnerable; CS: Conservation Strategy; S1: Critically imperiled in the state; S2: Imperiled in the state; S3: Rare, uncommon, or threatened in the state; S4: Apparently secure; S5: Widespread; B: Breeding; H: Historical occurrence; N: Non-breeding

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). Historically the population was likely a “fair sized run” and although coho currently exist along the entire study segment, the population has “diminished greatly” from historic conditions (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014); (Maguire, 2001). Identified key limited stresses and threats include “degraded riparian forest conditions...lack of floodplain and channel structure” along with altered hydrologic function, development and impaired water quality, particularly in the lower river channel and tributaries (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014).” The highest priority recovery actions include increasing instream flows, improving timber harvest practices, increasing large woody debris and structure, increasing riparian vegetation and improving off-channel habitats (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014).



Clouded salamander, a sensitive species documented in the study area (image source: ODFW)

Recreation

The Chetco was also listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having “outstanding recreational resources”, particularly for salmon and steelhead fishing along with drift-boating and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including canoeing, power-boating, kayaking and rafting and “other recreation” which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (ODOT, 1987). Fishing, coupled with diverse boating activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Chetco River.

Access

Two primary roads, the North and South Bank Chetco River Roads provide access to the study area, along with associated USFS spur roads. The primary boat launch areas include the major river bars managed by the USFS, notably Miller, Nook, and Redwood bars along with South Fork. Access to the river is also possible near the Steel Bridge at the beginning of the study area, along with access via trails in the area, namely the Chetco Gorge Trail (#1112). Loeb, South Fork, Redwood, Nook and Miller bars all provide relatively easy access to the river and can accommodate both vehicles and trailers. Steel Bridge has very limited parking and is primarily used by kayakers to access the Chetco Gorge section of the river. Kayakers will also put in higher up on the river, both in the upper Wilderness section (which requires a difficult hike-in, made more challenging following the 2002 Biscuit Fire) and also at a small put-in site with limited parking across the river from privately held Tolman Ranch on USFS road 1917-067.

Focal points

The majority of recreation focal points, with the exception of Alfred A. Loeb State Park (Loeb), are minimally developed and dispersed locations within the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest. The only truly developed campground in the study area is Loeb State Park managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Loeb State Park, nestled within a grove of myrtlewood trees, provides approximately 45 electrical campsites with water, three rustic log cabins that face the river, flush toilets and hot showers. The park, which is approximately 320 acres, is mostly undeveloped (except for the campground and day-use area) and has an annual overnight attendance of approximately 20,000 and day-use attendance of on average, around 118,000/year (Figure 7). Access to the Riverview Trail, which parallels the river and meets up with the Redwood Nature Trail which provides a pleasant, moderate 1.2 mile loop hike (FS #1111), accessed from the day-use area at Loeb or a USFS trailhead. The trail allows visitors to see redwoods, mature myrtlewood, tanoak and Douglas-fir trees and seasonal wild flowers.

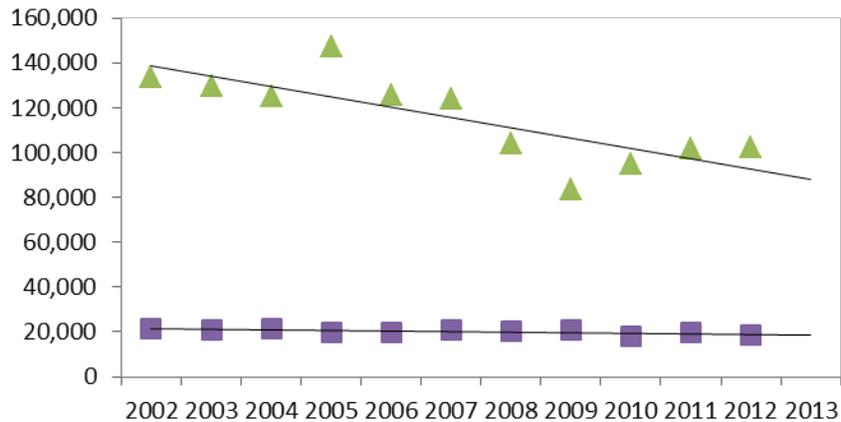


Figure 7. Approximate day-use and camping visitation at Alfred A. Loeb State Park (2002-2013).

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (Gold Beach Ranger District) maintains several (minimally developed, but not quite dispersed) campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including South Fork Camps, Redwood Bar, Nook Bar, and Miller Bar, all accessed from the North Bank Chetco River Road (which becomes FS Rd 1376). They previously had a campground at Little Redwood which they have closed. The use-season for the first-come-first served river bar campgrounds is mid-May to late September. South Fork Camps is located at the confluence of the South Fork of the Chetco, approximately 40 minutes from Brookings. Activities include picnicking, swimming, scenic enjoyment, floating and other forms of non-motorized water sports, along with tent, camper and small trailer camping. Facilities include restrooms and river access, visitors are asked to pack-out their trash. Redwood, Nook and Miller Bars are located a few miles apart and are approximately 30 minutes from Brookings and popular for camping (tent, camper or small trailer), picnicking, fishing, swimming, floating, water play and scenic enjoyment. Facilities include

seasonally placed porta-potties, trash collection and river access. Those wishing to float on the Chetco can find a no-fee, no commercial, self-service registration station near Miller Bar.

Important recreational features within the study area are presented in Table 4, including access points and key locations for various types of water-dependent and water-based recreation along the Chetco River.

Table 4. Important recreational features within the study area

Key feature	River Access	Fishing	Boating/ floating	Major Rapids	Swimming/ wading	Camping	Other water-based recreation
Steel Bridge	U	X	X		X	Di	X
Chetco Gorge		X	X	X	X	Di	X
South Fork	M	X	X		X	M	X
Nook Bar	M	X	X		X	M	X
Miller Bar	M	X	X		X	M	X
Loeb State Park	D	X	X		X	D	X

X-present; U-Undeveloped; M-Maintained (e.g., some facilities); Di-Dispersed; D-Developed

Types of use

The Chetco is well known as a destination fishing river, however it is also beloved by locals for its swimming holes, scenery, camping, hiking, and hunting. The Chetco has two seasons of peak (and different) use with a relatively quiet period in between, when locals describe the river “taking a break,” however, there are year-round recreation opportunities (Table 5). In fall and winter months, the primary uses include fishing for salmon and steelhead, both on the river (e.g., driftboats) and from the banks, along with some whitewater enthusiasts.

Table 5. Recreation use seasons within the Chetco River study area

Recreation Use	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fishing												
Camping												
Paddling												
Hiking, sightseeing etc.												
Swimming/wading												

In the spring the river receives less pressure from visitors, until the summer recreation season starts and use shifts to bank-based activities such as camping (primarily on the river bars and at

Loeb), wading, hiking, along with swimming, fishing and recreational boating (including inner tubes and similar inflatables), sightseeing and four-wheeling.

The Chetco is described as a “splendid South Coast river” that provides a “solitude and wilderness experience” with excellent bank and boat fishing (Schuhmann, 2012). As early as the around 1913 fishing, including via drift boats, has occurred on the Chetco as high up as the South Fork, but more often from the bars slightly lower down like Miller Bar (Farnell, 1981). The Chetco is currently known primarily for its “superb winter steelhead” but also for its fall chinook run (one of the “strongest and biggest in the state”), and is listed among the best salmon fishing rivers in Oregon (Schuhmann, 2012). Anglers (from the banks and in drift boats) concentrate in the river areas below the South Fork but have in the past used the area up to the Low Water Bridge down to areas below the study area. The salmon fishing season starts with fall rains and extends through December with winter steelhead extending fishing from December through March (Harvey Young, pers. comm, 2014). There is also year-round cutthroat fishing (Schuhmann, 2012).



Drift boats on the Chetco (Source: USDA-FS, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF)

A recreation user study was conducted for the USFS (Johnson, Shelby, & Moore, 1989) that helps capture some of the major users and perceived conflicts on the river and likely haven’t changed substantially since then, except that use of the river has likely increased. The types of anglers are split, approximately 60/40 between commercial and non-commercial users of the river based on estimates of USFS staff (USFS, unpublished report). The study found that during the fishing season, “crowding at prime fishing holes,” and “too many boats,” were most concerning to users. The ROS class for the recreation section of the river (which overlaps the study area) is classified as “roaded natural (USDA Forest Service, 1993).”

Respondents from the survey noted they come to the Chetco for:

- A high quality fishing experience in a natural setting

- Peace and solitude
- Relax and get away from it all

Since the visitor use surveys and an analysis of carrying capacity were conducted, motorized boat use has been prohibited in the study area (which was noted as a primary concern by users at the time) and the USFS has worked to manage use by limiting the number of commercial river guide permits issued (40 guides) and keeping track of all boaters by requiring self-registration. The USFS has a management standard that the carrying capacity of 34 boats on the river at any one time will be met 80% of the time (USFS, pers. comm., 2014). Based on monitoring of river use this standard is typically met, although reporting has not been consistent as staff levels have been reduced in recent years.

Experienced whitewater kayakers paddle the river during higher water months, when the challenging Class 4-5+ rapids of the Chetco River Gorge surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Candycane and Conehead rapids are a draw. Flows of around 2400 cfs are noted to be ideal for floating the gorge, however a range of around 500 (barely runnable) to 3000 cfs (high but runnable) is provided to whitewater enthusiasts (Keller, 1998). During the study visit, the river has running slightly higher than average, around 400-500 cfs, due to a small early summer storm (Figure 8).

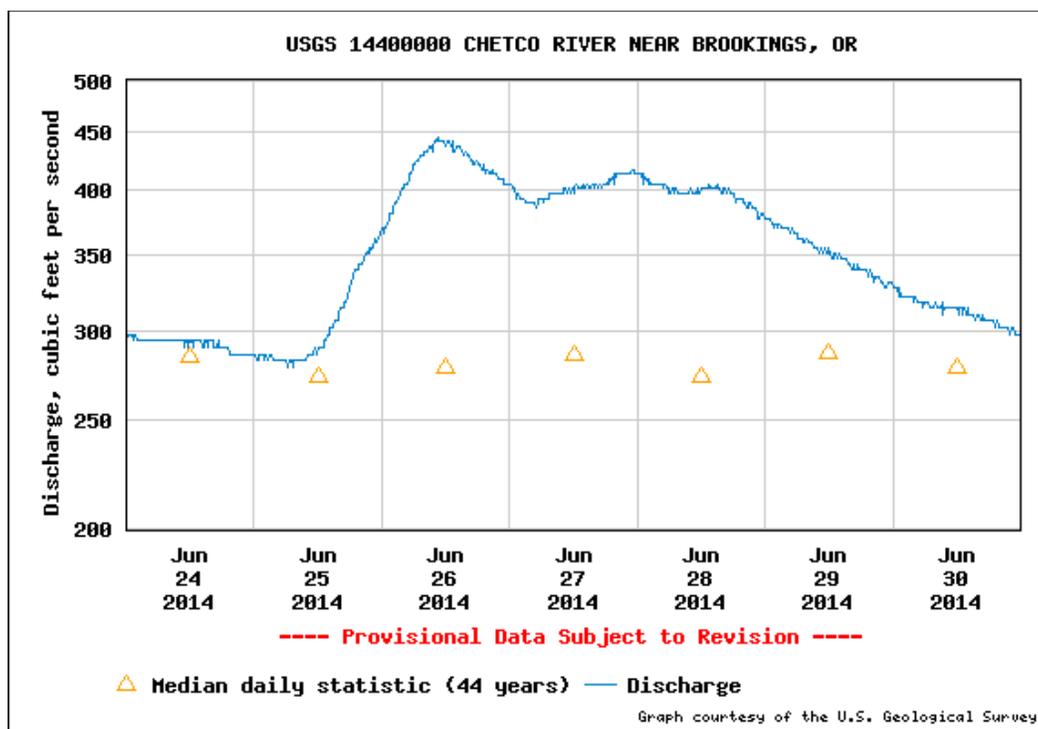


Figure 8. Water levels before, during, and after the study visit (June 26-27, 2014).

At these levels, some portaging around the major rapids in the gorge (partially for safety) was necessary but it provided an enjoyable float, with more opportunities to evaluate the area than would be afforded during higher water.

Floating on the river during lower water months has become an increasingly popular activity on the river along the entire study segment. Below the South Fork, non-motorized boaters can float for much of the year on a variety of craft, including sit-on-top kayaks, inflatable kayaks and rafts, and other flotation devices. One commercial guide has been issued a permit from USFS to run a limited number of small guided trips on the upper river and another guide is in the process of applying for a permit for the lower river, including at least a portion for the study area.



Recreation use at Redwood Bar on a summer weekend (image courtesy of Rogue River-Siskiyou NF)

Scenic resources

The view from the river and adjacent lands ranges from pleasing to outstanding along the entire study reach from the “steel bridge” to Alfred A. Loeb State Park. The fourteen mile study area is less steep (than the upper wilderness section of the river which is typically characterized as steep and heavily dissected) 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 and Coast Range Ecoregion.

The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads. 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); some 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 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 river and its surrounding scenery.

During the study visit to the river, staff filled out field inventory datasheets to help document scenic quality. The methodology is based on those used by federal land management agencies (e.g., BLM, USDA-FS) to conduct scenic resource inventories and includes a description of various landscape elements, including landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and cultural modifications. Along the study area, four locations were chosen that help characterize the river-scape and they are described below in Table 6-Table 9. The region of comparison for determining scarcity is the state of Oregon, particularly other riverscape views.

Table 6. Scenic resource inventory of the view just below the “steel bridge”

The view as seen from the riverbank is of moderate scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view in remote, forested setting.



Landform	Wide river bottom with steep valley walls. Cobble islands and river bars. Large braided shallow channels
Vegetation	Willow and alder dominated cobble bars with sedges, riparian hardwood forest, and second growth conifer (douglas-fir) forest above. Patches of late seral conifer forest in locations in the background.
Water	Wide, shallow river with a cobble bottom. Riffle-pool. Scattered small boulders. Very clear water.
Color	Bright to dark green vegetation. Grey, marbled, white and reddish rocks. Browns in the trees with some yellowish green moss.
Adjacent scenery	Riverbank, riparian stream terrace.
Scarcity	Rock types, water clarity, remoteness
Cultural modification	Steel bridge is visible, it does not detract significantly from the natural setting.

Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view within the Chetco River Gorge.

The view as seen from within a large boulderfield in the Chetco River Gorge (known as “Candycane Rapids”) is of high scenic quality; it is an exceptional river-scape view with unique geology, dramatic colors in remote setting.



Landform	Huge boulderfield in the bottom of a canyon. Colorful chert-like striped (likely the namesake of the rapids) rock. Multiple whitewater channels and pools winding through the rocks. Steep forested canyon slopes with large rock outcroppings.
Vegetation	The canyon bottom is dominated by willow, alder and torrent sedge. The toe slope is dominated by alder, maple, coltsfoot, and sword fern. The upper slopes are dominated by late seral douglas-fir, live oak, tank oak and maple.
Water	Clear water with whitewater, which is turbulent in areas, particularly within narrow chutes between large rocks. Some deeper clear pools and eddies, sieves, reversals and chutes.
Color	Unique colorful rocks with reds, greens, purples, grays that is chert-like and heavily striped within exceptionally clear water. Patches of green moss. Lighter green alder-maple forest with dark green conifers and live oak create contrast in the upland vegetation.
Adjacent scenery	Forested canyon setting with some larger/older trees. Areas of mossy rock outcroppings. Interesting mix of tree species with lots of canopy height and diversity.
Scarcity	Unique rock types, substrate, water clarity, remoteness
Cultural modification	None.

Table 8. Scenic resource inventory of the view just upstream of Rainbow Creek

The view as seen from the riverbank is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view with interesting vegetation, colorful geology and clear water in an undeveloped setting.



Landform River bottom with steep low canyon walls. Large boulders in the bed and bank combines with cobbles of various sizes and a sandy beach/river bar to create rich textures and colors.

Vegetation Riparian alder, ash, coltsfoot, torrent sedge, California grape, willow and mossy rocks and some swordfern. Notable aquatic vegetation includes filamentous algae clumps in the foreground near the riverbank. Upland vegetation is dominated by douglas fir (some old, large trees), alder, maple, and tan oak. Some second growth conifer forest is visible along with a few live oak.

Water Clear, somewhat tourmaline green-hued water with some filamentous algae patches in the foreground. Some small rapids (Class II) with a rapid, glide, pool sequence.

Color Greens, greys and reds of the rocks dominate the view with some yellow green and brown in the riparian and forest vegetation. Somewhat tourmaline green hued (but still clear) water.

Adjacent scenery Forested canyon setting with some larger/older trees. Areas of mossy rock outcroppings. Interesting mix of tree species with lots of canopy height and diversity. Possibly artificially flat, modified river terrace above the river bank.

Scarcity Nothing individually was particularly scarce; however the remote feeling riverscape view was notable.

Cultural modification What appears to be an artificially flat, modified river terrace in the adjacent scenery above the river bank, while not visible in the view evaluated was noted.

Table 9. Scenic resource inventory of the view just upstream of 2nd bridge and Loeb State Park

The view as seen from the riverbank is of moderate scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view with interesting and colorful vegetation, exceptionally clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists (mostly on the river bar).



Landform	Flat, cobble bar with sandy river terraces; steep, low canyon walls, river channel with bends and straights that creates visual interest. Distant forested ridges.
Vegetation	Willow and torrent sedge on the river bars; riparian slopes of alder, ash, coltsfoot and alder, big leaf maple, madrone, tan and live oak with towering firs. Second growth fir on one slope.
Water	Shallow, fast-flowing glide of extremely clear water with somewhat tourmaline green hue; long glide with riffles.
Color	Multi-hued green and red along with grey bleached rocks; brown hues of dormant grasses and varying yellowish greens in the riparian and forest vegetation. Somewhat tourmaline green hued (but still clear) water.
Adjacent scenery	Cobble-bars; willow riparian areas with alder at the base of the slopes, with interesting ridges lines in the distance. Snags created visual interest. Some 2 nd growth visible in the distance.
Scarcity	Tan oak/live oak combined with late-seral fir; water clarity.
Cultural modification	RVs and trailer on river bar. Would be more numerous in the summer or on a better weather day.

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, much of it (namely the interesting Chetco Gorge) cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road. It is possible to access the river banks themselves without a great deal of effort (in many cases by vehicle), including from the USFS road near the Steel Bridge, off the Chetco Gorge Trail (#1112)

which may require fording the river during low water, along with vehicular access from the river bars (e.g. South Fork, Nook, and Miller).

More photos that capture the scenery of the Chetco River study area are available on the OPRD Flickr page at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/orstateparks/sets/72157646949323231/>.

Management Setting

Land ownership

The majority of the study area (~63%) is managed by the USDA United States Forest Service (USDA-FS) and includes lands within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest located within the Gold Beach Ranger District in Curry County, Oregon. Private lands, which make up 32% of the study area, include private industrial forest lands (primarily South Coast Lumber Co.) along with a mix of non-timber lands such as rural residential. Table 10, below, shows the break-down between public and private land ownership as does Figure 9 which shows the same thing spatially on a map.

Table 10. Approximate land-ownership within the Chetco River study area

Ownership type		Approximate percentage
Public	county	>1%
	state	3%
	federal	63%
	Total: 67%	
Private	private	16%
	industrial timber	16%
	Total: 32%	
Other*		2%

*Other includes gaps, water, roads and other things not attributed to a specific owner in the tax lot data.

Land use

The majority of land-use in the study area is forestry (including federal forest lands) followed by agriculture and range-lands along with rural residential and recreation. Livestock grazing occurs on some land adjacent to the Chetco River, including near the confluence of the South Fork.

