State Scenic Waterway Report:

Molalla River

October 27, 2014

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

Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Scenic Waterway Assessment Team

Laurel Hillmann, Natural Resource Planner

Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator

Terry Bergerson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Noel Bacheller, Natural Resources Specialist

Jim Morgan, Stewardship Division Manager

Steve Kay, Grants and Community Programs Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for administering the State Scenic Waterways Program, which is designed to protect the existing scenic, natural, and recreation values of 20 designated waterways throughout the State. OPRD is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been designated since 1988.

In September 2013, the Governor directed OPRD to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders, OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study.

This Oregon Scenic Waterway study, conducted by OPRD, serves as the statutorily required first step in the process to possibly designate a new Oregon Scenic Waterway. That process, established by ORS 390.855, allows for the Governor to designate new scenic waterways following study and approval of the OPRD Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This study document constitutes the first step - a report to OPRD Commission. This study, covering approximately 13.2 miles on the Molalla River, was done to accomplish two objectives:

1. Determine if the river segments meet the qualifications for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway (ORS 390.855); and
2. If the qualifications are met, outline, in *general*, what type of management designation would be appropriate for waterway, *if* it is found to be eligible, suitable, and ultimately designated.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

In 2014, OPRD evaluated the Molalla River during field visits using eligibility criteria established by State statutes (ORS 390.855). The river was rafted from a primitive put-in approximately 0.3 miles east of the Table Rock Fork confluence on Copper Creek to a primitive take-out managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approximately one mile north of the North Fork confluence during the optimal float season to assess the waterway's free-flowing nature, scenic characteristics, and recreational qualities. In addition to OPRD's on-river evaluation, other agencies, organizations, and members of the public also provided feedback on whether the waterway meets the required eligibility criteria. Public input was provided through submitted written comments, an online survey conducted by OPRD, and through discussions with agencies,

organizations, and community members. Based on OPRD's field visit and public input, the eligibility assessment resulted in the following findings:

- Based on the results of the study, the entire study area along the Molalla met the eligibility qualifications for an Oregon Scenic Waterway.
- All segments of the study area are completely free-flowing within primarily natural banks.
- The study area offers pleasing views of semi-primitive lands with a variety of geologic, plant and wildlife features visible from the river and present on the adjacent lands. The scenic quality as viewed from the river, as well as from the adjacent land, meets or exceeds the standard of "pleasing" with areas where the scenery is outstanding in nature. There are some cultural modifications (e.g., residential homes, the road) within the corridor; however, those that do exist are localized in nature such that their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general naturalness of the area.
- There is an abundance of wildlife on the forested slopes and the river supports important fish habitat.
- This study area offers camping and day-use, multiple Bureau of Land Management (BLM) camping and day-use areas adjacent to the river, recreational fishing and quality paddling during certain times of the year, with opportunities for boaters of a variety of skill levels.
- It appears that present recreation use is such that the river and its setting are able to maintain existing natural and recreational values, although the river is not without conflicts in a few more intensively used locations.

Public Input Findings

In addition to the evaluation of waterway eligibility, OPRD evaluated stakeholder and community input to gauge public support and understand issues and concerns associated with the potential Scenic Waterway designation. A webpage was established for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address and through the development of an online survey for the waterway. A community meeting was hosted in Molalla on September 15, 2014 to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised thru a news release and public notice in the local paper. Based on OPRD' s analysis of public input, the following findings were identified:

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

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

Waterway Suitability Conclusions

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

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

STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate a segment of the Molalla River in Clackamas 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 Molalla River has its headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in the lower west slopes of Oregon's Cascade Range in rural Clackamas County, eventually flowing after around 51 miles into the Willamette River near Canby, Oregon. OPRD is studying one ~13.2 mile upper river segment, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork and ending at Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon (Figure 1). The study area ranges from a high elevation at around 1196 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low at the Glen Avon Bridge at 528 feet above MSL, with a drop of about 51 feet/mile. Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, portions of which are both designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways. The study area on the Molalla River is shown below in red, in Figure 1, along with nearby State Scenic Waterways, shown in blue.

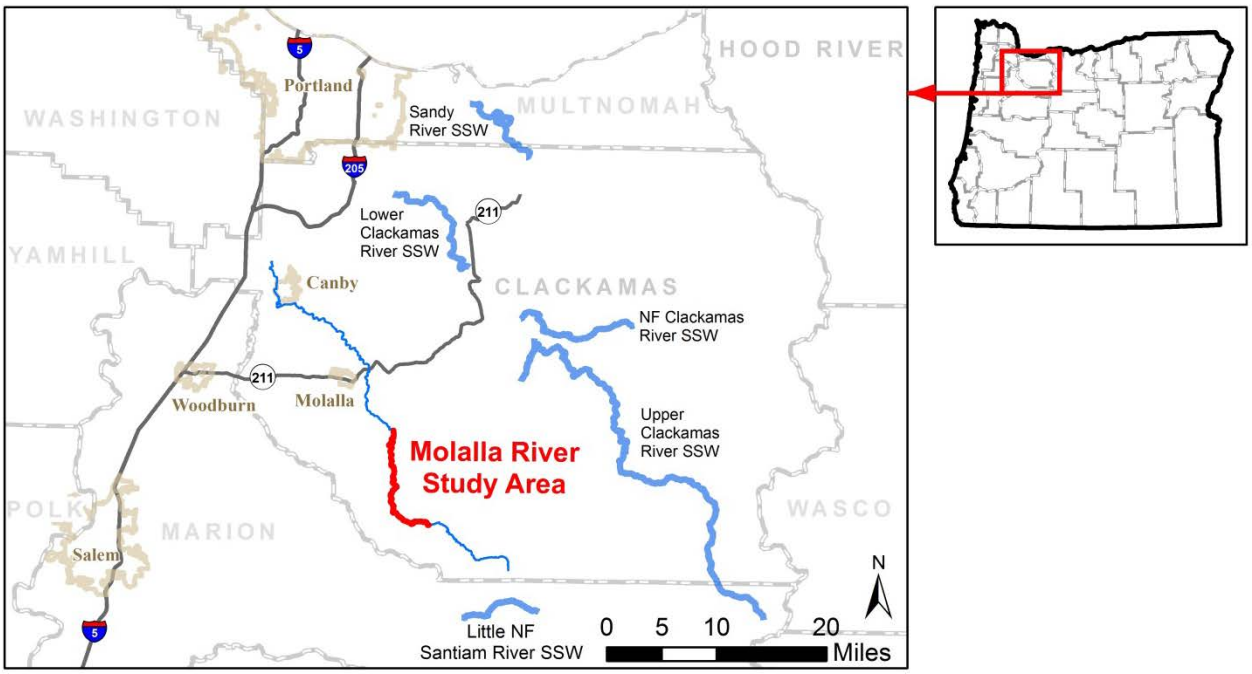


Figure 1. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon.

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

While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients,

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

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

The clear water, forested setting, and interesting geological features provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks (see: Recreation). Thousands of visitors are drawn to the river for the geology and other scenic and recreational qualities of the river corridor. An approximately 15.1 mile portion of the upper river (and a section of the Table Rock Fork) has been proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River and there are several bills pending in Congress.

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).