The rural residential community known as “Wilderness Retreat” is located near the confluence of First Creek and includes several homes along the south bank of the Chetco, a few of which are visible from the river as they sit up on a high embankment, however, most of them are screened at least partially with vegetation. The river in this study segment is crossed by two bridges (not including the historic bridge known as the “low-water crossing”) and has a road paralleling it for much of the study area. However, the road is not visible from the river for the majority of the study segment.

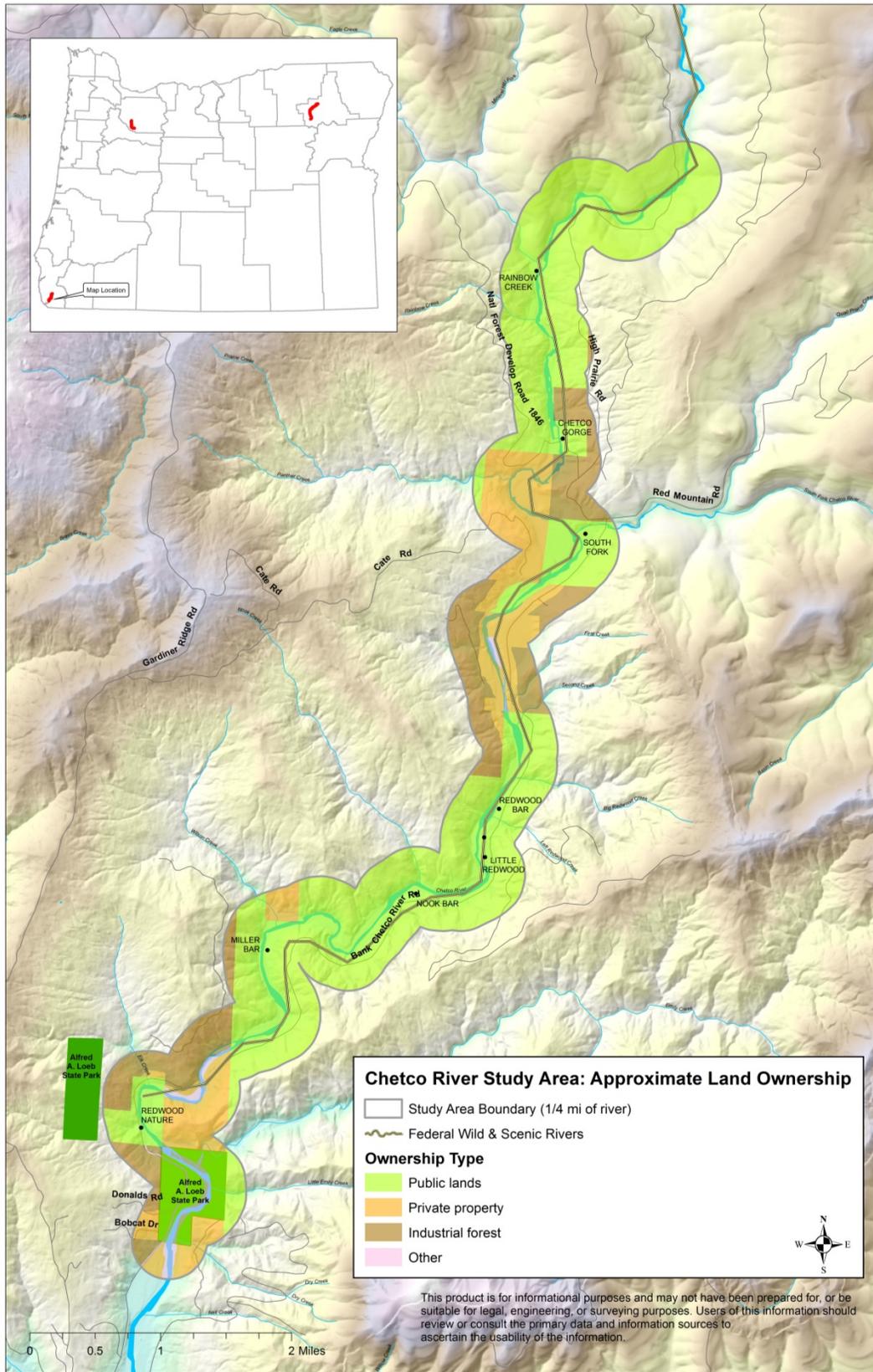


Figure 9. Approximate land ownership types within study area

Application of Scenic Waterway Criteria

1) Upper Section: Steel Bridge to Old Low Water Bridge (USFS Road 1846)

The upper section of the study area **meets** the eligibility criteria (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 various seasonally but 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.”

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 (#1112) 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.

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.”

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 (USDA Forest Service, 1993). Fishing on this section, 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 in this section.

Recreational boating is becoming increasingly popular in this 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 by-passed 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.

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.

It appears that this section meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain the existing 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 critical habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statute requires that both criteria be met.

2) Middle Section: Old Low Water Bridge to South Fork

The middle section of the study area **meets** the eligibility criteria (ORS 390.855).

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 Chetco flows within natural banks in this section, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the roads and former bridge, along with some impacts from timber harvest and grazing. As previously noted the river is also naturally flowing throughout the whole length of the river and has generally regular flows.

Scenery

The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section 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 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. 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. The character of this section is generally primitive with only a few infringements on the naturalness of the corridor. The developments that do exist (primarily the vacation rental property and the USFS recreational area, which while below the South Fork is visible from this section) are so localized that their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general naturalness of the area.

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, and some of this segment 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 day-use area. 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

This section of river has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River 1988. The river was found to be outstanding for recreation, water quality and fisheries (USDA Forest Service, 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 T. , 2014).

This segment includes dispersed camping on USFS property and at the maintained property at South Fork. Day-use pursuits including recreational fishing hiking and non-motorized boating are also popular. Fishing on this section, 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 popular put-in), commercial use is limited in this section.

Recreational boating is becoming increasingly popular in this section, with access possible via USFS roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. This section of the river is generally wide enough for rafts, but portaging may be required at low water. It is floatable at various water levels in hard-shell, sit-on-top, and inflatable kayaks. Fishing is possible, however recreational fishing use, is lower than the lowest sections in the study area. Hike-in access from the Chetco Gorge trailhead 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.

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. 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 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.

It appears that this 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 public access to the river 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 critical habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statute requires that both criteria be met.

3) Lower Section: South Fork to Alfred Loeb State Park.

The lower section of the study area **meets** the eligibility criteria (ORS 390.855).

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 Chetco flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the roads and bridge, along with some impacts from grazing on private lands, forest management and logging activities. As previously noted the river is also naturally flowing throughout the whole length of the river and has generally regular flows.

Scenery

The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in this section is moderate, but pleasing with largely primitive river-scape views of interesting and colorful vegetation, exceptionally clear water in an area used seasonally by relatively large numbers of recreationists. This lower segment is primarily primitive, undeveloped, with some rural-pastoral features due to some grazing on private lands. There are only a few minor infringements on the naturalness of the corridor. Cultural modifications in this section include those made for the roads and bridge, along with some impacts from timber harvest and grazing, a few residential homes visible from the river and the recreation areas at the USFS managed river bars (e.g., 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.

Recreation and natural resources

This section of river has been designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River 1988. The river was found to be outstanding for recreation, water quality and fisheries (USDA Forest Service, 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 T. , 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 (Loeb) 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 provides developed camping along 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.

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. 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 Alfred A. 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 this 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 in the lower study segment indicates it 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 statute requires that both criteria be met.

PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS

On-going Scenic Waterways Program administration and promotion of waterways with statewide significance requires cooperation and collaboration between OPRD, stakeholders, property owners, and the local community. When determining whether the Chetco River would make a good addition to the program, OPRD reached out to members of the public to engage them in the assessment process and encouraged participation by offering multiple opportunities to provide input. The following methods were used to gather feedback on the study and to gauge public support for including the Chetco River into the Scenic Waterways Program.

Stakeholder Input

Early in the study process, OPRD engaged with property and business owners in the study area. Government agencies and organizations which may have an interest in the possible Scenic Waterway designation were also contacted. OPRD found that although property owners, including those that manage commercial forest land, had some concerns about how the potential designation could affect use of their property. During these discussions, it was explained that new regulations would be focused on maintaining the waterway's existing scenic character and that impacts from new development could be screened by installing new plantings. Stakeholders indicated acceptance of potential regulation when they understood that existing uses of the study area would be exempt from review, and that OPRD would re-engage with stakeholders during the development of a waterway management plan.

OPRD also reviewed preliminary study findings with United States Forest Service (USFS), a large land holder in the study area, to obtain feedback on the potential designation. USFS staff noted that recreational activities within the study area includes all forms of boating, hiking, swimming, nature viewing, fishing and camping. Well-developed access is provided to the recreation area from the North and South Bank River roads, as well as associated US Forest Service roads.

Written Comments

OPRD developed a webpage to provide information regarding the Scenic Waterway assessment process and to solicit input on potential waterway designations. The project website and an email address for submitting written comments were advertised in a news release and through a public notice in the local paper. At the publicized September 11, 2014 community meeting, comment forms were also distributed to members of the public. OPRD found that the majority of the submitted emails were generated through a national proponent campaign to express support for the designation of all three waterways. An analysis of other individual emails, letters, and community meeting comment forms also show strong support for including the Chetco River in the State Scenic Waterways Program. All written comments that were received have been attached to this report as Appendix B. A summary of written comments in opposition and support of

designating the Chetco River into the Scenic Waterways Program has been provided below in Table 11.

Table 11. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Chetco study area

Written Comment Type	Opposed	Support
Individual Emails and Letters	1	10
Community Meeting Comment Forms	1	5
Email Campaign	0	164
Total Written Comments:	2	179

Online Survey

From August 25th to October 15th, OPRD posted a link to an online survey for the Chetco River study area on the agency's 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment webpage. The survey resulted in feedback from 47 respondents. Surveyed participants were asked about what benefits or problems they associate with including the Chetco River into the Scenic Waterways Program. Through the survey, respondents could indicate support or opposition to one, two, or all three segments of the waterway being studied. Survey results indicated that 33% of survey respondents were opposed to designating one or more of the waterway segments, and 67% of the respondents were in favor of the designation. The complete results of the survey have been attached as Appendix C.

Community Meeting

In advance of the September 11, 2014 meeting, OPRD sent out a news release to all media outlets in SW Oregon and published a public notice in the Curry Coastal Pilot newspaper. In addition, a personal meeting invite was sent to approximately 76 property owners within the study area along the Chetco River. The meeting was facilitated by OPRD staff and was attended by approximately 55 members of the public. At the meeting, a short presentation was provided to describe the study process, preliminary eligibility findings, initial stakeholder feedback, and how the Scenic Waterways Program is managed by OPRD. Following this presentation, OPRD staff asked for questions and comments from members of the public.

During the meeting, OPRD staff fielded a variety of questions about what implications a new Scenic Waterway designation would have on properties along the waterway. Meeting voiced concerns about existing mining operations and asked how a Scenic Waterway designation could regulate that activity and protect water quality. There were also questions about what program funding would be available to monitor development activities and implement habitat restoration projects. In addition, meeting attendees asked questions about the review process for new development proposals. Although meeting attendees were disappointed that OPRD does not have funding to actively patrol State Scenic Waterways, or has funding for habitat restoration projects, the majority

of community meeting attendees did express support for the potential designation. Community members wanted to learn more about the designation process and showed interest in participating in the development of a future waterway management plan. A full transcription of the feedback received at this community meeting has been attached as Appendix A.

County Commission Input

To ensure that local government input was also included in this report, OPRD requested feedback on the Chetco River Scenic Waterways study from the Curry County Board of Commissioners. On November 5, 2014 the Commission will hold a meeting to review the findings from State Park's community meeting and to obtain feedback from interested citizens prior to responding to OPRD's request. At this meeting, the Curry County Commission is planning to pass a resolution in support or opposition to designating the river under the Scenic Waterways Program. Once this resolution is available, it will be attached to this report as Appendix B.

WATERWAY SUITABILITY CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study's eligibility and public input findings, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has concluded the Chetco River study area is a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway's program. Staff are recommending to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission that these findings be considered when determining whether this section of the Chetco River is suitable for recommending State Scenic Waterway designation to the Governor. A State Scenic Waterway designation is intended to recognize rivers which have outstanding scenic, natural and recreational values; reserved for the best of the best waterways in Oregon. Both local community members and input received from US Forest Service staff indicate that the waterway clearly meets the program's eligibility criteria.

The Scenic Waterways Program is designed to provide stewardship of rivers with statewide significance by balancing the protection of that resource with the development interests of property owners. This study has documented that land owners which have provided input within the study area have some concerns about how new regulations may affect future development of their property. However, these stakeholders were not strongly opposed to the possibility of new regulations focused on protecting scenic values as long as their existing development rights were maintained. At the community meeting, the majority of attendees indicated support of a new State Scenic Waterway designation for the Chetco River. In addition, the analysis of written comments indicates that there is significant support for including the waterway into the program. For all of the reasons identified above, OPRD has determined that the Chetco River study area is suitable for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program.

If this section of the Chetco River is designated into the Scenic Waterways Program, OPRD would re-engage with Chetco River property owners, stakeholders, agencies, organizations, and other interested community members during the development of a waterway management plan. Previously identified issues and concerns, as well as provisions to accommodate existing uses, would be addressed in the management plan. To provide responsible on-going management of designated Scenic Waterways, it is recommended that the State establish a new Scenic Waterway Program Fund for the development of needed public facilities and promotional materials. If the Chetco River study area is designated as a Scenic Waterway, this new program funding source should be utilized to develop and publish a water trail guide for the management area. The water trail guide would serve as an essential management tool for a waterway listed as having statewide significance. By making the guide available to the public, it would encourage environmental stewardship, promote outdoor recreation opportunities, reduce potential conflicts with private land owners, and promote safety for those recreating on the river.

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APPENDIX A

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Study

Community Meeting Transcription - Chetco Community Library

September 11, 2014

(Steve Kay, OPRD): Good evening, I'd like to welcome you to a community meeting, this is for a study of the Chetco River for the Scenic Waterways program. My name is Steve Kay, I'm the Recreation & Grants Community Programs Manager at Oregon State Parks. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to review the waterway assessment process with you tonight. We're going to present preliminary findings of whether the Chetco River would make a good addition to this program and then provide you some information on what exactly it means to designate a Scenic Waterway. After we complete a short presentation we are going to make sure we have lots of time for you to ask questions, provide comments and get your feedback on whether you think this river should be designated. So for those of you not familiar with the Scenic Waterways programs there are approximately, well there is 20 waterways that are currently designated, they were all designated in the 1970s and 80s. In Curry County there are two waterways currently designated, a section of the Elk and a section of the Rogue River. On this map the Scenic Waterways are shown in blue, there's also Federal, Wild and Scenic waterways shown in Green, over the last couple of years there has been a renewed interest in this program and the Governor's office has recently directed State Parks to take a look at three new waterways every two years for possible inclusion into the program, this is a study that we are undertaking and to provide geographical distribution around the state. In 2014, we are taking a look at the three waterways here shown in red so there's the Grand Ronde in Eastern Oregon, the Molalla River in the Willamette Valley and the Chetco River on the South Coast. Following completion of the study, State Parks is

going to prepare a report which will be delivered to the Governor's office and in the report State Parks will provide findings which evaluate the waterways eligibility based on certain criteria. First the waterway must be free flowing with no structures or dams and must have water flows able to sustain at least recreational... seasonal, recreational use on the waterway. The waterway must have significant scenic value as viewed from the river, the river must have natural values to support recreational use of the waterway. The eligibility criteria, it's pretty straightforward, but State Parks recognizes that in order for a Scenic Waterway to be truly successful it needs to have local community support. So, in our report to the Governor's office, we're also evaluating the feasibility of moving this designation forward. We're identifying issues and concerns and engaging public support in a variety of ways. We've established a project web page, the address is here in the bottom right corner, it describes the study process, and it lets interested citizens know how they could provide public input. During this process, we've been speaking directly with some stakeholders with different viewpoints and we want to understand the issues and concerns that are out there. For tonight's meeting we sent invitations to all property owners within the study area that we are looking at and community members that could not attend tonight's meeting are still able to provide input by submitting comments online, there's an email address scenicwaterways@oregon.gov and there's also an online survey which will be available until October 15th if you go to the webpage you can access that online survey. Although State Parks is required to study three waterways during this biennium it's important to understand that our agency is not seeking a particular outcome during this process and we're not advocating for new Scenic Waterway designations. Our agency's role is to objectively look at the criteria, look at the waterway and understand how the public feels about this possible designation. We want to see if it's a good fit for the community and we want to ensure that there are multiple opportunities for public input. So, based on both eligibility and feasibility, the Governor's report will summarize those findings to see if the waterways are a good addition. So for the next portion of this short presentation I'm going to turn it over to Laurel whose going to talk about the eligibility criteria and the findings that she experienced for the waterway.

(Laurel Hillman, OPRD): Good evening folks I'm not going to spend very much time on this because you folks know the river better than we do. So, this meeting is to provide a brief summary of what we've found so far and hopefully get in touch with folks who know more about the river and provide us some feedback on the things that make a river eligible for designation. So, this slide sort of summarizes briefly and Steve has already mentioned so far what the criteria are, that the river needs to be free flowing, it needs to have substantial, recreation scenic value, so far we've conducted a field visit to document the river conditions, assess the scenic quality and started to identify some outstanding features of the river, recreational features, natural resource features and ongoing discussions with experienced users and resource managers will also help us understand better whether or not this waterway is a good fit with the Scenic Water program on the basis of eligibility. So we need to look at natural values, scenic values and recreational values of the river and it would be really helpful for folks in this room who know and care about the river and live on the river and recreate on the river and understand features of the river could provide feedback to us on those characteristics that may or may not make the river eligible. The first criteria the river needs to be free flowing so we consulted with the Water Resources department and it is pretty much the easiest criteria, does the river have a major dam on it or significant divergence. So, if there was a major dam on the river publicly wouldn't qualify as a free flowing river and wouldn't be eligible for the Scenic Waterway program in that stretch. The next criteria are whether or not the river and the setting, the river setting is pleasing as viewed from the river. So, let me ask you guys, does anybody think that the view from the river on the Chetco is pleasing, does it meet that criteria. Is there anyone that does not think the view from the water on the Chetco has a pleasing view. Too many houses? Is there anything else that would make it not pleasing as viewed from the river in the study segment that we're studying. I don't know if folks looked at the maps before they came to the meeting but our proposed study area is from the Steel Bridge down to Loeb State Park which pretty much, except for the area right by Loeb, overlaps the current designation as a federal, wild, and scenic river. So, what we found when we floated the whole river from in the study section, from the Steel Bridge, down to Loeb and some of the

features that we found pleasing views, were the outstanding water quality, color of the waterway, some very interesting and unique geologic features on the waterway, and the remote setting with few cultural modifications to the view as seen from the river. So that's the key point is the view you see when you are on the river when you're fishing on the river, when you're recreating on the river, when you're enjoying the Chetco River. So here is one picture as viewed from the river...here's another picture viewed... does anybody know where this is? There's another view... so it seems to me based on the input that you guys gave right now it seems to meet the criteria that the view from the river is pleasing but we would still like to receive input on whether you think the view from the river is pleasing in this study segment so we have multiple ways for you to provide that feedback. Another criteria is whether or not the river has outstanding natural and recreational values, so folks can provide feedback to us whether or not you think that there are substantial outstanding natural resource and recreation values of fishing, swimming, boating, rafting, kayaking, water based recreation is one of the key features of the scenic waterways from the State Parks perspective. Does it have outstanding natural and recreational values, so it has to have those to qualify as a State Scenic Waterway. So as I said before, we really need your input on whether or not you can help us identify outstanding natural features, recreation use and then also your issues and concerns and potential opportunities. And now Steve is going to tell us a little bit more about what the Scenic Waterway program is and outline some of the concerns we have heard from folks before and we are still receiving your input for quite a while and there's multiple opportunities, and if there are folks that want to meet, if there are user groups, fishing groups, folks that want to provide feedback in a way that isn't just writing something down on a piece of paper, or sending an email we can also get together with folks in person and receive input on the eligibility and then your concerns potentially. So, just let us know which way works for you best.