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

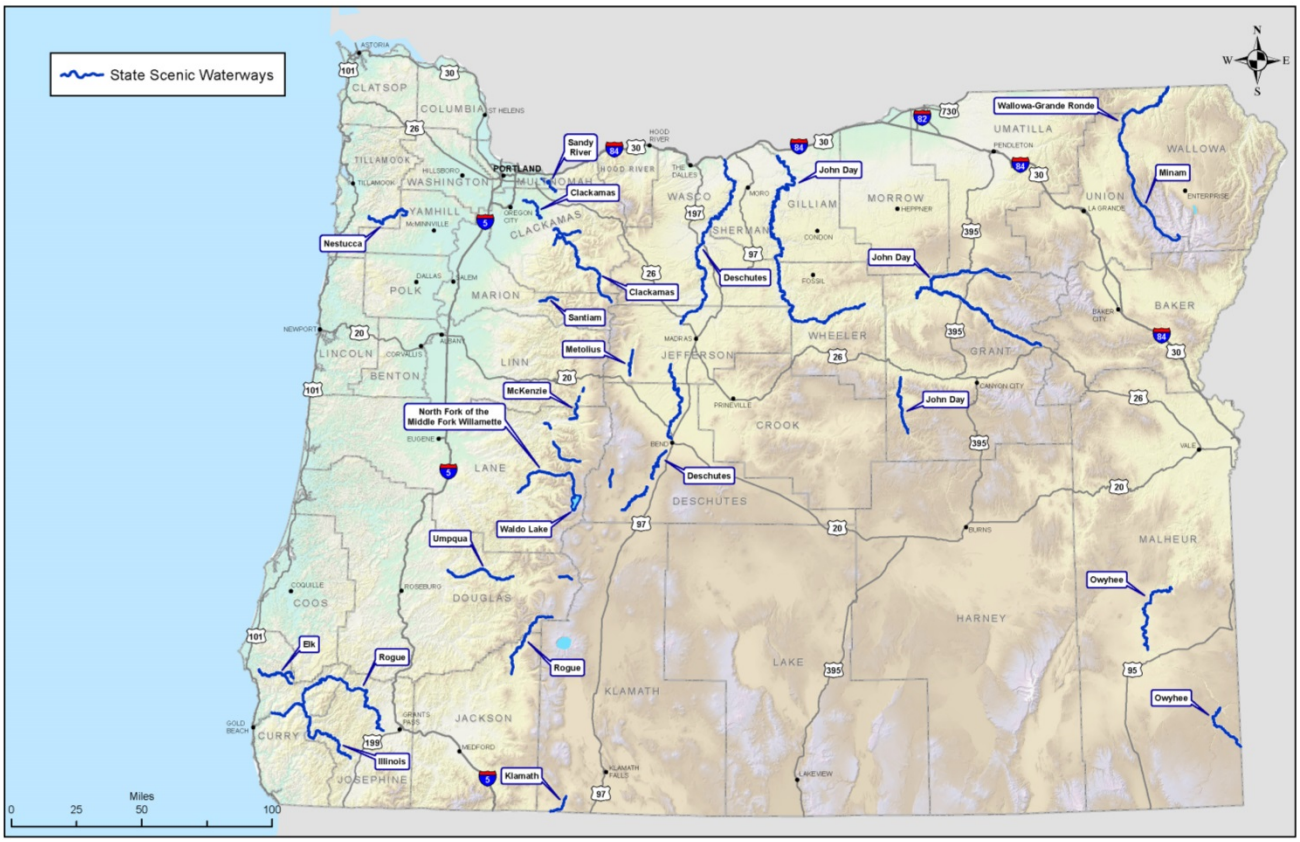


Figure 2. Oregon's Existing State Scenic Waterways System

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.

ORS 390.855 establishes the three criteria for qualification which must be considered in the Commission's study and report. Before a river can be designated a State Scenic Waterway it must be found to meet these qualifications, usually in an exceptional manner:

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.

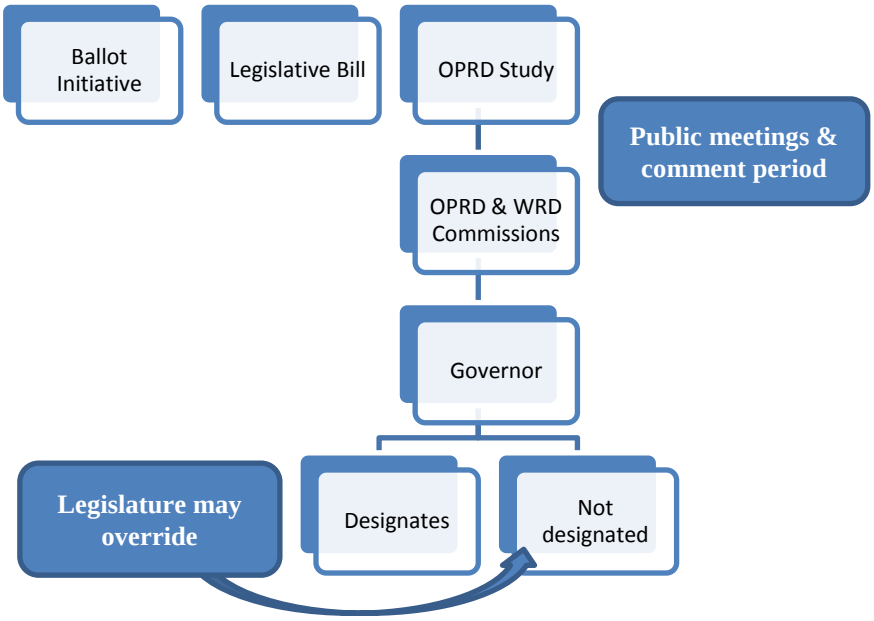


Figure 3. Oregon's State Scenic Waterway designation options

Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas

Initial coarse level screening of Oregon's waterways indicated that this section of the Molalla River may meet the criteria necessary to be considered as a state scenic waterway. The Molalla 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 1993 (National Park Service, 1993). The Molalla is listed in the inventory as having outstanding scenery, recreation and geology and is the longest free-flowing (e.g., no dams) tributary of the Willamette.

The river was also listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was found to have "outstanding recreational resources (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). A similar section has been nominated as a recreational river area under the Federal Wild and Scenic River program. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified by the BLM are recreation, scenery and geology (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The ORVs identified by the BLM are consistent with the qualities of Oregon's State Scenic Waterway system. The river is known for its unique geology and outstanding year-round recreational resources. The Molalla is on various lists of the best intermediate whitewater rivers in the state (Palmer T. , 2014).

Establishing New Scenic Waterway Management Plans

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, ORPD 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 ae 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 Molalla River takes place, then further work will be done to specifically outline the details of how the river would be managed. Involvement of tribes, relevant state and federal agencies, landowners, recreation users, local officials and other interested parties would be essential. Public hearings must 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.

The study suggests two possible management classifications for the study area. The classifications—consistent with those found on similar stretches of designated scenic waterways—include a Scenic River Area and Recreational River Area. Management strategies for these areas are aimed at generally maintaining the scenic "status quo", while allowing new developments that are unobtrusive, well-designed, compatible with the natural surroundings, and, in some cases, screened from view from the river by topography or vegetation.

A <u>Scenic River Area</u> 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.

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

A combination of these designations would be generally consistent with existing federal management of these areas, which are managed as a recreational river (from the southern boundary line of T. 7 S., R. 4 E., sec. 19, downstream to the edge of the Bureau of Land Management boundary in T. 6 S., R. 3 E., sec. 7) as part of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. Although the river has not yet been designated by Congress as a Federal Wild and Scenic River, the BLM manages the river since it has been found to be both eligible and suitable for designation.

The Federal government defines "recreational river areas" are "those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines."

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 ELIGILBITY FINDINGS

The approximately 13.2 long study area includes the Molalla River from confluence of the Table Rock Fork downstream to Glen Avon Bridge. An evaluation for the study area 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

Archaeological research confirms human presence in the Willamette Valley by about 11,000 years ago. The importance of camas as a staple food is attested by the abundance of camas processing ovens, particularly after c.7000 BP. By 3500 years ago there is evidence for systematic burning in the valley, presumably to enhance the productivity of economic plants, especially edible seeds, nuts, and roots. This activity is accompanied by the notable accumulation of midden deposits, and formation of the "Kalapuya mounds" common throughout the valley. These features are thought to indicate a relatively sedentary lifeway, marking the initial development of the pattern of permanent villages documented in the ethnographic record (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Kalapuya Ahantchuyuk maintained settlements on the Molalla River. The Ahantchuyuk represented one of at least 13 distinct Kalapuya dialect groups who occupied the Willamette Valley at the time of contact. This linguistic diversity in the valley suggests that relatively stable resident Native communities occupied their valleys for a long period of time. Although the region experienced waves of fatal epidemics, those of the 1830s were particularly disruptive for Native lifeways and social organization, leading to relocations and re-combinations of formerly independent communities (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Kalapuya spent the drier portion of the year, from about March through October, in family camps situated in close proximity to seasonally available food sources. Family groups reassembled at permanent village sites during the winter months. Multifamily winter houses were built, and may have been rectangular, and made of bark, planks, or both, partitioned inside for each resident