(Steve): Thank you Laura. So by now you are probably wondering what are the implications of a new Scenic Waterway Designation for the Chetco River. It's important to understand that this designation is really only

provided to the best of the best of the rivers in Oregon. The river needs to provide exceptional outdoor recreation experience to its users. As with many programs there are benefits and obligations, on the benefits side, the program will encourage the protection of the existing natural, scenic and recreation values that are associated with the river so protecting what's there now is the goal, the designation can also be considered a badge of honor, that this is a special place in Oregon and it promotes the waterway for opportunities related to tourism or economic development associated with outdoor recreation, as far as obligations go, the designation does come with the need to develop a management plan and that will encourage the protection of those existing, natural scenic, and recreational values. Through the management plan certain new activities within a quarter mile of the waterway would be regulated and I'll provide more information as to what that entails in a few minutes here. Now a little bit about what could happen after this study's complete. So, following the review of the waterways, the Governor may make a decision or to move one of the waterways forward, two, three or none may get designated. The Governor may make that decision independently when we provide that report to him in January of next year or he may refer the decision to the legislature which is meeting in the first half of 2015. If a new waterway is designated, there will be a need to go back to the public and develop a management plan so that is not being prepared at this time because we don't know if it's going to move forward. The management plan would be to identify, previously identified issues and concerns, it would need to be tailored to accommodate all existing uses along the waterway and it needs to keep the goals of the program so that it does protect those existing values associated with the corridor. So in advance of tonight's meeting, we did reach out to property owners, business owners, organizations, those that may have a concern or interest in this study and I'm going to quickly list some of the common concerns for you, we're then going to review some specific aspects about the program which will address these concerns, so there's some common concerns and assumptions related to the program, they include, the designation could prohibit existing development and activity, the designation could require additional permits, add costs, and add time to the existing review process. The designation could prohibit the

removal of trees along the waterway and the designation could regulate recreational uses along the waterway. So to help address those concerns, I'm going to first let you know what this Scenic Waterway program does not do. With the Scenic Waterway designation State Parks does not regulate recreational activities that would be contrary to State Parks mission, we want to promote recreational opportunities. Addressing another assumption, all existing development and maintenance of all existing development is exempt from State Parks review, all ranching and all farm related activities like grazing, constructing fences, crop rotation, they are all exempt from review, when property owners need to cut trees for firewood or if there is a hazardous tree on their property, we don't review those kinds of activities. And then, finally State Parks, not everyone knows this, State Parks doesn't have jurisdiction over Federal land. So with the Scenic Waterway designation, the Federal Government, the Forest Service, may come to State Parks and ask for our comments during the review but ultimately they make their own decisions on whether to issue a permit for a timber harvest or whatever activity is being proposed on their property. So, now on the side that we would have some review, when new development proposals like a new house, or a new road is proposed, for example, an application is submitted to the county, when the proposal is located within a Scenic Waterway area, the county is required to notify State Parks, and we provide a review to determine whether or not the proposed activity is consistent with the management plan that was prepared. By state law, land use applications need to be reviewed within 120 days, typically State Parks reviews are three to four weeks, so we don't tend to slow up the county's process, and then through this process, new development is permitted as allowed by existing zoning. However, depending on established vegetation in the area or topography there may be a need to install additional planting to screen that development, typically management plans require screening within a certain time period, like 5-10 years allowing adequate time for the plantings to get established. Again, screening applies only to new development so the existing scenic qualities of the corridor are maintained. For commercial timber harvest, harvesters do need to notify State parks prior to tree removal, there already required to follow the forced practices act providing a buffer along streams with fish habitat, with a Scenic

Waterway designation, the harvester could proceed after State Parks review, again the management plan would allow for reasonable time period for the new plantings to be reestablished and that's to optimize the tree density and promote sustainable forest values through the replanting of the harvested area. So, that concludes our presentation and now is an opportunity to hear from you in just a minute. I just want to make a statement that we would like to give everybody the opportunity to contribute if they would like to. There's going to be probably a wide variety of viewpoints that are represented here so I just want everybody to keep that in mind as we are speaking. Once you've had the opportunity to make a comment or ask a question, please let's allow somebody else in the room to also do so. And the way that we are going to run things is that, this is going to be just an informal question and answer period, you can make general statements, whatever comes to mind, if you would like to make a comment that is on the record, we're going to do that at the end, after we do the questions and comment period. You can come up here, if you give your name and address, and you can make a statement, we will make sure that it is documented verbatim, otherwise we are going to include and summarize everybody's comments given here tonight. There is also comment sheets in the back of the room if you don't feel comfortable speaking in this environment you have that option as well. With that just raise your hand and we will be happy to receive your comments and do our best to answer your questions. You are first...

(Public): Talking about the review of activities I thought it was kind of a glaring omission that no mention of mining, so that's pretty much why I'm here to find out what impact mining has on the river and what impact it will in the future on the river and what protection the river has from outside companies that want to mine on our rivershed and you addressed timber but there was no mention of mining rights at all.

(Steve): So existing mining permits would not be affected with this proposal, new mining proposals would need to follow what is stated in the management plan which hasn't been developed and I'm not able to answer your question fully at this time, but for other management plans, mining is allowed when it is screened from view so mining in the river may not be an

option, but if it's within a quarter mile distance and it can be accommodated in a way that wouldn't impact the viewshed, then it could be a possible use.

(Public): Well your saying that mining doesn't make the water cloudy or dirty because the view has nothing to do with it if you are above the navigational part of the river such as up where the water originates and that's where the concern comes from because I just talked to a marine biologist at lunch today and he said that it's tiny, tiny crustaceans that the fish eat and they live in the rocks and sand of the river and they live above the navigational part of the river so you're talking about aesthetics and we're talking about pollution.

(Steve): Yes, and we're a different agency that regulates those type of things. DEQ issues permits for those type of activities, it's not something our agency makes a determination on. So, the goal of the Scenic Waterways Program is protecting the scenic character that's there now, that is the goal of this program.

(Public): So water clarity is an issue for you guys?

(Steve); It is an issue for our program in that we want to make sure that the recreational value is protected with any new activities, so, through the management plan we would specify what the threshold would be. If the primary recreational use is fishing and it was dependent on clean water then we would need to address that somehow in the management plan.

(Public): Hello, my name is Alisa Vallent (sp?), and I am a native Oregonian and longtime (inaudible). I recently went to law school and came back to Brookings to start a non-profit here called Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the kids with the signs earlier are members of the organization. Our goal is to protect the river for future generations and to protect the community that we love, I love, my family and friends love, so we're here, I'm here presenting Wild and Scenic Rivers to declare our support of Scenic Waterways .

(Steve): Thank you. Yes...

(Public): One of the issues that we have been having on a negative side is (inaudible) sudden (inaudible). And one of the issues related to Chetco is

that the trees have had to come down, and so under Forestry but they have indicated that there is not sufficient funding stream available to replace and it's really important when you're talking about a river that's so warm. Would this designation in any way help or facilitate rewater station under those types of circumstances.

(Steve): If there's a commercial harvest proposal then we would be reviewing an activity like that but if it was because of diseased or a hazardous issue with the trees, we have an unfunded program, and directive from the Governor's office, unfortunately, we're making the most with this program with our existing staff but we don't have a funding source for improvements along the waterway unfortunately. If the program gains in popularity that might be something in the future we'd see, I would hope so.

(Public): Since we already have a rigorous forest practices act in the State that requires reforestation, can you explain exactly what State Parks is reviewing when there is an industrial forest operator...(inaudible)

(Steve): I will need to refer that to someone who reviews these permits on a regular basis.

(Calum Stevenson, OPRD): What we are doing is the State Scenic Waterway Program is more of a cooperative effort between the land owner and State Parks and also ODF could have some reviews up the North Umpqua River, and it is mostly, for instance, up in North Umpqua there were issues like BLM had a trail, a recreational trail and so BLM came in on that because there was a forest project close to the trail and a logging company, actually a timber company said, ok, we'll move this timber project away from the trail so it doesn't have an impact, so that may be one specific example (inaudible), there are ways to cut that doesn't have those hard edges and you may say, can we make them rounded which is a little bit better on the visual aspect to round them off, that may help, you know there is the negotiation side with the forest practices act you've got five years to replant and you know, talking to the owner, seeing if it's possible to do the slash burn and get a little bit shorter time period than the five years but it's just part of that give and take to minimize on the visual aspect of the

river and get trees replanted as soon as possible so that, you know, it's not noticeable anymore so that you have those plants in there, so it's really a give and take, it's not a heavy handed regulatory, I've gone out there and talked to property owners that want to build a house, there again it's that negotiation, that back and forth, instead of (inaudible), have more of a neutral agreement, ...(inaudible) forestry projects, talking about mining, you know mining in the original rules for some of the rivers like the rogue is allowed but as Steve was talking about it is the visual aspects so then if there is a mining operation that is just upland from the river we can negotiate with them and say put some more screening there so you don't see it, our emphasis is from the river, floating down the river and you look up and see the natural beauty of the public river and sure there's a mining operation there but it's hidden from sight and we do care as an agency concerning pollution and everything like that but the (inaudible) is that aspect of things so that's the whole program is really low key negotiating including the timber lines. Did that answer your question?

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): Can you explain what provisions are made for public participation in development of the management plan?

(Steve): Well I can tell you how we would approach it now, it's been 40 years since the last one was developed and the world in Oregon has changed a lot, and expectations about citizen involvement have changed, though we would be certainly inviting all the stakeholders, all the property owners within the study area to the table to discuss their existing needs for their properties what they are planning in the future and in making sure that we can address that and we'd do be doing outreach with the community, the larger community as well that has their own goals and desires for the Chetco River, it's going to be an interim process, it's going to be multiple meetings, and multiple drafts that will need to be reviewed by the community through that process.

(Public): So it's been 40 years since scenic waterways has been adopted, is that what you're saying?

(Steve): Since the 80s.

(Public): So you have not done any management projects lately?

(Steve): We have not designated a new waterway but we do review development proposals within the existing waterways.

(Public): So you work with a committee but is it a committee that has developed it from you agency that they can go out and talk to the business people?

(Steve): Well there are four or five designated individuals in our agency that review the permits and when we receive a request for review then it's those individuals that reach out to the affected property owner or developer or whoever is involved. Does that answer your question?

(Public): Yes.

(Steve): Yes.

(Public): What happens if there is flooding and you're talking about pollution and all the erosion and trees and everything is uprooted and floating down river, do you guys come in and clean it all out, or does that change things? I mean, that's happened.

(Steve): How have you addressed that issue?

(Calum); I don't think we've had that issue in my time here, but you would, that is a very good question, I do know that State Parks probably wouldn't be involved directly, but I guess one example which may be what you are talking about is the Biscuit fire in June, we did have a lot of that, with the fire, the rain, stuff like that. Unfortunately, from the State Parks point of view there's not much they can do financially or anything like that, some of the property owners, DEQ or some of the other agencies are very much involved in that. In this State, DSL, Department of State Lands is actually the main agency that actually regulates (inaudible) ...pollution.. but if there is an issue like that, like in 2002 there was a boy scout camp...(inaudible) and we worked with them to actually replant so that the continuous runoff didn't occur and they have volunteers out there to replant the whole area in

cooperation ...(inaudible)...it is the property owner's responsibility to start replanting and it is within the boundaries of the Scenic Waterway and then so if you are going to come to us and ask if you can build your house we will say that you should put a vegetative screening in so...(inaudible)...

(Public): Well I have learned something about replanting here tonight but I'm curious if it is legal to timber harvest right down to the banks of the river, is there a setback?

(Steve): There is a setback , the Forest Practices Act requires a setback currently, if it's a fishbearing stream.

(Public): Do you know what it is? (Public): 75 feet. (Public): 75 feet. That's not much.

(Calum): There is right now new talk of actually from ODF expanding that with a lot of the research they did with the coastal mountain range to determine what the ideal setback is and working with the timber companies, not State Parks. But they are looking at expanding that, that has been something very recently that has involved studies that they have done and it really has a lot to do with how warm the waters get and so they do want to explain those boundaries but there again that's not State Parks jurisdiction.

(Public): (inaudible)...you were telling me what the setback...(inaudible..more than one person talking)...logging practices as far as I know, Stacy you know.

(Public): 100 feet on the Chetco.

(Public): That's what I thought. Thank you.

(Steve): So this program wouldn't be aiming at extending that buffer, if you're on the river and because of topography, if you're down in the hole, and there's adequate planting in that (inaudible) area already, there might not be a requirement to add any additional screening or any additional buffer to mitigate whatever impact is being created behind that if you can't see it. Yes Sir.

(Public): ...So I live within a quarter mile and have for 23 years...(inaudible)...and the Chetco had blown out....(inaudible)...are you going to take in the tributaries and different things too?

(Steve): It's a quarter mile from the main channel, it's what...yeah, it would include whatever is there

(Public): And then the forest practices back in the 70s, like the forest service, they cut right down to the creeks, I remember we used to go back and put logs back into the rivers...(inaudible)...because they figured out then that taking away from the shade of the rivers and the creeks were killing the fish, so then the big fish would go back then...(inaudible)

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): So the gravel mining people that mine above the second bridge there...(inaudible)

(Steve): If they have an open permit and in they're in a Scenic Waterway area they can continue their mining operation as they currently are. Yes Sir.

(Public): Down in the hole, you can see the size of the river, can private landowners, can they go on any of that up on the side or, if you can see it, can you be able to log on it?

(Steve): No, you can log it, but there needs to be a replanting plan which would be reviewed, which would ensure that the impact would be mitigated over time and a reasonable amount of time would be given for those new plantings to get established.

(Public): The State's already dug that anyhow.

(Steve): Yes, but, like he was talking about, there might be some fine tuning to optimize, or to minimize the impact, scenically, during the cut. The reviewers of the permits are better suited to explaining that than I am. But there are ways that that timber can be harvested and the goals of this program can be met through negotiations with the property owner.

(Calum): It does not forego clear-cutting, (inaudible)...most of mining has been on North Umpqua, we do and the operators do have to follow the Forest Practices Act and that's where we come in with the Forester from ODF and the property owner, and if there are issues, you know, we will address them in that medium. But, as I said, it will not affect the clear cutting. If we still have clear cuts that are done on the North Umpqua they said we'll just have to say can you speed up the (inaudible) to minimize the visual aspect. If not, this program is not meant to stop it, now if it gets down to you know, clear cutting right down to the river I don't think the Forest Practices Act would allow them to do that, ...(inaudible) and some of the rules would allow them to regulate that aspect, there again, it's not State Parks, that's going to be actually working with ODF, Forestry (inaudible), Forest Practices Act.

Public): But if the guys come out and say they want to cut that piece, you guys have to say whether you can do it or not.

(Staff): Not necessarily

(Public): On the scenic view.

(Calum): Even on the Scenic Waterway, we're not there to say that you can't do it. We're saying let's minimize the visual impact of those floating down the river, and get it back to production by planting quickly and making sure that ODF, if it can't be reforested or redone within a certain time period then there are some property owners that are stretched to the limit that they may go beyond five years, which ODF Forest Practices Act we wouldn't be there saying, you know, we need to push them.

(Steve): I think I saw a hand over on this side.

(Public): Well I would just, well, if you can see it from the river, no matter how far away it is, you guys will have a voice.

(Steve): A quarter mile, so, 1300 feet.

(Public): But, I thought it was visual.

(Steve): Well, no, so it's a quarter mile management area on either side.

(Public): But if you can see beyond that quarter mile, you guys still have the voice.

(Steve): No, not beyond the quarter mile.

(Calum): If it's anything beyond the quarter mile, we don't have jurisdiction.

(Public): Oh, ok.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): Who does?

(Calum): ODF probably, if it's a (inaudible) or the county actually (inaudible).

(Public): So you've been at the permit process for something like 40 years now?

(Steve): Yes

(Public): What percentage of time?

(Calum): We have, well it depends on the river, the Rogue River, more than the Elk River and the Elk River is a Scenic Waterway, I didn't have any on the Elk River because of various (inaudible)...wilderness areas.. the thing though is with all of the rivers that we have now, particularly west of the Cascades, it's actually getting reduced more and more because where you can develop has been developed, particularly in the middle part of the Rogue, Grants Pass, in that area, and when I first started doing that back in 2003, 2004 I was actually working in Grants Pass quite a lot, in a year I probably had, 15, 20 and the person doing it now has probably cut back five or ten in just that section, but it does depend, and as this program ages, and more of...(inaudible)...the Eastern side however, that person over there is still pretty busy but he has Cascade all the way to...(inaudible).

(Steve): I've heard somewhere around 60 a year, for 20 waterways.

(Calum): Some, as I said....(inaudible). Some like the Deschutes, we do a lot.

(Public): (inaudible)

(Calum): There is no denial, like I said, it's working with them. See, with the program, I guess I'll take that back, there is a denial if the property owner says he wants to build his pink marble mansion no matter what. I've had in my five years of doing it, I've denied one, and that was for a cell tower and....(inaudible)... and they decided on their own to (inaudible)...now, with this Scenic Waterway, they are flexible in that the process is at my level, I deny, if it violates any of the (inaudible) or if it's not within the recreation plan that was developed, then I will deny it. I haven't denied too many of them...(inaudible)...people on these rivers want to see the national rivers, they don't want to see a horrible pink marble mansion, so the denials are less, but if I do deny it, then it comes out of my hands, I write a report, it goes up to the Parks Commission and the Parks Commission then negotiates with the property owner, and at the end of it all, the property owner says I still want my pink marble mansion, after one year, they are actually allowed to build it, but it's that one year cooling off period, one year of negotiations, one year of, are you sure you want to do this kind of thing that (inaudible), the program allows..so it's really not a hammer regulatory program . Did that answer your question?

(Public): (inaudible)

(Calum): There's a possibility of no dams because the original intent of the Scenic Waterway Program and the Rogue River was that there were plans to be dams and that is one of the things that the original idea of the program, to free flow, as they mentioned earlier, free flowing river to get into the Scenic Waterway and its ideal (inaudible)... for that purpose. What was the other question?

(Public): Was bridges?

(Calum): Bridges are allowed, for instance, I've actually worked with the Forest Service on bridges on the upper road, and, some of those were historic bridges we worked with them to keep that historic aspect of it, not building a brand new bridge but if there is a need for a brand new bridge for replacement, sure, you know, it doesn't forego infrastructure like that it's just keep it (inaudible)...keep it within the natural work of the Forest Service

...(inaudible)...they understand that and they work with us to reduce the impact, bridges are a part of (inaudible)

(Public): (inaudible)

(Calum): I don't know of any river that has gone out of the program. I can't answer that, but we'll say from history there has been no river that has been the first

(Public): So do you plan on limiting people camping and go to (inaudible) and trailers? (Staff): If it's temporary in trailers, yeah. Yes Ma'am.

(Public): How are you going to protect the fishing and the fish in the river...you know, this is a huge recreational attraction, this section of the state, and it's also a short and shallow river.

(Steve): Well this program doesn't directly address that issue, but it does indirectly. It is geared toward protecting the scenic natural and recreational values of the river and we want to minimize the impacts that would impact fishing cause that is a recreational use, but, we're not Fish and Wildlife, we're not DEQ, we're not one of those regulatory agencies that deal with those issues directly, so this program is geared toward the scenic values of the river and protecting that.

(Public): (inaudible)...fish, birds have scenic value too.

(Public): And the water clarity of course.

(Steve): Yes Sir.

(Public): What effect would this have on camping on the gravel (inaudible) with trailers?

(Steve): We would not be regulating that with the management plan, yeah, that is not something that would be addressed in it. Yes Sir.