family. Plant resources are emphasized as being the staple of the Kalapuyan diet. Chief among these was camas (*Camassia sp*.), a bulb of the lily family that commonly occurs in wet meadows. From June through as late as October, large quantities of camas bulbs were harvested by women using digging sticks, and baked in stone-lined pit ovens. Other important plant resources include seeds of tarweed and grasses, hazel nuts, and various types of berries. Intentional burning in the valley by the Indians kept the grasslands open and free of dense undergrowth, promoted the growth of valuable food plants, made easier the harvesting of seed plants, and provided open grazing for deer and elk which were subsequently hunted (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Molalla resided in the Western and High Cascades, along the upper stretches of river systems draining both sides of the range between Mt. Hood and Mt. McLoughlin. Winter villages were typically at the lower elevations, and include settlements on the Molalla River and on Abiqua Creek, a Pudding River tributary. However winter villages extended from "their legendary birthplace near Mount Hood to present day Oregon City and just east of Salem to the foot of Mount Jefferson (Johnson, 1999)". Game, primarily deer and elk, constituted the single most important Molalla resource. Fish and vegetables were also important, as were huckleberries from highland zones. Molalla used speak and basket fishing to catch fish, including salmon and steelhead, hearding the fish into the baskets (Johnson, 1999). Like their Kalapuya neighbors, fire was regularly used to maintain upland meadows, to directly promote the range of food plants, or to maintain upland browse for game (Connolly T. , 2003). The area near the Table Rock and Dickie Prairie is known as a culturally important area (bother for tribal use and as a travel corridor) to members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde as somewhere where tribal members and their ancestors lived and as a gathering area, notably for beargrass.

The BLM found that prehistoric cultural resources in the corridor "support a finding of an outstandingly remarkable value" because of the large number of sites of regional importance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Historic Context

The earliest Euro Americans in the region were fur trappers, who frequented the Willamette Valley in the decades following the Lewis and Clark expedition. Thomas McKay came to the mouth of the Columbia in 1811 with the Pacific Fur Company, participated in establishing the American post at Fort Astoria, and subsequently worked as a trapper, guide, and interpreter for the Hudson's Bay Company. By the 1820s, some trappers began to settle on small farms in the northern Willamette Valley, especially in the area between the Willamette and Pudding rivers that came to be known as French Prairie due to the predominance of French-Canadians (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Barlow claim was reportedly purchased from Thomas McKay in 1848. Samuel Barlow and his family traversed the Oregon Trail in 1845, reaching The Dalles in September. There he learned that a boat to ferry them down the Columbia was not immediately available, and was likely beyond his means, so he and a few others, decided to attempt an overland route around the south slope of Mt. Hood. This overland route to the Willamette Valley, known as the Barlow Road, was reportedly the most difficult section of the entire Oregon Trail, but carried an estimated 75% of the early immigrants to the Willamette Valley. In 1854 Samuel Barlow deeded his 640 acre claim to his son

William, who established the Barlow town site on the family claim (Connolly T. , 2003).

In the early 1850s the current Indian Affairs Superintendent began to secure treaties with the Molalla, initially hoping to relocate tribes east of the Cascades (Johnson, 1999). The treaty of the Molalla, notable as the last western Oregon treaty, was written in 1855. An 1856 letter written by Joel Palmer includes some information about the area covered by the treaty that was eventually ratified by the Federal Government in 1859 (Palmer J. , 1856).