(Public): The river is really warm right now and the water clarity is horrible right now in the summer like this from the moss that grows, it actually has a smell to it. Up the river this is (inaudible) park area. So the water clarity thing changes all the time on the Chetco, blown out in the winter, for weeks on end,

it's from bank to bank, you know 900,000 cubic feet per second, and now it's down to 56 cubic feet today, and it's different all the time. And clarity, there's never clarity in the Chetco, you'll get it at times, in the summer, probably the best clarity you'll have and great and in October, everybody knows in October it changes all the time.

Public): This might be out of line but, if the State is floating down the river and they don't like the color of your house because it doesn't blend in with the scenic river way what are you going to do, make them paint your house?

(Steve): Is it an existing house you're talking about?

Public): No, but, whatever, if the folks down there don't like the looks of it, they can change it.

(Calum): You can't retroactively change somebody, a development.

(Public): So you're not going to make nobody change it.

(Calum): No. What's there is grandfathered, most likely will be grandfathered in. However, new development, will then, have to go through the notification process and if somebody is floating down the river and see that house, and they don't like the color, then they can probably blame whoever approved that (inaudible) of that color, but it still may come within the (inaudible)...the coloring of the house, that's there again, from this point or from the point on... (inaudible).

(Public): On new construction do you tell them what color?

(Calum): We work with the property owner and they'll come up with some paint chips and say you know, I like this, and we'll say, well that looks great and blends in well with the forest or whatever, cause, you know, the thing is with the natural areas, you go East and your greens are not going to be there you're going to have you know, the brown sandstone, so it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be green or brown or something like that, it's going to be something (inaudible)...actually only if your house is seen from the river, if it's not seen from the river, you know the process is (inaudible).

(Steve): I think, you had your hand first.

(Public): Just on a positive note, does the State have brochures that identify which rivers are designated as scenic that might attract more people to come?

(Calum): I believe that brochure that we handed out...

(Laurel): And we do need to update, we handed out like every brochure that we still have, they haven't been reprinted since 2002 because they didn't get a lot of demand, but I took all the ones we had in Salem and brought them here today and so, that's going to force them to reprint them. We usually redo our brochures when they run out. (Public): So a landowner up in the (inaudible) area wants to build a house...(inaudible) (Staff): No...(inaudible)

(Steve): Yes Ma'am.

(Public): I forgot my question..oh...do you know how many houses there are there now? Because I don't think there are that many homes out there.

(Steve): I don't know the exact number.

(Laurel): We know where there is private property based on the tax lot information from the county, so that's shown on those maps over here, but the number of actual homes, I haven't done enough research to permit, but when we floated the river, there was a small handful of homes that are viewed from the river, there might be more home beyond what you can see from the river. There are homes that you can see from the river but there's not very many of them, even though you can see here that, it's not all federal property, there is private property in the (inaudible).

(Public): The thing I wanted to say is that the Chamber of Commerce talks about the Wild and Scenic River, The Wild Coast, I mean I think that they would be truly happy to hear about this designation because that is another designation that could be used about the Chetco River and it does come out of the wilderness, the (inaudible), and the Siskiyou Forest...(inaudible)...it's just the most beautiful river...that's all I wanted to say.

(Steve): Thank you.

(Public): I had a question about the Land Management Plan, is that something that is developed by State Parks with citizen's input?

(Steve): It would be written into administrative rules eventually, there's a public process that the State has established in order to develop administrative rules. A committee is a piece of that process, but before it even got to the committee we would be doing outreach with the community and getting input at large and bringing that to the committee. A committee would guide the administrative rule process.

(Steve): Yes

(Public): What benefit do we get from the overlapping agencies with the Federal Government having their Wild and Scenic and then the State overlapping that.

(Steve): So the Federal program applies to Federal land and as far as regulations goes. So if the community saw benefit to also ensuring some protection on private property along the Chetco, this might be a good option to pursue in tandem with the Federal Wild and Scenic designation which is focusing on the Federal properties.

(Public): So you would regulate the private land that is where you would have your jurisdiction.

(Steve): Yes, the State has jurisdiction.

(Public): inaudible

(Steve): Yes. We're a lottery funded agency.

(Public): So how many river miles is that...(inaudible)...

(Steve): There would be a team of probably about five working on the management plan but there's one permit specialist assigned for this area in the future that would review proposals and see if they are consistent with the management plan and work with the property owners on issues.

(Public): Would there be additional funding and regulating and patrolling..
(inaudible)

(Steve): Well, State Parks doesn't have someone that's patrolling the river or any of the Scenic Waterways, so we're notified when development opportunities are proposed and that's really when our review process starts, but we don't have funding to actively patrol and look for somebody building something. Typically, they'll come to the county for that and that's when we will get notified.

(Steve): Yes

(Public): inaudible

(Calum): She was asking how long the private section was.

(Public): I would say 17 miles or so.

(Laurel): Less than 17 like 14.

(Public): inaudible

(Laurel): It's about 14 miles

(Public): It looks like less than a quarter of that is non Federal?

(Laurel): Yes and here the private lands are in sort of orange color, the brown is private Forest land and the green is State property or county. (Public): How many people's property would be affected? Do you really have the numbers? I feel like I'm being singled out here, I'm the only (inaudible) that hasn't built.

(Staff): We know how many people we contacted. We contacted everybody that had a parcel within the quarter mile limit.

(Steve): There were about 80 properties but there were some duplicate ones, people have multiple tax lots.

(Public): But, how many are developed though.

(Steve): That, I couldn't give you a number offhand, how many still have development potential but know that development rights for your property are still intact. This would not eliminate the ability to build a home there. Yes Ma'am.

(Public): (inaudible)

(Steve): You know, we have no studies to support this but I have heard that. That it is beneficial for communities to be able to say this is a Scenic Waterway that's recognized by the State, it's a special place. There are ways that people can get information and, do I know if the guides on those rivers get more business? I don't know for sure.

(Public): I think Chetco is by word of mouth and people up here for the last 30 years, fisherman, tourists, they're the people that have moved into the area, telling all their friends what a great place it is, more people come here from (inaudible) county because it's warmer than the Smith river, it's not as swift, you drive up there each time it's Californians, fishing, spending their money, whatever they're doing so I don't think the State Park thing with getting a few flyers out is going to affect our draw over the next few years.

(Steve): That's up to the community to take that ball and run with it or not. Yes Sir.

(Public): I'm a fishing guide at Chetco and the fish marketing is getting more elaborate and people are using that term (inaudible)...so I would have to disagree a little bit, not to step on your toes, but it does seem to be, in the future now...(inaudible)...but my question is, I know you're talking about Scenic Values, the view shed, whatever, I missed part of the meeting but how would it affect someone's business or the recreational fisherman that use the Chetco.

(Steve): There would be no regulations associated with recreational use in the waterway with this program.

(Public): Would there be any overlapping fees or registration forms like we use with ODFW and Forest Service?

(Steve): No. That's a different agency that works on those issues.

(Public): Ok, well that was my concerns I feel that the Chetco is pretty neat in terms of supporting a viable wildlife population, I know we substitute with (inaudible) fish too but if you go up and down the coast until you get to the Olympic Peninsula, you won't see the diversity of fish, it is debatable because we've had Oregon hatchery of fish for 100 years but...(inaudible)..people end

up coming here and these beautiful view lots...(inaudible)...and you know the price of real estate in (inaudible)...they spent \$300, \$500,000 on houses in the area or more and then they have been living here. (inaudible)...It's kind of hard to see the parks take it on as a Scenic River in a way because of more and more notoriety. (inaudible)...I think it is important to maintain that quality of what we have and to hold on to it in some way.

(Public): Harvey, do you still have your (inaudible)? You know, I would suggest, if you want to see some of the scenic things, I would suggest...(inaudible)...that's just exceptional, and that could be a component of what you look at, I think it would enhance...(inaudible).

(Steve): Sharon, that would be great to get.

Sharon): Sorry Bert. (Public): (inaudible).

(Steve): Are there any other questions?

(Public): How much will it change our property valuation close to the Wild & Scenic? Taxes going up or down?

(Steve): That's not something we would be involved with. But, protecting what's there could increase property values over time if people enjoy the current character of the river. They may pay more for it in the future but I couldn't speculate on that. Did you have a question?

(Public): Besides the direction that you have received from the governor, what brought the three rivers that are currently being reviewed to the forefront?

(Steve): Well, there are a few factors that were there, there was a screening process where we looked at... I can't remember how many waterways throughout the state, a couple hundred to look at really high level, would it meet any minimum threshold for eligibility, that was screened down to a shorter list, and then we're looking at distribution around the state and we knew that we needed to have three as a pilot for this first look. So the Chetco made sense for a number of reasons, you know we also heard from folks that you know, love the Chetco and you know, certainly made a nomination, you

know, of sorts, but there wasn't a directive to look at the Chetco, but it did make sense for a number of reasons, being where it was. So, I wanted to also offer up the opportunity for anyone that wants to read or make a statement for the record, if you want to give your name and address and you want to make sure that we know who you are and what you would like us to capture in our report exactly, we want to give you the opportunity to come up here and do that, nobody's obliged to do that but if anyone felt like you would like to do that, you can. Are we...? Any takers? I just wanted to end with this slide then. So, here's how you can get more information if you want to stay engaged and we hope that you do. There's the Scenic Waterways webpage, if you go there, you can get more information about the process you can follow, how the study's progressing, there's the address, the scenic.waterways@oregon.gov, that's the email address. The online survey can be accessed through the webpage, and please encourage anyone in the community to fill that out. And then, if you have questions after tonight, feel free to give me a call or send me an email because something else may come to mind later down the road. So with that, I think we'll conclude, appreciate you participating tonight and thank you.

(Steve): If you want to make a statement, you can sit down here and talk into this. Your name, address, then whatever you want to say.

(Public): My address or my river address, I have two, I live in town, we have cabins up river.

(Steve): Wherever your primary residence is. And...about five minutes.

(Public): Less than that, it's a 10 second thing.

(Steve): Oh sure, yeah, whatever you want.

(Public): You ready?

(Steve): Yeah, say your name and address first.

(Public): Dave Botnin. 800 Hazard St. Brookings, OR also 20457 North River Rd up in Wilder's Retreat. I think anything we can do in order to protect our

waterways is a good thing, to keep people from trashing it and they've got all my support. Thank you.

(Steve): Thanks a lot.

(Laurel): Yeah, it's running, so yeah, go ahead.

(Public): Hi, my name's Luke Martinez, owner and operator of Wilderness Canyon Adventures and I'm in full support of the Scenic Waterway Act by the State of Oregon. Thank you.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: James Whitman

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Brookings State: OR

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

I would like to see a stronger emphasis on the wildlife including aquatic and water quality. This is a nice thought but does nothing to preserve what is there. It would be a start towards future protection - I hope

APPENDIX B
Submitted Written Comments



PUBLIC COMMENT

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Catherine Wiley

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Brookings

State: OR 97415

E-mail: [REDACTED]

COMMENTS:

I support the designation.
Having floated, fished, hiked -
my grand daughter & family have
been kayaking, swimming etc. when they visit
friends from out of state have visited & all comment
on the exceptional, pristine beauty of the Chetco



PUBLIC COMMENT

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Harvey Young

Address: [REDACTED] City: Brookings State: OR

E-mail: [REDACTED]

COMMENTS:

I think it is a positive move for the treasured chetco, that sustains one of the last wild non hatchery, Chinook, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout.

It is a important drinking water source for the largest pop. of curvey county.
Thank you.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: KEITH SMITH

Address: 

City: BROOKINGS State: OR

E-mail: 

97415

COMMENTS:

I think the river is in good shape and we don't
need any more regulations.
The natives have done a good job





PUBLIC COMMENT

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

If you wish to submit your comments in writing, please use this page. If you brought your comments with you, please attach this page to your comments.

Name: Kathryn M. Justman

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Brookings State: OR

E-mail: [REDACTED]

COMMENTS: There is a lot of concern voiced by the private landowners about permits & govt. regulating their building & logging of private land, but it seems to me this is a designation without any teeth. The real concern is that ^{old} mining laws have not kept pace with new ecological findings & the international dealings that encourage rapine of mountains & forests. Mining is a mega-business without any benefit to the people who live (and the animals) on the land & rely on the watershed for their lives.

Mission Statement for The Peace Trail

Education and Meditation Center

The Peace Trail is a Non-profit corporation in the public benefit established in Curry County for the preservation of the natural environment, providing a natural place to learn about nature, alternative energy, stress reduction practices, cooperation, consultation, meditation, and traditional sacred paths of all the world's people. The Peace Path is founded on the principles of many paths leading to one spiritual summit, and to the ideal that Peace is the ultimate longing, goal and desire of all the world's people, who are One Human-Family. The corporation will acquire acreage in the Chetco River watershed in the furtherance of these goals and will establish an outdoor classroom and laboratory to attract the curious and the students and the teachers of the youth of Curry County at no charge except for a voluntary donation.

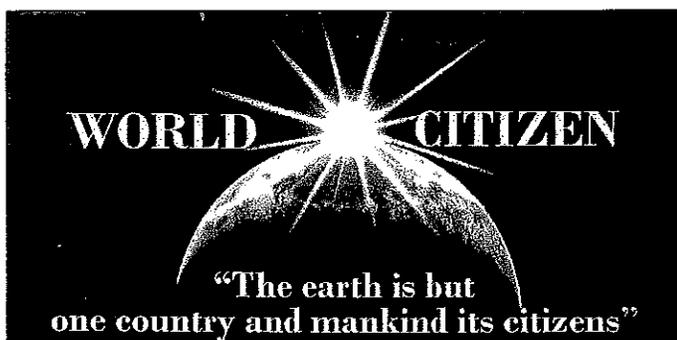
To Volunteer

Contact: Kathi

kathijustman@yahoo.com

(541) 251-2436

"Grandma Books' Blind Faith Journal" on Facebook





PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
Judy Kaplan	[Redacted] Brookings 97415	[Redacted]
Tamara Pettinger	[Redacted] Brookings 97415	[Redacted]
John Babin	[Redacted] Brookings OR 97415	[Redacted]
ellen Babin	[Redacted] Brookings	[Redacted]
Teri Wold	[Redacted]	Brookings, Or
Harvey Young	[Redacted] @hotmail	Brookings OR



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
 Chetco Community Library
 September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
Karen Crump	15 [REDACTED] Brookings OR	[REDACTED]
Larry D. Dooley	[REDACTED] Brookings OR 97415	
Kurt Amick	[REDACTED] Chetco Brookings OR 97415	
Byron E. Bini	[REDACTED] N Chetco River	
Leonard Krug	[REDACTED] Heights - Brookings	
David Castellanos	[REDACTED] Harbor OR 97415	
Ron Hedensky	[REDACTED] Hwy Rd Brookings	
Richard Heat	[REDACTED] DR Brookings	
Luke Mathews	[REDACTED] Rte 1 River Rd. Rte 1 River, OR	



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
Carl Page	[Redacted] 95567 South River CA	[Redacted]
W. Juffs	[Redacted] Brookings OR	[Redacted]
Tim Patterson	[Redacted] Brookings	[Redacted]
FROY & FRAN WATSON	[Redacted] ad Rd "	[Redacted]
DARLENE GREENE DARLENE Ashdown	[Redacted] Day	[Redacted]
Yvonne Naitland	[Redacted] ew Drive	[Redacted]
Lynnda Timmiss	[Redacted] Brookings, OR 97415	[Redacted]
Stan Casley	[Redacted] 5 Brookings 97415	[Redacted]
Jeanne Washburn	[Redacted] Brookings 97415	[Redacted]



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
DAVE HODGES	[REDACTED] Brookings 97415	
GEORGE FITZPATRICK	[REDACTED] Brookings, OR 97415	
MARINE WASSBANNER	[REDACTED], Brookings OR 97415	[REDACTED]
AGATHA CONRAD	BROOKINGS OR 97415	[REDACTED]
Berma Matteson	[REDACTED] Brookings 97415	[REDACTED]
Lorelei Hawkness	[REDACTED] Gold Beach OR 97424	[REDACTED]
Catherine Wiley	[REDACTED] Creekside Brookings OR	[REDACTED]
BRENT HODGES	[REDACTED] Brookings, OR 97415	[REDACTED]
Andrea Souther	[REDACTED] Brookings OR	[REDACTED]



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
DAT McVay	[Redacted] Harbor, OR	[Redacted]
Darrel Nelson	[Redacted] Harbor OR	[Redacted]
Don Burger	[Redacted] Brookings OR.	[Redacted]
Kathryn Justman	[Redacted] #704 Birks OR	[Redacted]
Jake Butts	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Jim Kamm	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Bob & Mary Johnson	[Redacted] Chetco 97415	[Redacted]
ERIC CURK	[Redacted] 97415	[Redacted]
Steve Pringle	[Redacted] and Ave	[Redacted]



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
 Chetco Community Library
 September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address <u>INCLUDING</u> City and Zip	Email Address
Dave + Lorie Botnen	[Redacted] Brookings, OR 97415	[Redacted]
Susan Mullen / Roger Estholz	[Redacted] ✓ ✓ ✓	[Redacted] om
Dale + JoAnn Coburn	[Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], OR	Harbor



PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Chetco Community Library
September 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
Susan Brown	[REDACTED] Gold Beach, OR 97444	[REDACTED]
Austin Dunn	[REDACTED] Brookings, OR 97415	
BARBARA PIAZZA	[REDACTED]	
Neil R	[REDACTED]	
Jane Stebbins	[REDACTED] Brookings 97415	
Shirley Stebbins		

FW: LWVCC Comment on Chetco River Scenic Designation

KAY Steve * OPRD

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 1:44 PM**To:** Waterways Scenic * OPRD**Attachments:** LWVCC Chetco River - Sceni~1.pdf (151 KB)

Steve Kay, AICP
Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0705
steve.kay@oregon.gov

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From: Lucie La Bonte [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 1:09 PM
To: KAY Steve * OPRD; VanessaDemoe@state.or.us
Subject: LWVCC Comment on Chetco River Scenic Designation

Hi Steve;

It was great talking with you yesterday re the Chetco Designation Proposal. Attached is a letter from the League of Women Voters of Curry County we would like to have placed on record. Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Lucie La Bonte
President, League of Women Voters of Curry County



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CURRY COUNTY**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission
C/O Mr. Steve Kay
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Commissioners;

October 14, 2014

The League of Women Voters of Curry County would like to go on record in support of the proposed Scenic Designation of the Chetco River. The Chetco River has unique scenic, historic and recreational values. The League supports identification and regulation of areas of critical concern; fragile or historical lands, where development could result in irreversible damage (such as shore lands of rivers, lakes and streams, estuaries and bays; rare geological formations; significant wildlife habitats; unique scenic and historical areas; wetlands and deserts).

This designation will enhance economic development by adding tourist opportunities to the historical uses while protecting the unique values and the significant wildlife habitats of the Chetco River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely;

Lucie La Bonté
President

Make a Difference! Join the League of Women Voters of Curry County!

PO Box 1521, Gold Beach, OR 97444 • 541-247-0935 • www.lwvc Curry.org

Chetco River

Yvonne Maitland [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:54 PM**To:** Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Dear Steve Kay,

My family and grandchildren would like to thank Governor Kitzhaber and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for considering the Chetco River as a candidate for the State Scenic designation.

My Native American friend invited me to go down the Chetco River. It was my first river trip, and as we drifted along, the river spread out, calm and serene in front of us. I was enthralled with the peace and scenic beauty of the Chetco. It seemed as if the river had washed over me and took me along its blue-green waters where the outside world no longer mattered and I was at peace. It was a wonderful experience that I have not forgotten. I believe the human heart needs such wild places and scenic rivers.

The Chetco River flows out of the rugged Kalmiopsis Wilderness and the Siskiyou National Forest. It is an example of a true, free flowing coastal river, with some of the largest salmon caught here. The Chetco belongs to the people of Oregon. I hope Governor Kitzhaber will nominate it for the State Scenic designation the Chetco deserves.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Maitland

Comments from DOGAMI

Vicki McConnell [vicki.mcconnell@state.or.us]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 11:35 AM

To: MORGAN Jim * OPRD [jim.morgan@state.or.us]; Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Cc: POLLOCK Andree; NIEWENDORP Clark; LYNCH Gary; GRIFFITH Sara * OPRD; BALZER Vaughn

Attachments:DOGAMI Comments_Scenic Wat-1.pdf (129 KB)

Please see attached letter with DOGAMI comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information that may be relevant to your decisions about these river reaches.

Regards,

Vicki S. McConnell, Ph.D., R.G.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Oregon State Geologist
OR Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries
800 NE Oregon St.
Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232
971.673.1550 (office)
503.709.8529 (mobile)
www.oregongeology.org



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Administrative Office

800 NE Oregon St., #28, Suite 965

Portland, OR 97232-2162

(971) 673-1555

Fax: (971) 673-1562

www.oregongeology.org

Date: October 14, 2014

To: Jim Morgan, Stewardship Manager

From: Vicki S. McConnell, DOGAMI Director

RE: Comments regarding the proposed State Scenic Waterways

As the geoscience and mine operation and reclamation regulatory agency for the state we have information and data about potential mineral resources, mining claims both federal and state, and locations of present and past mining activity. We submit the following information about the three river reaches being considered by OPRD for Scenic Waterway designation. Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification or to discuss whether we have more detailed information that will assist in your considerations. This information was compiled by Clark Niewendorp, DOGAMI Industrial Geologist, and Vaughn Balzer, Floodplain Mining and Water Quality Reclamationist.

Site 1. Molalla River

- There are no permitted DOGAMI mining sites on the Molalla river reach being considered.
- In the study area of the proposed Upper Molalla River scenic waterway, multiple claims have been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in two sections. Both sections are located near the Horse Creek Bridge; claim types are placer and closed.

The Upper Molalla River in Clackamas County (~13 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential*	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	No	
Crushed stone**	Medium	B
Limestone	No	
Clay	Low	B
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals [‡] (precious, base metals)	Medium	C
Coal	No	

Uranium and thorium	No
Geothermal	No
Oil & Gas	Unknown
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite, manganese, titanium, zirconium)	No

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed scenic waterway of the Upper Mollala River is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031 (see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are 12 rock sources (quarries, borrow pits) within the study area.

Each of the aggregate sites is a small surface burrow pit, low volume dig, operated either by the Bureau of Land Management or privately and locally used as a resource.

‡ A recreational placer gold mining corridor starts about 1.4 mi below the bridge located at Glen Avon and ends south at the Horse Creek Bridge, which is within the study area of the proposed scenic waterway. (In the early 1900s, gold mining was active near the head of Ogle Creek (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/clackamascohistorical/sets/72157632127499016/>) in the Headwaters of the Upper Molalla River. This area was and still is a likely source of the placer gold found in the recreational placer gold mining corridor.)

Site 2. Chetco River

- There is one DOGAMI Limited Exemption (08-0006) adjacent to the Chetco River reach being considered but it appears to be downstream and outside of the area potentially impacted by proposed wild and scenic designation.
- In the study area of the proposed Chetco River Scenic Waterway, multiple claims have been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in five sections, which cover the upper half of the area of study (segments 1 and 2). All claim types are placer; all are closed.

A portion of the Chetco River in Curry County (~14 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential*	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	High	C
Crushed stone**	Medium	B
Limestone	No	
Clay	No	
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals‡ (precious, base metals)	Medium	C
Coal	No	
Uranium and thorium	No	
Geothermal	No	
Oil & Gas	Unknown	
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite,	No	

manganese, titanium,
zirconium)

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed scenic waterway of a portion of the Chetco River in Curry County is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031(see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are no crushed rock sources in terms of existing quarries or borrow pits within the study area. However, volcanic rocks do occur within in the study area and could be a potential resource.

‡ The entire reach of the river in the study area is known for its recreational placer gold mining.

Site 3. Grande Ronde River

- There is one DOGAMI operating permit (31-0061) within the middle of the Grande Ronde River reach being considered. This site would likely be visible from the river and within the area being considered for the wild and scenic designation. The 1991 application for 31-0061 references 1,300 acres but we do not have a surveyed boundary for this site. Further DOGAMI does not have any land use documentation for this site but there may be potential for expansion of the mine boundary. DOGAMI is aware of ODOT material resources within this reach that are below DOGAMI permit thresholds and as such are not covered under DOGAMI permits.
- In the study area of the proposed the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway, a claim has been recorded (the Bureau of Land Management LR2000 land use database) in one section, which is in the upper half of the area of study. This claim type is a placer and closed.

The Upper Grande Ronde River in Union County (~29 miles):

Commodity Type	Resource Potential	Level
Sand and gravel (borrow/fill/topsoil)	High	C
Crushed stone**	High	C
Limestone	No	
Clay	No	
Silica sand	No	
Bentonite	No	
Metals‡ (precious, base metals)	Low	B
Coal	No	
Uranium and thorium	No	
Geothermal	No	
Oil & Gas	Unknown	
Others: (gemstone materials, perlite, zeolite, manganese, titanium,	No	

zirconium)

* The mineral resource potential of the proposed Scenic Waterway of the Upper Grande Ronde River is classified using the system set forth in BLM Manual 3031 (see Section 4). The definitions for the levels of mineral resource potential and certainty of assessment are after Goudarzi (1984).

** There are 5 existing rock sources, i.e., quarries and gravel pits, in the study area.

‡ Gravels in several tributaries of the upper portion of the Upper Grande Ronde River are known to contain placer gold.

Levels of Resource Potential:

<p>HIGH mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics indicate a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of the data indicate high degree of likelihood for resource accumulation, where data support mineral-deposit models indicating presence of resource, and where evidence indicates that mineral concentration has taken place. Assignment of high resource potential to an area requires some positive knowledge that mineral-forming processes have been active in at least part of the area.</p>
<p>MEDIUM mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics indicate a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of the data indicate high degree of likelihood for resource accumulation, where and (or) where an application of mineral-deposit models indicates favorable ground for the specified type(s) of deposits..</p>
<p>LOW mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics define a geologic environment in which the existence of resources is permissive. This broad category embraces areas with dispersed but insignificantly mineralized rock, as well as areas with obvious site limitations and little or no indication of having been mineralized.</p>
<p>NO mineral resource potential is a category reserved for a specific type of resource in a well-defined area.</p>
<p>UNKNOWN mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where information is inadequate to assign a low, moderate, or high level of resource potential.</p>

Levels of Certainty:

<p>A. Available information is not adequate for determination of the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>B. Available information only suggests the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>C. Available information gives a good indication of the level of mineral resource potential.</p>
<p>D. Available information clearly defines the level of mineral resource potential</p>

References (not all cited in above text):

- Goudarzi, G.H., 1984, Guide to the preparation of mineral survey reports on public lands: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 84-787.
- LR2000, 2013, Land and Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 system website: Bureau of Land Management, www.blm.gov/lr2000/index.htm
- Ma, Lina, Madin, I.P., Olson, K.V., Watzig, R.J., Wells, R.E., Niem, A.R., and Priest, G.R., (compilers), 2009, Oregon geologic data compilation [OGDC], release 5 (statewide): Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Digital Data Series OGDC-5.
- Olmstead, D.L., 1989, Hydrocarbon exploration and occurrences in Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Oil and Gas Investigation 15, 78 p.
- Niewendorp, C.A., and Geitgey, R.H., 2010, Mineral Information Layer for Oregon, Release 2: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries MILO-Release 2.
- Niewendorp, C.A., Schueller, D.A., and Welch, T.J., 2008, Geothermal Information Layer for Oregon (GTILO-2): Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Digital Data Series, <http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/gtilo/index.htm>.
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, unpublished oil and gas drill hole files.

State Scenic Waterways

Thomas O'Keefe [okeefe@americanwhitewater.org]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:02 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Attachments: 20140929_chetco_state_scen~1.pdf (150 KB) ; 20140929_grande_ronde_stat~1.pdf (151 KB)

Please find attached letters of support for the Chetco and Grande Ronde State Scenic Waterway designations.

-- Tom

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115

425-417-9012

okeefe@amwhitewater.org

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org>

September 29th, 2014

Jim Morgan, Stewardship Manager
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1271

Subject: Chetco River Scenic Waterway Assessment

Dear Mr. Morgan:

American Whitewater writes to express our support for designating the Chetco River as a State Scenic Waterway. Many of our members have chosen to call Oregon home because of the outstanding whitewater boating opportunities in the state, including those that the Chetco River provides.¹ Designating the Chetco as a State Scenic Waterway will not only enhance the quality of life for those who recreate on the river, but will also bring economic benefits to local communities.²

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6,000 members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing thousands of whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has an interest in the Chetco River. A significant percentage of American Whitewater members reside in Oregon and Northern California—a short driving distance from this river for recreation.

The Chetco River meets the criteria for a State Scenic Waterway: it is free flowing, the river has exceptional scenic quality as viewed from the river, and the water is an exceptional setting for recreational use. These qualities led to the designation of the upper 45 miles of the Chetco River from the headwaters to the National Forest boundary as a Federal Wild and Scenic River. Segments 1 and 2 are within the federally designated Wild and Scenic River reach. The proposed boundary for Segment 3 would represent a modest extension beyond the National Forest boundary. We support the inclusion of all these reaches within a State Scenic Waterway designation.

We look forward to working with you to protect this river for future generations. Please do not

¹ Our inventory of whitewater resources for the Chetco River includes the following:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3758>

² The Outdoor Industry Association reports that outdoor recreation generates \$12.8 billion in direct spending and 141,000 direct jobs in Oregon State. https://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/OR-oregon-outdoorrecreation-economy-oia.pdf

hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the opportunities for whitewater recreation on the Chetco River and the benefits that a State Scenic Waterway designation would bring.

Sincerely,



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Chetco River

Nancy McClelland [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:10 PM**To:** Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Please designate the Chetco as a Scenic Waterway. We have lived here for 25 years (via Portland and first Southern CA). We have many great memories of family times at the river and with scouts. The boy scouts camp there and used the road as training for their bike trips up north.

Protecting the water helps salmon and that helps the economy here, thru the fishing industry and events like the Slam'n Salmon Derby (which brings tourists).

Having a naturally clean water supply is healthier for our community and more cost effective because we don't have to treat it as much.

The Chetco's beauty is our heritage and something we should preserve as a gift from the native population who first used it and something we can give back to them for the damage we have done to their lifestyle and history.

Thank you and peace,

Nancy McClelland

[REDACTED]

FW: Chetco comment

KAY Steve * OPRD

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:29 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

FYI . . .

Steve Kay, AICP

Division Manager

Recreation Grants and Community Programs

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

503-986-0705

steve.kay@oregon.gov

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From: Monty Moncrief [REDACTED]**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:24 AM**To:** KAY Steve * OPRD**Cc:** Monty Moncrief; BERGERSON Terry * OPRD**Subject:** Re: Chetco comment

Thanks for the update Steve - I,m guessing their was someone at this meeting from the Guides Association - we have upwards of 125 Commercial River Guides on our little 56 mile Chetco River from now until March, Most have a motor on their boat . I do LSV (Live Streaming Video) and have been working with OSMB , OSP and Oregon South Coast Fishermen trying to limit the over crowding of (fish for sale) Boats and Poaching - I,m a retired Teamster and for the most part a Sport Bank Subsistence Angler I get to fish 5 local rivers and the ocean when my health allows - I love our little Chetco and feel compeled to make some effort to secure it,s future. I worked hard to get the Chetco re-open this year to bank fishing for a fresh King Salmon - I did a presentation of the new regulations on fishing geer for this season last night at our monthly OSCF meeting it was well recieved.

If you have the minutes from your meeting and who was present I would love to see them .

Will be in touch Steve and I hope your Office can add some peace to the Secenic Chetco River

Be Well



----- Original Message -----

From: KAY Steve * OPRD

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [BERGERSON Terry * OPRD](#)
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:47 PM
Subject: FW: Chetco comment

Monty,

I'm sorry you weren't able to attend the meeting last week. I did want to let you know that if the Chetco River were designated as a State Scenic Waterway, we would undergo a separate public process to develop a management plan and regulations for the river. At this time, I can't tell you what exactly what rules would be included, but the management plan would need to accommodate existing uses. It would also include screening requirements for all new development located within 1/4 mile of the designated waterway.

Just let me know if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Steve Kay, AICP
Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C
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From: BERGERSON Terry * OPRD
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 3:55 PM
To: KAY Steve * OPRD
Subject: Chetco comment

Was trying to make your meeting tonight 9-11-14 but have appointment with Radiation Oncology in Medford . I will read the other links provided by Steve Kay but would like a little more information on what rules you use when/if you decide to label the Chetco River a Scenic Water Way ? Look forward to hearing from you. I want to thank Mr. Kay for his help and time and thank you for your commitment. Resident since 1999 Monty Moncrief
[m](#) [REDACTED]

Chetco River

Harry Hoogesteger [harry@currywatersheds.org]

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 2:19 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

We support and endorse the inclusion of the **Chetco River** into the State Scenic Waterways System.

The **Chetco** River has many outstanding scenic and recreational attributes, and fits the criteria for inclusion and designation. Here are some other thought supporting the designation:

- Protecting the river improves water quality for all downstream users. The cities of Brookings and Harbor draw their water from the Chetco River --and clean drinking water is a priceless asset for any community. It also provides economic benefits ---as clean water coming in to the intake means fewer chemicals required at the plant to treat drinking water (saving citizens money).
- Watershed and riparian protection provide wonderful benefits for salmon and steelhead. These fish also contribute mightily to the economy of the Brookings area. One example: The annual "Slam'N Salmon Derby" every Labor Day draws hundreds of fishermen and thousands of visitors to our area to fish and recreate. Anadromous salmon and steelhead spawn & rear in the Chetco River. We should do everything in our power to protect and preserve their habitat.
- This is a river we can all be proud of. The **Chetco** is clean; it's accessible; it provides great recreational opportunities for both locals and tourists. As part of the "*Wild Rivers Coast*" this river is marketed nationally and internationally by local Chambers of Commerce as a jewel on the Oregon Coast. Let's protect it for the future.

Sincerely,

Harry Hoogesteger

South Coast Watershed Coordinator



harry@currywatersheds.org

9/15/14

NEDC Comments on OPRD Consideration of State Scenic Waterway Designation for the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers

Dashiell Farewell [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 8:01 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Cc: Marla Nelson [msnelson@nedc.org]
Attachments: 2014 10 15 NEDC OPRD Comme~1.pdf (146 KB)

To The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Attached please find the Northwest Environmental Defense Center's (NEDC) comments on OPRD's recent proposal in the 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment to designate The Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as Oregon State Scenic Waterways. NEDC appreciates your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dashiell Farewell
NEDC Law Student Volunteer



NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97219
Phone: (503) 768-6673 Fax: (503) 768-6671
www.nedc.org

October 15, 2014

Submitted via email to scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
Attn: 2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: NEDC Comments on the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD)
Consideration of State Scenic Waterway Designation for the Molalla, Chetco, and
Grande Ronde Rivers**

The Northwest Environmental Defense Center (“NEDC”) submits the following comments on the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation’s (“OPRD”) 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment, which considers designating the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers as State Scenic Waterways. NEDC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. Given this mission, and the purpose of State Scenic Waterway designation to protect valuable waterways in Oregon, NEDC would strongly supports an OPRD decision to designate these three waterways as State Scenic Waterways, and NEDC encourages OPRD to do so.

Comments

I. The proposed designations would further the purpose of the State Scenic Waterway Act.

The purpose of Oregon’s Scenic Waterway designation is to protect valuable waterways in Oregon. The designation aims to strike a balance between protecting natural resources, preserving the scenic value of the rivers, and promoting recreational use and enjoyment. NEDC supports these aims and as such supports OPRD’s proposal to designate the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as State Scenic Waterways.

If approved, these Scenic Waterway designations would be the first such designations in 26 years. These rivers are bountiful resources. NEDC firmly believes OPRD should not only designate these three rivers as State Scenic Waterways, but that

those designations should only be the first of many. A State Scenic Waterway designation provides strong protections to Oregon's vibrant yet fragile river ecosystems that would otherwise be put in jeopardy by potential development and infrastructure projects both on, and around the rivers.

OPRD rarely designates rivers as State Scenic Waterways. By increasing the number of these designations, OPRD would be taking a very positive step forward toward a more comprehensive environmental policy that achieves real impacts. Designating rivers as State Scenic Waterways is good for the health and vitality of the bounteous and diverse ecosystem that thrives in and around the rivers. It is also good economic policy because it encourages tourism and serves as excellent publicity for Oregon's waterways. Finally, it is good for the reputation of the state more generally, demonstrating that Oregon takes seriously its role as steward of its river resources and the multitude of life those waterways support. In short, it is sound policy to designate rivers as State Scenic Waterways. OPRD has NEDC's full support in proceeding not only with the three designations currently under consideration, but also with more designations in the future.

II. Designating these rivers under the State Scenic Waterway program will have meaningful impacts.

Oregon's rivers, including the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde, sustain dozens of species of fish, including Chinook salmon (Oregon's State fish), steelhead trout, and mountain whitefish. Birds include blue herons, egrets, and many species of ducks and geese rely on clean, well-preserved waterways for food, and build their nests on or near the banks. Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep need the rivers for fresh drinking water. Many species of frogs, toads, and turtles live in and around the rivers as well. Without adequate protections for the rivers, all of these species are put in jeopardy. With a State Scenic Waterway designation, these species and their habitats are much more likely to thrive in those waterways. This is good for the overall health and robustness of the environment. These rivers are an invaluable, irreplaceable source of life, and their protection is essential to preserving Oregon's biologically rich and diverse ecosystems.

Of course, the positive impacts of State Scenic Waterway designations for these rivers would extend to the many thousands of people who use and enjoy these rivers year round as well. Nature enthusiasts, campers, hikers, boaters, fly fisherman, and birdwatchers would all be much more likely to visit the rivers, confident that Oregon is taking steps to preserve and protect the waterways. This will allow for the most enjoyable and positive experience possible for visitors. Those who already use and love the rivers will be confident that their enjoyment will continue for many years to come if they know the rivers are protected by a State Scenic Waterway designation.

Oregon is justifiably famous for its outdoor opportunities for locals and visitors alike, and for its vibrant and diverse ecosystems. If OPRD wants to encourage and promote the use and enjoyment of the Oregon's parks and outdoor recreational activities, both by Oregonians and by visitors from around the United States and around the world, NEDC is confident that designating the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde rivers as

State Scenic Waterways would be a very beneficial step in achieving that direction.

Conclusion

In sum, it would be very beneficial for OPRD to designate the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers as State Scenic Waterways. NEDC encourages and supports OPRD in proceeding with these designations. OPRD has, up to this point, been reluctant to designate rivers as Scenic Waterways. NEDC strongly encourages OPRD to change that stance, beginning with these three rivers. By designating rivers as Scenic Waterways, OPRD will serve the state as whole. These designations would have numerous beneficial results, from preserving and protecting the vibrant ecosystems that thrive within and around the rivers, to increasing tourism, to demonstrating that Oregon is a progressive advocate for environmental protection of its natural resources that other states can look to for guidance. Not only would the ecosystems sustained by these rivers benefit immeasurably from a Scenic Waterway designation, but Oregon as a whole will benefit as well.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dashiell Farwell
Student Volunteer

FW: Chetco River/Scenic Waterway

KAY Steve * OPRD

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 10:14 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

FYI . . .

Steve Kay, AICP
Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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-----Original Message-----

From: KAY Steve * OPRD
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 9:28 AM
To: 'Dana Hayden'
Subject: RE: Chetco River/Scenic Waterway

Thank you for your comments Dana. I will make sure that the points you have raised are expressed in our assessment of the Chetco River.

Steve Kay, AICP
Division Manager
Recreation Grants and Community Programs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0705
steve.kay@oregon.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dana Hayden [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2014 7:52 AM
To: KAY Steve * OPRD
Subject: Chetco River/Scenic Waterway

Greetings,

I was informed of an upcoming meeting on Sept. 11 to discuss the idea of the Chetco River receiving a "Scenic Waterway" designation. Our family lives in Redmond, Oregon,

but we have been visiting and enjoying the Chetco for 15 summers. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting, but would like to share my views with you.

We love the Chetco River because of its pristine beauty, and feel that it is important to protect it. Activities along the river, like mining, road building and logging could all have a damaging effect on the riparian zone. It is important that any projects in this zone are held to the highest standard and have the health of the river as a high priority. If "Scenic Waterway" protection helps insure the future health of the Chetco River, then I believe it is important to seek that designation.

We return to the Chetco each summer and shop, fuel vehicles and visit restaurants in the town of Brookings. It seems that protecting the river will protect the future economy of the town by bringing tourist dollars in from fishing, boating and other recreational activities.

Please include my email on any informative correspondence you generate regarding this matter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dana & James Hayden
Redmond, Oregon

Very much in favor

b [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 9:36 PM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Dear Sirs,

I strongly support classifying the Chetco river as a scenic waterway. It is one of only a few rivers that is unpolluted by mans folly and one of our greatest assets. Many of America's water systems are being contaminated by industry, agriculture, development and climate change. Even Harbor's water supply is feeling it's effects. We have made very poor choices in how we treat the natural world in the past, it's time to let wisdom prevail!

Regards

Bill Vogel

541-469-3640

FW: Hello from Brookings

KAY Steve * OPRD

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 8:19 AM**To:** Waterways Scenic * OPRD

FYI . . .

Steve Kay, AICP

Division Manager

Recreation Grants and Community Programs

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer Street, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

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steve.kay@oregon.gov

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From: barbara edmiston [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:36 AM
To: KAY Steve * OPRD
Cc: Freeman Ted
Subject: Hello from Brookings

Any time I see a .Gov. I fear for the takeover of my playground.

I am so passionate about the Chetco River I am not going to mess around with forum.

My Dad came to Brookings as a Swedish Immigrant and became a Citizen on the Naval Ship called the Gambier Bay. It was sunk during WW!! He won a Purple heart.

He became the Easter Lilly Capitol of the Nation here on the south Coast.

It was and is Called "Dahlstrom and Watt".

I love Brookings. You have no idea how many people are coming into our camp and want to make it into a Carmel, Calif. We are strong. We do not need Gov. to make our choices. We have technicians of the trades who have done what they do for years. Forestry, Mining, and yes, a lumber mill that has supported this community with a brilliant man called Ron Fallert. I am almost 70 yrs. old and I hate the Gov. ruining our security.

If we do not clear the run out of the gravel from the rush from the river, it would choke and kill all the fish and close off access. It is like you need a "gravel mining for dummies" book.

I do not know you from Adam, but Ted Freeman is my Classmate and I am old enough and

angry enough to give you an earful. And I hope to give you a Headache.

Chetco River, recognition as a State Scenic Waterway

Albert & Joan Geiser [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 11:00 AM

To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Hi, The Chetco River is one of those perfect rivers, gravel bottom, crystal clear water, and great sport fishing. It has provide many days of family enjoyment for us over the past 35 years, walking its banks, swimming, bird watching, and fishing. With the Kalmiopsis Wilderness as its head water its just the cleanest river on the coast, it deserves recognition as a State Scenic Waterway. Protecting the Chetco for future generations is very important, particularly in light of climate change.

Respectfully,

Al & Joan Geiser

Proponent Email Campaign for the Chetco, Molalla and Grand Ronde Rivers

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

I'd like to offer my support for the inclusion for the Molalla, Chetco and Grande Ronde rivers into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. Each of these wild, free flowing watersheds are unique and precious public resources that deserve to be valued foremost for their outstanding aesthetic, recreational, and ecological benefits.

The Molalla is one of only two free flowing rivers in the Upper Willamette watershed. Its emerald green waters flow out of the Table Rock Wilderness through a corridor of public land that is frequented year round by hikers, bikers, equestrians, rafters, kayakers and anglers. The river itself is home to a recovering population of threatened wild winter steelhead. These wild fish spawn and rear within much of the mainstem river captured within the ORPD's currently proposed Scenic Waterway segment for the Molalla.

The Chetco River is at the heart of Oregon's Wild River Coast. Undammed and free flowing from its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to the Pacific, the Chetco's rugged beauty, cold and clear water and abundant wild, native fish make it a destination for travelers from across the country and an invaluable community resource, right out the backdoor from Brookings, OR. I support the inclusion of all three segments listed in the planning maps, from the Chetco Gorge in segment one near the terminus of the National Wild and Scenic section, downstream through the South Fork Chetco confluence to Alfred Loeb State Park in segment three. Hikers, bikers, boaters and anglers seek out these segments of the Chetco for their remarkable beauty and recreational benefits. These parts of the river are also home to wild fall Chinook salmon, winter steelhead, searun cutthroat and threatened coho salmon.

The Grande Ronde River is an iconic eastern Oregon watershed and a recreational focal point for Oregonians and outdoor enthusiasts. Flowing out of the Blue Mountains, the Grande Ronde's cool and clean headwaters are enjoyed by rafters, hikers, hunters and anglers as well as the threatened populations of spring Chinook, steelhead and bull trout that call these streams home. I support the inclusion of all three segments listed in the planning maps, from Tony Vey Meadows, through the angling deadline at Meadow Creek in segment two, downstream to Hilgard State park in segment three. Each of these sections display the kind of exceptional recreational and aesthetic values Oregonians seek to protect and enjoy long into the future.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on the OPRD's 2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments. The Molalla, Chetco and Grande Ronde are truly among Oregon's finest watersheds and their inclusion into Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways would be the perfect way to reinvigorate a valuable state program.

Warmly,

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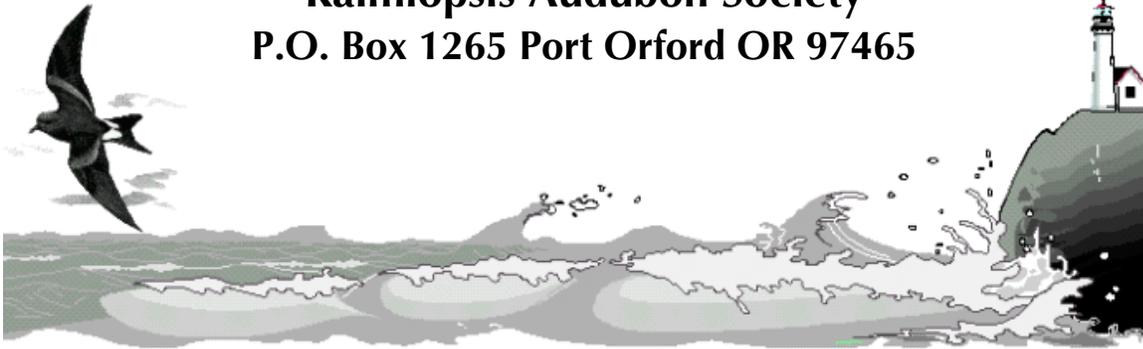
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Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465



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 broadleaved 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 Kalmiopsis 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/ 

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 overnighter—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.

APPENDIX C

Chetco River Scenic Waterway Study ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

Data were obtained from a questionnaire (questionnaire is included at the end of this appendix) administered to any member of the general public interested in providing comments to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on the potential addition of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System. Those interested in providing comments were directed to complete the questionnaire on the SurveyMonkey internet website (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/>) during a period from August 20 to October 15, 2014. The total number of completed surveys was 47. Survey results are not generalizable to any larger population, but simply a method to provide those unable to attend a public meeting the opportunity for public comment.

Results

The first question asked for the respondent's zip code. Table 1 shows that 91% of respondents lived in Oregon, 7% resided in California, and 1% were from Arizona. Among respondents, 56% were from Curry County, 7% lived in Multnomah County, 4% in Lane County, and 4% from Jackson County.

Table 1. Respondent location of residence

State	Percent
Oregon	91
California	7
Arizona	1
Oregon County	
Curry	56
Multnomah	7
Lane	4
Jackson	4
Benton	2
Coos	2
Deschutes	2
Josephine	2
Marion	2
Union	2

The next question asked respondents if they support or oppose the addition of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program. The majority (67%) of respondents supported the proposed Scenic Waterway corridor addition, while 33% opposed the addition (Table 2).

Table 2. Support for proposed Chetco River corridor Scenic Waterway addition

	Percent
Support	67
Oppose	33

Respondents who opposed the Chetco River Scenic Waterway addition (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park), were then asked if they would support or oppose three shorter sub-sections of the overall Chetco River for Scenic Waterway addition. Table 3 shows that shortening the proposed corridor would have little effect on overcoming respondent opposition to this Scenic Waterway addition.

Table 3. Opponent support for proposed Chetco River corridor Scenic Waterway sub-sections

River Segment	Percent Support	Percent Oppose
River Segment 1: Steel Bridge Old Low Water Bridge	13	87
River Segment 2: Old Low Water Bridge (FS Rd 1846) to South Fork	0	100
River Segment 3: River Segment 3: South Fork to Loeb State Park	0	100

The remainder of the report includes verbatim open ended responses to a number of questions related to the potential addition of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Open-Ended Comments

What is your primary interest in the Chetco River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

- Citizen
- Appreciate the natural beauty and ecological benefits.
- Scenic beauty.
- I frequently raft and hike along the Chetco River and have for years. It is imperative to me to protect the beauty, the pristine nature and quality of the river and all its inhabitants. Please keep our waters clear, safe and beautiful. We value the Chetco River and many of our friends and people we do not know come to visit because of the beauty of the river.
- I would like to see more designations statewide
- Pack rafting and fishing.
- I have fished the Chetco River for steelhead and believe it should be protected.
- Maintaining a river that is extremely healthy and offers many recreational opportunities.
- I am a whitewater boater.
- I do kayak tours on the Chetco and fish it recreational.
- I have visited Brookings/Harbor region for years. The Chetco River is the main life blood of this community. Protection of the river will provide jobs and stability to the local economy without using extraction methods. The Chetco is a very special river.

- The Chetco is considered a partner river to the Wild and Scenic Smith River which is located in northern CA and southern OR. The Smith is recognized as one of the premier salmon strongholds along the Pacific Coast. The Chetco is a critically important river for salmonids in its own right, but as a neighbor to the Smith in a bioregion which is defined and heralded for water quality and salmon productivity ----- this clearly elevates the significance of the Chetco River for protection as a Wild and Scenic River.
- I have never experienced the river and would like to in an unaltered state.
- This drainage embodies the meaning for the wild and scenic rivers protection act. I would like to see it more protected, and see the benefits in this pilot study for recreation, restoration and ecological value preservation.
- Preserve public lands from use by motorized vehicles and road building; maintain scenic beauty for rafting and kayaking.
- I used to live in Brookings and still visit the Chetco River regularly. It is very heavily used in that section. We should preserve the river as best we can.
- I would like to keep the Chetco's River waters flowing in the quality and quantity that they are in now. I hope that our demands for resources leave incredible rivers, such as the Chetco, untouched.
- Kayaker / recreational user.
- Paddling, angling, hiking.
- It will restrict land uses adjacent to the Chetco River. It is a poor policy being only beneficial to tourists, creating more restrictions and costs for local residents. A good policy is mutually beneficial to both parties.
- My interest is the Chetco River. My grandson learned to swim in the Chetco River and I took my first boat trip, an incredible experience. The scenic beauty and serenity as we floated down the river should remain available for others to enjoy.
- Continued recreational activities.
- Resident.
- I live here and am concerned about what is going on.
- To not have the Chetco River part of the Scenic Waterway Program.
- My interest is to not put additional regulations on the river that will involve more agencies to act on policies and decisions.
- Not adding to the regulatory burden on those who use the river for livelihood and recreation.
- To keep the Chetco River from being commercially harvested for any resource (fish included). Since 2005, the boat pressure on the Chetco River has increased by 70 % . 50 % comes from other states but 25 % comes from local (60 mile radius) guides. The Chetco River is only 56 miles long with no hatchery on the river. Time is running out for the Kings, Steelhead and all other marketable products. My interest is in the preservation of all wildlife and clean water from Steel Bridge down to Ferry Creek - (no motors) and limited Commercial Guide Permits.
- We own a home, 21200 High Prairie Rd, in the area of question. We owned The Chetco River Inn for 25 years. We would like to know what changes would come from the including the new parts of the river. We can't answer the survey questions because no information was given about the river and how the changes would or would not affect private ownership, roads, camp grounds, fire protection, and law enforcement. We are not for or against. More information is needed.
- To maintain the aquatic diversity and healthy native fish runs that dominate the Chetco River. To maintain a clean watershed, nonturbidity, and pretty much preserve the quality river for future generations of grandchildren, fish and wildlife. I'm hoping a scenic waterway status would insure this result.
- Fishing.

- I've backpacked in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. I am also an avid fly-fisher. Places like the Chetco River pilot study area are unique and irreplaceable. They will only increase in their intrinsic value and economic development potential from being in their natural state.
- Economic, recreation & fishery
- The Chetco River is very special.
- Private citizen and employee of Freeman Rock, Inc.
- Maintaining the Chetco River without government intervention.
- Concerns involving additional regulation of natural resources.
- What impact this will have on my recreational use of the upper Chetco River.
- To make sure that the Chetco River remains at least as pristine as it is today.
- I camp and fish on this river. My drinking water comes from this river. My children and now my grand-children visit the river. I feel it is a community resource and that the oversight of this river from a community stand-point has been poor.
- I wish to see the Chetco River preserved for its great scenic beauty and its value as a resource which supports a recreational industry in rafting and fishing. It supports a pivotal run of the Southern Oregon and Northern California threatened Coho Salmon and provides the vital fresh water for the cities of Brookings and Harbor.
- As a user of the waterway, I am primarily interested in the additional restrictions that will be placed upon the river. In addition, the river already has a national scenic waterway designation for a portion of the waterway.
- Long time user both fishing and enjoying the beauty of this river.
- Preserving private property rights.
- I am a recreational user of the Chetco River. I also appreciate its outstanding values of clear water, amazing fish runs and wildlife values.

Please state why you support or oppose the Chetco River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

- Protect property rights and values and natural free-flowing character.
- Recognition and protection of the Chetco River.
- Added protection.
- Please see above.
- Scenic waterway designation provides important protection to Oregon's beloved rivers.
- Protection from mining and logging and improving access.
- Without official designation, the river is at risk.
- The Chetco River has not had significant development along its banks past the steel bridge. The spawning habitat and rearing habitat for native fish is almost entirely unaltered by human distribution from the steel bridge. The river's excellent water quality is also an important factor in supporting the sections into the program.
- Protection of the river.
- I believe that healthy ecology equals healthy economy.
- See #2 above.
- The very qualities which are used to define a wild and scenic river can be used to describe the Chetco River!
- I would like to experience the river and landscape unaltered by corporate greed.
- To better preserve unique waterways for ecological aesthetic and recreational values.

- Preserve public lands from use by motorized vehicles and road building; maintain scenic beauty for rafting and kayaking.
- Because it is all heavily used.
- The Chetco River offers unique scenery and river features that cannot be seen anywhere else in Oregon.
- Keep the viewshed pristine.
- Remote rivers like this are rare these days and provide great benefits in terms of recreation and just enjoying nature's beauty.
- I support the entire addition on the map to be designated a State Scenic Waterway.
- This 56- mile water way is easy to damage and we depend on the subsistence and water it provides local residents.
- Preservation of a unique watershed free of gold suction dredge miners.
- The Scenic Waterway program helps protect the quality and accessibility of our waterways.
- This is a unique and irreplaceable area. If developed, it would be lost forever.
- I would like to see the river as healthy as it can be for fish and other living things that use it.
- Please see above answer.
- See #1 above.
- We need to save this for the future generations just like the Elk and Rogue rivers.
- I believe the State Scenic Waterway designation will help protect the river from the threat of in stream mining. As a citizen volunteer activist, I have worked on this issue for years, aiming to expand protections for the federal wild and scenic reach. Thus far, many of the mining claims have been retired and there is a temporary mineral withdrawal in place --but Inaction in Congress may make in stream mining a threat again.
- A scenic designation is only good in theory.
- The river is already plenty scenic without any more governmental regulation.
- More restriction put on private timber land owners.
- Drinking water quality is just fine the way it is.
- Additional regulatory burden for tax paying landowner, with no benefit.
- Do not need more regulations imposed.
- State interference inevitably burdens river users and adjacent land owners with regulatory hoops to jump through. There seem to be more than adequate regulations to protect the river now. Adding to them is burdensome. Even if the stated goal is not to that, unless there is specific language that prevents it, the bureaucracy will eventually find a way to make life on the river more complicated as it strives to correct or prevent issues real or imagined.
- Excessive Government regulation. I believe it will also be the beginning of access restriction.
- I do not know how much private land is involved. I do not support the government placing new restrictions on private land without some form of mitigation.
- There are already numerous government agencies managing our area. I do not understand why one more is needed.
- I oppose the Chetco River Scenic Waterway proposal. Government intervention usually creates more problems for users. Since this project is non-funded, the management of this program will need to possibly charge a user fee which I do not agree with. Historically, since the early 60's, where government is involved, citizens lose rights. Again, I am not in favor of this proposal. I see the Chetco River almost every day of the year and I feel the local population does a fine job of maintaining, managing and caring for the river. Since in the early 1800's, natives and settlers have been using the river as a source of food, water and recreation. The river is in almost the same state

now as then. I feel that comes under good management by those who care for our 53 miles of river. We do not need any help from the government. Thank you

- Additional regulation of natural resources is not necessary on this segment of river. It would be an additional burden to our already overburdened tax dollars with no tangible benefit.
- There are already enough layers of rules and government concerning the rivers in Oregon.
- The additional land use restrictions are not warranted at this time. The river is already under several restrictions for use due to the National Scenic Waterways Act.
- The upstream areas are already under federal ownership so there wouldn't be any real threat of a change in their use/status/ecology etc. For the private landowners along these areas - this results in a taking.

What benefits do you see if the Chetco River segments were added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- Protect and maintain the free flowing nature of the river.
- Added protection against development.
- See above.
- SWW designation protects river flows in water allocation decisions, and also protects against dams.
- See above.
- Protection of habitat and recreational opportunities.
- Protections of vital habitat for fish and water quality from mining and other human impacts. Recreational use could be maintained to the very pristine natural setting.
- Protection of the river.
- Increased protections and hopefully increased tourism.
- Please see answers to #2 above and #7 and 8 below.
- There is incredible economic benefit. Through wild and scenic designation you can also charge a user fee and better monitor recreational usage as well as impacts and provide funding for restoration preservation and education about wild and scenic waterways.
- Preserve Oregon's rivers from development.
- To reduce the amount of trash in and near the river, and reduce the number of vehicles driving through the river in summer.
- Such a long, contiguous path of protected river will provide a connected ecosystem that supports more life and cleaner water than smaller chunks or non-contiguous sections.
- Maintain/improve the scenic nature of the river corridor for fishermen and watercraft.
- Preserve the excellent water quality and free-flowing status of this remote river.
- None.
- Benefits are recreation, fishing and tourism. Also it supports the Federal designation of the Chetco River as a Wild and Scenic River.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- I do not see any benefits.
- None.
- Protection of a natural necessary resource for Brookings and Curry County. Your last segment (red) is 7 miles up-river from the mouth. You can come down to above Ferry Creek where ODFW has a pilot Estuary Guide Program started to raise Fall Kings (wire coded) in an effort to build a sustainable

Chetco King imprinted on Ferry Creek for an Estuary (Guide) fishery - similar to the Rogue with Indian Creek Hatchery.

- Added protection from suction dredging and gravel removal and radically harmful logging.
- Improvements in the quality of the waterway.
- It will protect an irreplaceable resource providing enhanced and increased opportunities for recreational economic development.
- I am opposed - no benefit.
- Unknown.
- None.
- No benefits, just unnecessary bureaucracy.
- None.
- A stoppage of any future mining claims; stricter management of how close vehicles and campers can get to the water; overall tightening of regulations regarding run off and foliage clearing near the banks.
- Hopefully better coordination between government entities whose interests overlap and often confuse what is beneficial to the river itself...not just the economic or human driven interests. By keeping the river a healthy sustainable asset our community derives much HIGHER economic benefit that just short term, short-sighted uses of the river. The "brand name" value of this beautiful water way in our small town is valuable.
- It would give the Chetco River its rightful place among the most beautiful rivers on Oregon and would boost tourism business since it runs entirely in Curry County from its source to its mouth.
- None.
- More money coming in the area.
- I don't understand what the benefits would be in areas that are already under federal ownership so they have no threat. In the private ownership there would be some benefits however they would come to with a severe detriment to private property rights.
- It would increase protections for the outstanding values of this extraordinary, one of a kind river. And I am not sure, but I hope it might increase resources for managing outstanding values.

What problems do you see if the Chetco River segments were added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- None.
- None.
- None.
- Fees. I don't mind paying if the money goes directly to improving the roads, trails, campgrounds or facility but paying for parking in a lot that has always been there is ridiculous..
- None.
- Some oversight such as hazardous trees and brush removal could be seen as to slight laced for those who use the river for recreational use during summer and winter seasons. Those who drive trucks in the stream bed may need to find another location to damage waterways.
- None.
- None.
- Any problems would be out-weighed by the public trust benefits to OR and USA residents.
- The problem I see is in misinterpretation of the act and in costs to regulate and monitor use. The benefits far outweigh this in the long term though. If we do not preserve our waterways now, soon

it will be too late to restore fragile riparian ecosystems and to retrieve lost intrinsic and social values associated with the unique areas.

- There would be some local resistance. A lot of people are multi-generational residents and don't want to see any changes.
- None.
- None.
- No problems, just big advantages.
- Increased costs for land owners along the river due to increased regulations that have negligible effects. This policy is only beneficial to visitors of the area and not the local residents.
- None. I see only positive results.
- Too much government regulation already.
- I see more restrictions being added to timber harvest and land management activities. An increased economic burden put onto private land owners to appease the public. Also increased regulations put onto Public Timber Harvest (Forest Service).
- Too much government regulation. Forest practice regulations that are already in place are more than adequate to protect the waterway.
- This is a take from landowners
- People could have less use of our river.
- More red tape to deal with
- What rules are you intending to imply on the River? Define State Scenic Waterway. I'm a retired Teamster and Disabled Vet. I subsistence bank fish the Chetco River and boat fish the local Ocean. My family depends on the resource the Chetco River provides. I have written several proposals to ODFW to maintain some control and rules to keep our river open.
- Management costs and distance from state offices.
- None.
- There are property owners in blue and red segments that I believe will eventually be adversely affected. The environmental community will be given more power to control property that has been in families for several decades.
- Potential to limit diversity.
- I think this is a duplication of government. Are the other agencies going to step away if this is taken on?
- Lack of ability to enjoy the river due to government intervention.
- Potential for restricted access to the public. Infringement of adjacent landowners in regards to management of their land.
- Implementing another set of regulations that will be overseen with almost no funding is a useless act. If the Oregon Scenic Waterways OAR does get funding and these rules are actually followed there could be unreasonable delay in the decision making process.
- Getting the word out about water. New rules and enforcement thereof.
- None.
- I see no problems.
- Additional regulation and restrictions upon recreational use of the river.
- Zero.
- People would no longer be allowed to use their land as that had been before. Timber harvesting, construction, etc. Loss of value and loss of use. Resulting in a governmental taking.
- I do not foresee any problems, except that some people who dislike the idea of government involvement may dislike the designation for ideological reasons.

What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Chetco River segments?

- Fish, scenic.
- See above.
- The Chetco River is a scenic river, home to ESA fish and supports recreation.
- Remoteness, wilderness, beauty.
- Beauty and habitat for threatened species.
- The geology of this river is very unusual. It contains many different forms of metamorphic rock outcroppings and parent material sources. Mushrooms and other flora and fauna thrive in the undisturbed river corridor. The spawning gravel recruitment produced in the tributaries and protected by the mostly intact healthy riparian zone is what makes this river continue to stay wild while offering many recreational opportunities due to the mostly public adjacent landowners.
- Clear water, good runs of fish.
- Wild salmon productivity; water quality; dam free; extensive public ownership which can be helpful re landscape scale restoration and protection.
- The Chetco River drainage contains outstanding features that highlight ecological diversity, unique recreational opportunity, social value, and economic value through its clean water resources and potential to set an example for other threatened waterways.
- The rock in the gorge is so unusual, the water is very clear and the pools wonderfully deep. Such a great section of river.
- The Chetco is a wild river that fluctuates naturally with the surrounding ecosystem and its other organisms. I hope that this is preserved for years to come as it serves us all greatly by filtering water, fostering animals in connected habitats, and allows for more fish habitat.
- The pristine nature of the water quality is among the best I've encountered in Oregon.
- Outstanding rapids in a remote area.
- The current complete lack of a state scenic designation.
- Color and clarity of the river, scenic features and wildlife. Some of the largest salmon are caught here. The Chetco River is also home to the federally threatened SONC Coho salmon.
- The scenery is already wonderful. I enjoy watching the changes in the landscape where the forest is actively managed.
- It is already a fine natural place.
- Drinking water.
- They areas are available to those who have the desire to use them. All areas are beautifully scenic and pristine and many places are only seen from the river. I would not like to see people restricted from any of these areas.
- It is a scenic wild river with challenging access and used sparsely by a few dedicated sport fishers and picnic/camper activities.
- Pristine natural habitat for all Salmon and wildlife with currently a clean water system
- Clean water, native fish, and a peaceful environment free of most human activities.
- This waterway and the surrounding wilderness is a treasure to our river system.
- I can get on board with designation of the green segment as a pilot program but am staunchly against the blue and green segments
- Many...
- Seeing families enjoying the pristine waters of the Chetco River not impacted by the government regulations.
- Beautiful river areas mostly navigable only by kayak.
- Water clarity, its natural pathway, and the rural area and native forest it passes through.

- Upstream there are large tracts native trees and plants. Healthy fish populations. Clear water. Lower stream there are bigger creeks coming in feeding and nourishing healthy fish populations below.
- It is pristine and pure since it has its source in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.
- Easy access for the community and visitors to enjoy the unique features of the Chetco River. Clean drinking water and excellent fishing opportunities.
- This river starts and ends in the county.
- Good recreation. Good species habitat - for salmonids and mammals. Aesthetic values. Timber and mineral resources.
- The green and blue stretches are wild and afford an amazing stretch of river for white water or low water paddling --not for beginners. There are parts with large white marble like rocks, and then a different large dramatic rock feature. The water is stunning in clarity and blue-green color. The blue section has massive rapids and canyon like walls --with the big Cone Head rock and rapid. There is a wonderful trail (Chetco Gorge Trail) up the river on the north side that has fallen into disrepair. The Red reach offers a great section of river for paddling, camping, swimming, and fishing that many local people enjoy.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the potential addition of the Chetco River segments to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

- You should add more streams.
- We love our beautiful streams rivers and relatively clean water in somewhat wilderness settings....fewer and fewer these days.
- The Chetco River is a national treasure.
- Do it, please add this river.
- There should be no fish taken to Elk River hatchery to be raised and then brought back and dumped into the river. A river like the Chetco should not have hatchery influences.
- It is a winner. Oregon will be better once the Chetco River is protected.
- Cross-border collaboration and cooperation re protection and restoration of riverine resources is essential if Oregon and California are to recover their salmon populations.
- I believe the addition of the Chetco River to the OS Scenic waterway program would be incredibly beneficial for reasons listed above, and a great pilot program as it encompasses both the benefits and conflicts you may see in designating larger and more utilized waterways.
- No, thank you.
- Save the rivers while we can!
- It is a bad idea.
- The addition will help to market tourism and boost the economy in this area.
- There already are rules and regulations protecting the water quality, scenic is one person's opinion.
- I see nothing to be gained and potentially much to be lost by the proposed action.
- Was trying to make your meeting tonight 9-11-14 but have appointment with Radiation Oncology in Medford. I will read the other links provided by Steve Kay but would like a little more information on what rules you use when/if you decide to label the Chetco River a Scenic Water Way?. I look forward to hearing from you. I want to thank Mr. Kay for his help and time and thank you for your commitment. Resident since 1999.
- I have made my living on the Chetco River fishing clients for over 30 years and it is worthy of protection to continue a quality experience and unique watershed found nowhere else in the world.

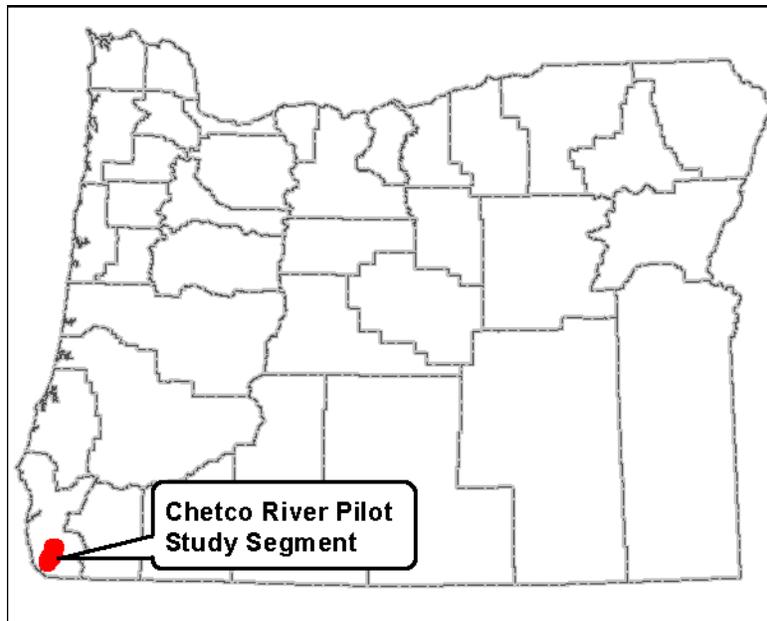
- Please add these Chetco River segments to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program.
- Please do not allow over government regulation of our natural resource I have lived here for 50 years and outside interests are taking away our rights as businesses and property owners
- The Chetco River is beautiful and has been for hundreds of years without intervention from the government. It is best that we leave it that way.
- Please do not enact rules without funding their enforcement or considering them against existing rules and regulations.
- We in Brookings enjoy drinking the Chetco River's lovely water.
- It definitely should be included.
- It's about time that the State decided to list this river
- I am mostly opposed to it.
- The Chetco is one of the wildest rivers on the west coast. Unlike other coastal streams, it flows from wilderness and still has lots of intact salmon spawning habitat and intact habitat for birds and wildlife. It has been recognized by Congress as a national wild and scenic river, and surely it should count as one of Oregon's most special and outstanding streams, too.

Survey Questionnaire

Chetco River Segment Scenic Waterway Public Input

A citizen's initiative created the Oregon Scenic Waterways System, which currently includes approximately 1,150 miles on 20 waterways. The program protects designated waterbodies and adjacent lands that possess outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, historic, archaeological, and outdoor recreation values. It preserves the waterbodies in a natural free-flowing condition, preserves scenic and esthetic qualities, and protects water quality and quantity at a level necessary for recreation, fish, and wildlife.

The governor has directed the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to evaluate potential additions to the Oregon Scenic Waterways System. In 2014, OPRD assembled a scenic waterway task force to prioritize rivers for potential addition to the system. Based on task force input, the Chetco River segment, from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park, has been selected by the department for a pilot study to determine suitability for designation.



This survey is part of the public outreach process for gathering comments on the potential addition of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Question 1: What is your residence zip code? _____

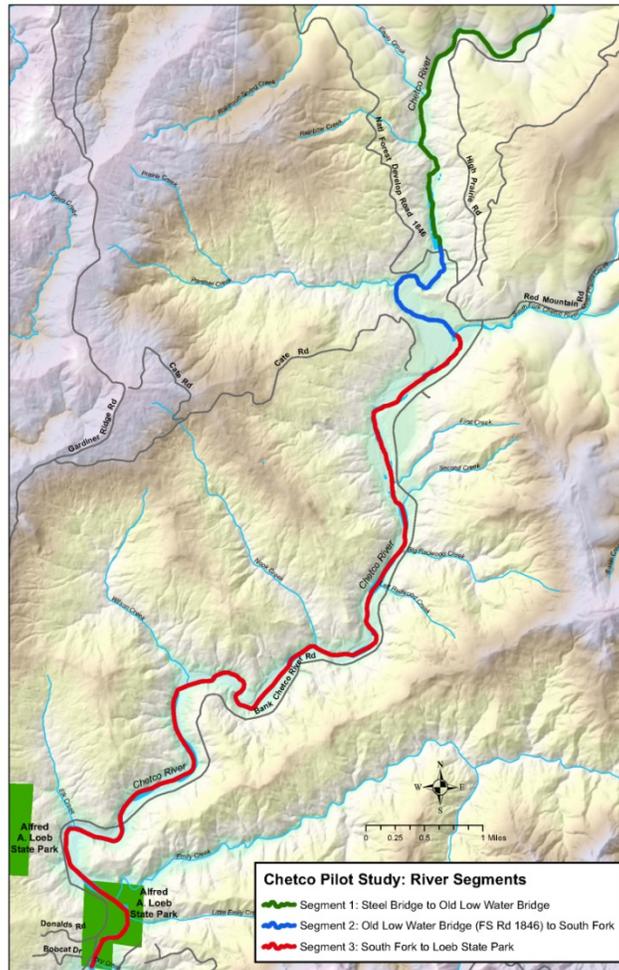
Question 2: What is your primary interest in the Chetco River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

Question 3: Do you support or oppose the addition of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program (check one)?

- Support - Why do you support? _____
- Oppose – Why do you oppose? _____

Question 4: If you oppose, check the box to support or oppose the three specific Chetco River segments included in the study proposal.

River Segment 1: Steel Bridge Old Low Water Bridge (Green line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
River Segment 2: Old Low Water Bridge (FS Rd 1846) to South Fork (Blue line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
River Segment 3: South Fork to Loeb State Park (Red line in map below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose



Question 5: What benefits do you see if the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Question 6: What problems do you see if the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Question 7: What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Chetco River segment (from the Steel Bridge to Loeb State Park)?

Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the potential addition of the Chetco River segment to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

Thank you for your input!

The Curry County Board of Commissioners voted to send a resolution of support for the designation of the Chetco River as a State Scenic Waterway on 12/17/2014. Information from that meeting is [available online](#) on the Curry County website (NOTE: the PDF file of the meeting packet is a large document). The resolution is included on the following page.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY, OREGON**

In the Matter of a Resolution)
Supporting the Designation)
of the Chetco River as a)
State Scenic Waterway)

RESOLUTION NO. R201422

WHEREAS, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 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; and,

WHEREAS, on October 28, 1988, 44.5 miles of the Chetco River was designated as a State Scenic Waterway, that portion being from its headwaters to the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest boundary with 27.5 miles designated as wild; 8.0 miles scenic; and 11.0 miles recreational; and,

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department conducted a study of an additional segment of the Chetco River, the study area being 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; and,

WHEREAS, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department June 2014 field visit and public input eligibility assessment found the study area meets the criteria for designation as a State Scenic Waterway.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

To support the designation of the Chetco River Study Area, as described herein, as a State Scenic Waterway, provided, however, the Curry County Board of Commissioners and county residents have direct input in drafting the Management Plan that will be established as the governing document of the Chetco River State Scenic Waterway.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2014.

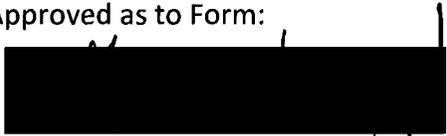
BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Susan Brown, Chair


David Brock Smith, Vice Chair


David G. Itzen, Commissioner

Approved as to Form:


M. Gerard Herbage
Curry County Legal Counsel

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



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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

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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)).

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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).

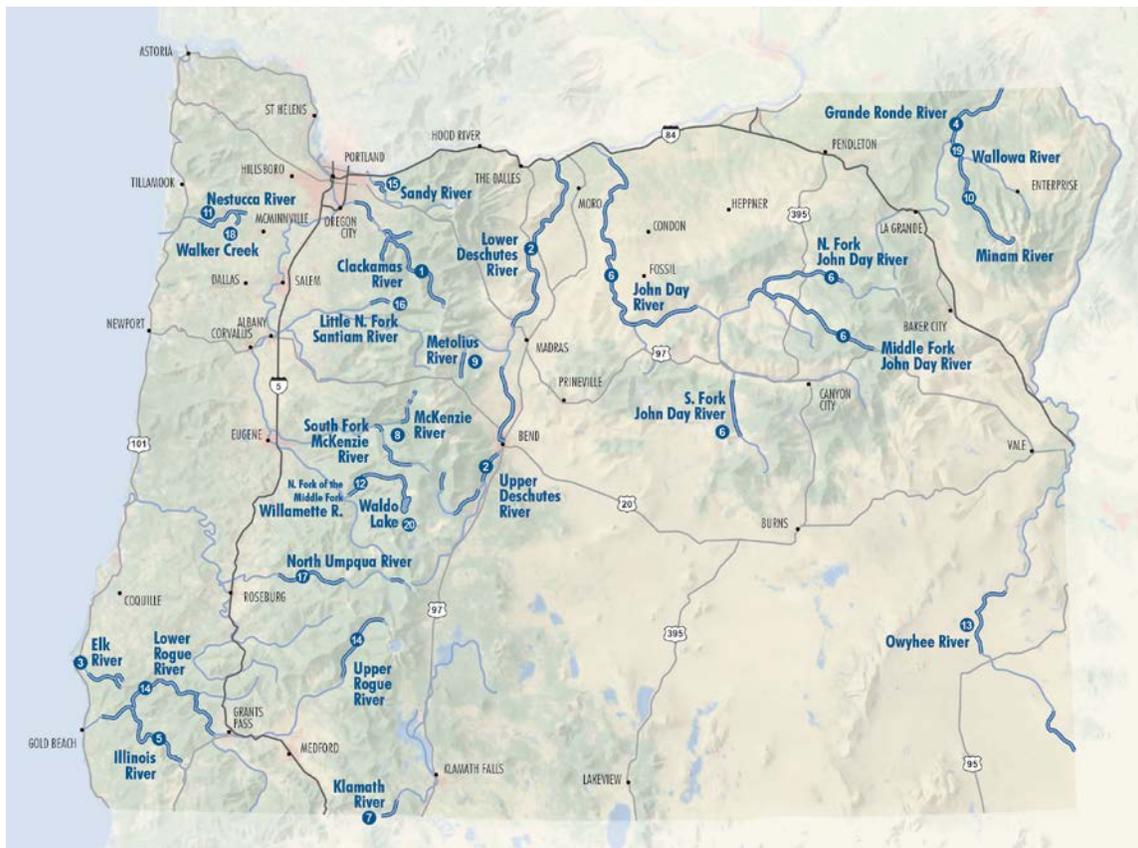


Figure 1. Oregon’s Existing State Scenic Waterways System

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.

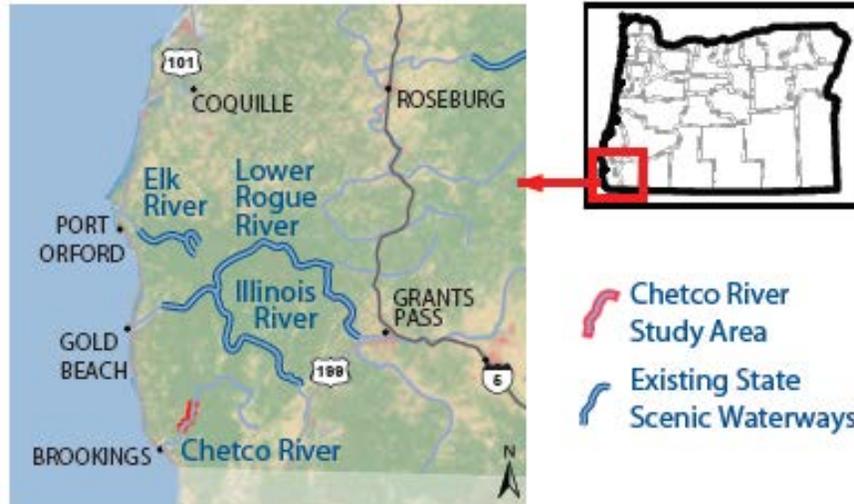


Figure 2. Location of the Chetco River Study Area in Curry Co., Southwest Oregon

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 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.

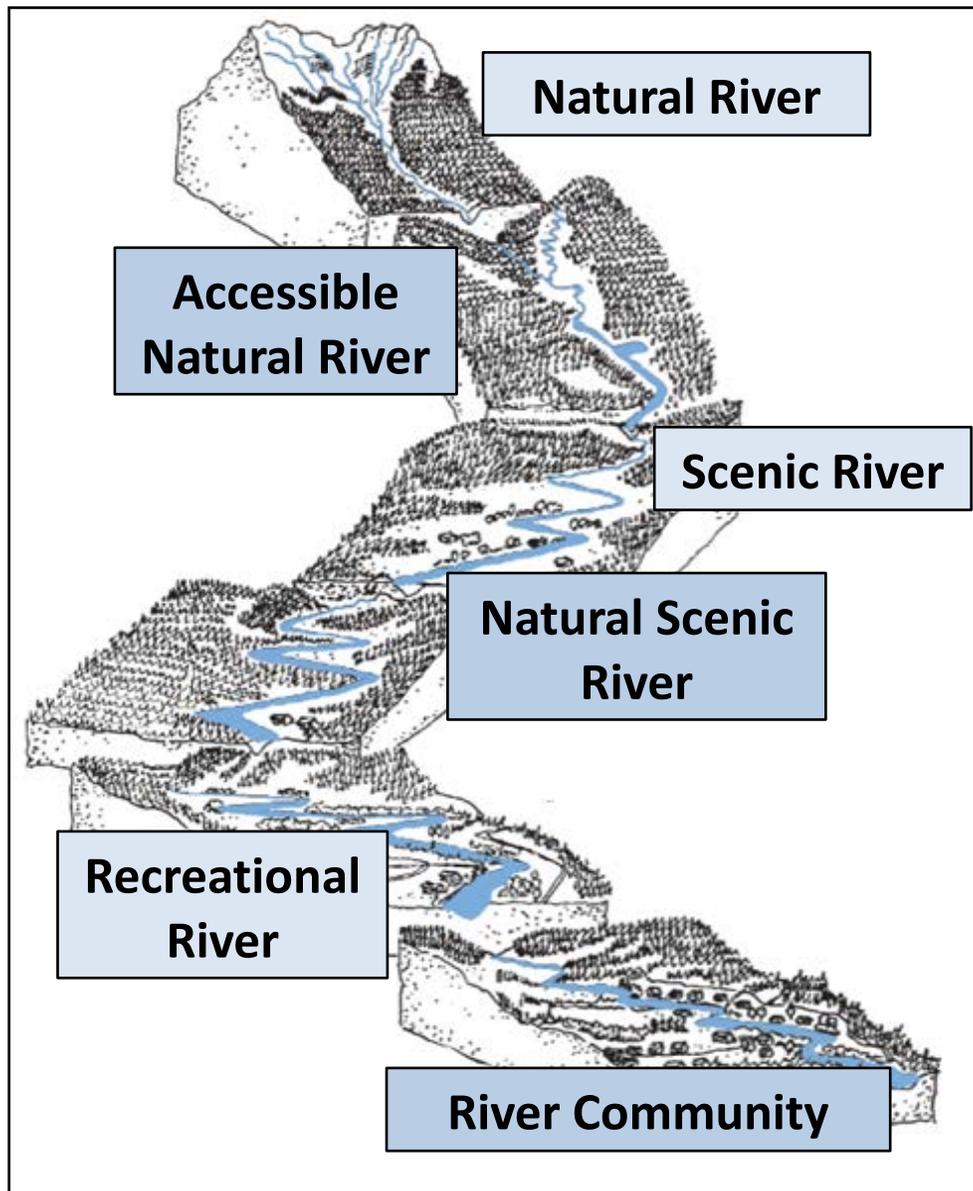


Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

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 (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):

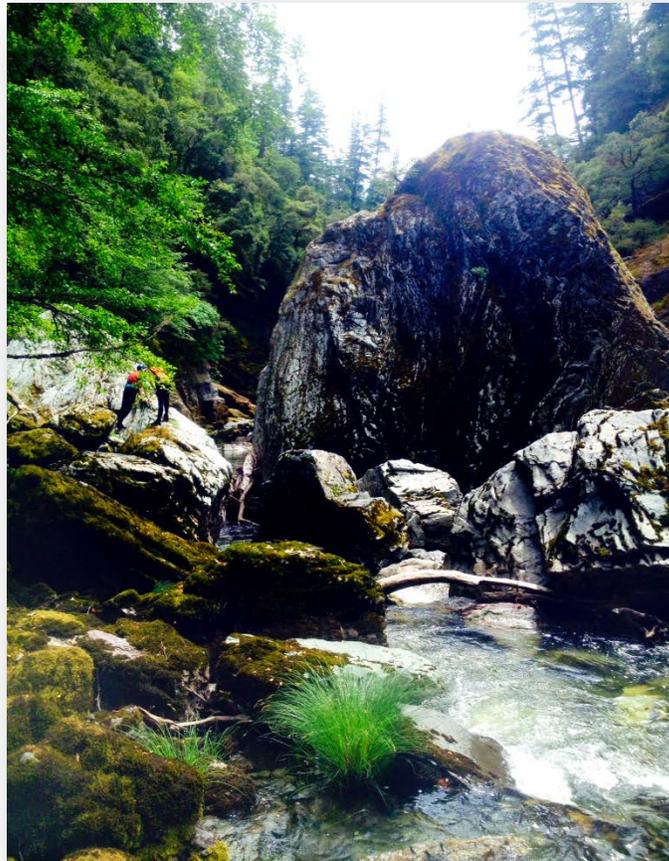


Below Candycane Rapids at low water in the Lower Chetco River Gorge

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.

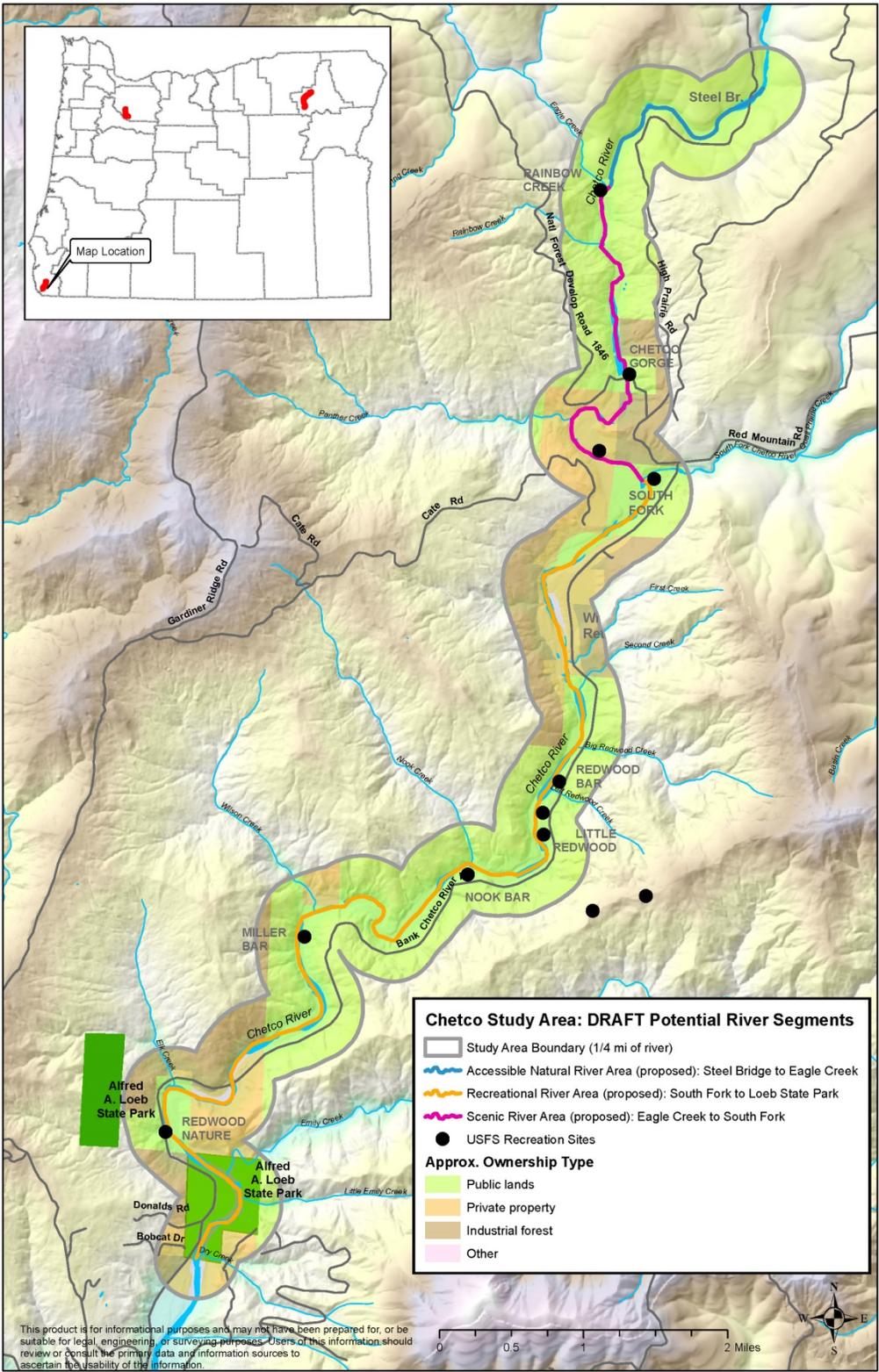


Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

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

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- National Marine Fisheries Service. (2014). *Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of Coho Salmon.* Arcata, CA.
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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

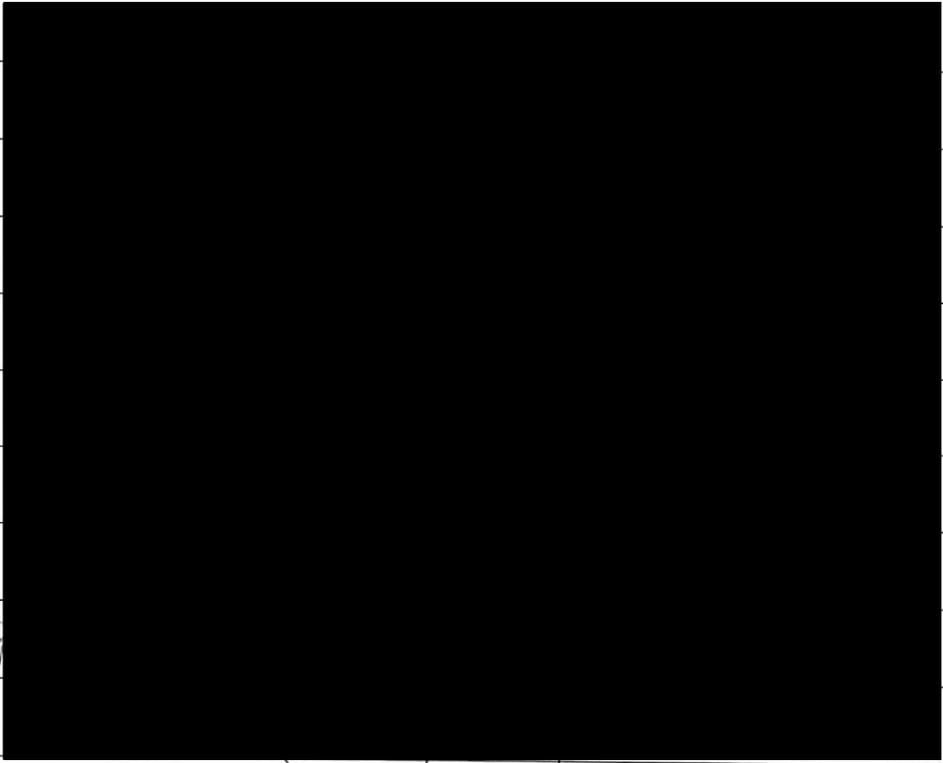
Slightly less than 50% of the comments received from Oregon were from Southern Oregon with 24% from the Portland Metro area, 16% from the Willamette Valley and 8% from the Oregon Coast. Less than 1% of total comments received were in opposition to the designation/management plan (1 comment). Approximately 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 Eltinger	
Ben Watts	
GEORGE FITZHOUGH	
Bonnie Kuppler	
Tom Gastonway	
Richard Behrens	
Sunny Bourdon	
Ty Suggs	
NEAL MORRIS	
BOB JOHNSON/MAT	

11



SIGN-IN SHEET
SCENIC WATERWAY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 7-24-15

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

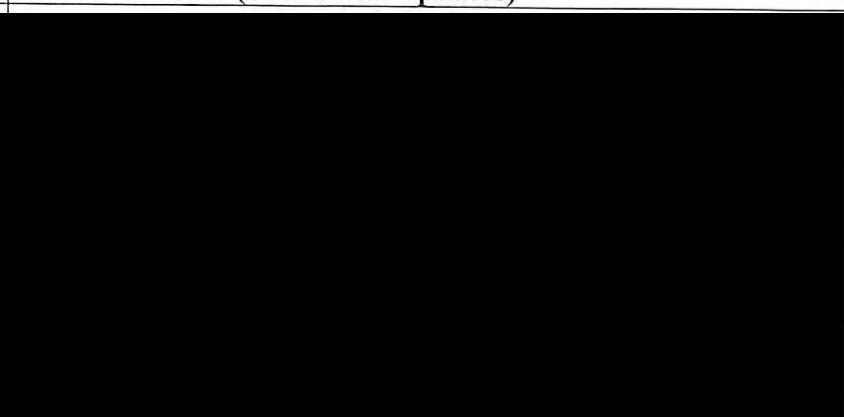
Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Beimm Byron + Joyce	
Shirley Hearing + Bob Wellbrite	
Tamara Pottinger	
John Babin	
Brent Hodges	
Kereto or Elan Society	
Joyce J. Howland	
Bobbie Gross	
Dora Hodges	
Christine Behrens	
Kellen Igou	
Alyssa Babin	
Joyce Tromblee	



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)

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*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)

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 Ordozko



(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

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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

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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.

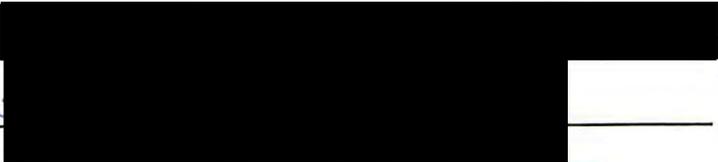
Edward R. Gross, Retired Forest Soil Scientist

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

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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,

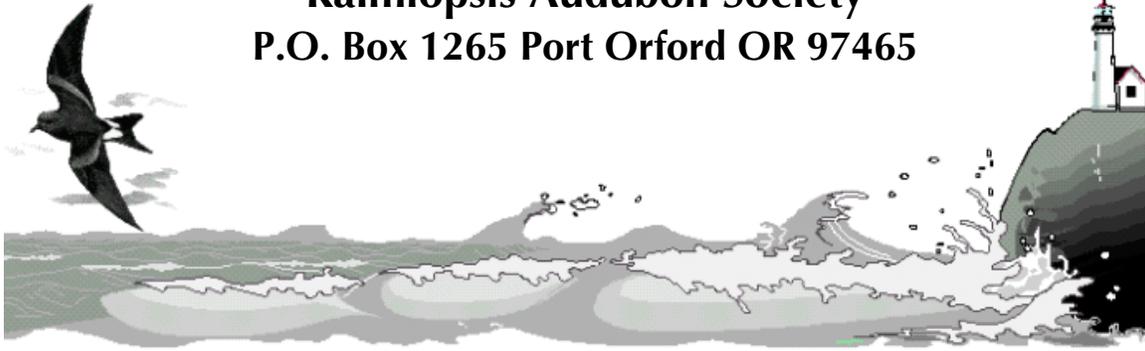
We would like for our concern to be included in your Scenic Waterway proposition. We own a large portion of river frontage. We have taken under consideration the pros that the Scenic Waterway designation however we are very much against the river portion running along our property to be included in the 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.

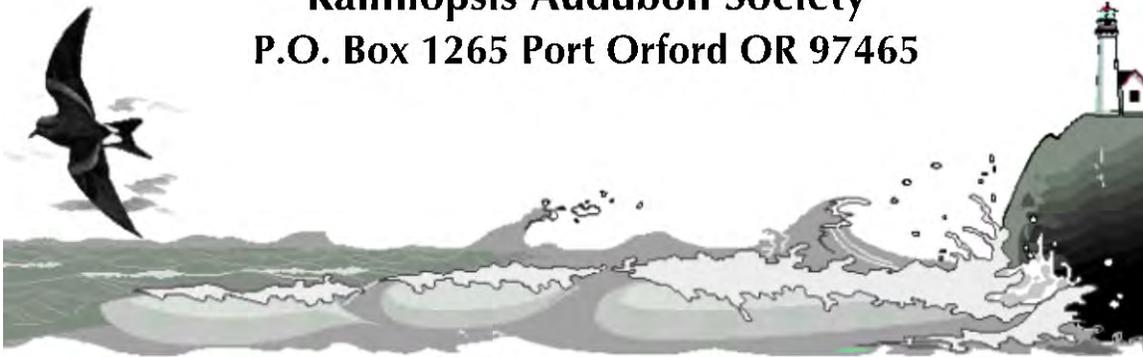
Thank you for considering our comments.

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 aid 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

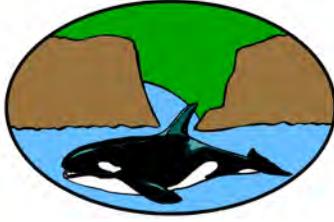
Dear Scenic Waterways Program Staff,

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.

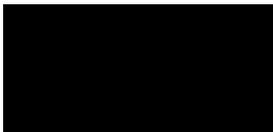
As a related matter, we appreciate that the WRD conditions new water right permits to protect scenic waterway flows and we support this conditioning, but again, unless the scenic waterway flows are protecting the full suite of flows necessary to maintain fish, wildlife and recreation uses then this conditioning 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 redaction box covering the signature area.

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

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"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)

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"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

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"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,

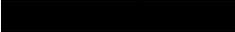
As a kayaker, rafter, and general river enthusiast, I want to urge you to add the Molalla and Chetco river segments to Oregon's network of Scenic Waterways. I have kayaked the Molalla River, which is a very special place that should be preserved in its natural state. I have not had the opportunity to 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.

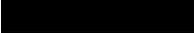
I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the designation of the Molalla and Chetco rivers as state scenic waterways and the setting of the maximum instream flows necessary to protect these Oregon gems. I fish both of these streams and appreciate the wild, scenic treasures they are.

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