> "the tract includes the western slope of the Cascade Mountains, and is drained by the waters of the North and South forks of the Umpqua River, Calapooias Creek, and the North Fork of Rogue River. It is very Mountainous, but contains it is said, good tracts of table land, and an occasional open prairie on the margin of the streams. The intrinsic value of this tract is by no means great, so far as know. It borders however a country destined to contain a dense population, and must ultimately be the source from which timber will be obtained for use of the settlement. So long as…these Indians reside there, collisions between them and our citizens could scarcely fail to occur"

In 1955, a federal register showed that 141 descendants of the Molalla were enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. In 1957 an executive order created the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation and the tribe remained a confederated tribe (of which there were ancestors of the Molalla) until the reservation was terminated and most of the lands were sold. Tribal members worked to reorganize and in 1983 the tribe was restored, along with a portion of the original reservation.

Bee Ranch, located near the start of the study area was originally a bee apiary in the late 1800's, whose owner, Henry Russell also built a cabin and bar of timbers floated down the Table Rock Fork (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). In the 1920's and 1930's the property was used for grazing cattle and at one point for both a fire guard station and camp for transient workers building trails in the area (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Natural features

Landscape

The Molalla River rises from the slopes of Table Rock, Soosap Peak and Goat Mountain in Oregon's western Cascades (Farnell, 1979). While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients, the lower thirteen mile study area is less steep as it flows through a series of pools riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The study area is a "transition zone into the Western or Ancestral Cascade" from the Willamette Valley (Alfsen, ND). Through much of its course, the Molalla River is currently cutting through the Willamette Valley and the channel is lower in elevation than the valley itself (Alfsen, ND). As the river runs below the study area, the character changes as the river widens up as it flows through semi-forested and agriculture lands in the valley before it enters the Willamette River near Canby.

In some sections, namely Horse Creek Canyon, and the area near the columnar basalt rosette, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations. Various landslide (aka mass wasting) events into the river canyon have created the sequence of rapids known as the "Three Bears Run" popular with non-motorized recreational boaters (Alfsen, ND). The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Copper Creek, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek.

Basalt rosette on the Molalla River

The BLM found that while some of the features of the geology are unique but not outstandingly remarkable in regional significance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Water features

The Molalla River drains the lower west slopes of the Cascades in northwestern Oregon. The river flows in a generally west and north direction, and is tributary to the Willamette River. The Molalla is the longest free-flowing (e.g., no dams) tributary of the Willamette. From the headwaters of the river in the Table Rock Wilderness (~4800 ft) to where the river empties into the Willamette River near Canby (~70 ft), the river drops an average of about 90 feet/mile.

Precipitation in the area decreases from an average of approximately 100 inches near the upper reaches to around 40 inches closer to the mouth with the majority falling in the late fall and early winter in the form of rain, although there is some snow in the upper reaches (Bureau of Land

Management, 1993). Snow pack plays only a minor role in the storage of water in the watershed; however spring snow melt plays a role in peak flows, often peaking during rain on snow events (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The study area is snow-free for most of the year, allowing for year-round access and recreation (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Over the course of the upper river, the elevation drop brings the stream gradient to around 1.2%, with the gradient decreasing to an even milder drop of about .25% in the lower river, below the study area (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek. The North Fork of the Molalla enters the main-stem just below the study area.

The river is free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, or significant modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. Exceptions include modifications made for the roads, bridges, historic and current logging practices, and a few residential homes. The river is also naturally flowing (i.e., without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in Oregon's Cascade Range to the Willamette River. The river has somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow various seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, rain on snow and to some degree, seasonal snow-melt.

A currently operable water gauge is located on the Molalla, however, it quite far from the study area, near Canby at river mile (RM) six where the discharge is about twice the flow higher up on the river, near Wilhoit (RM 32.5). The Oregon Water Resource Department no longer operates the Wilhoit gauge; however, its 58 year period of record is quite substantial (1935-1993). Average flows at that gauge were approximately 548 cfs, with a high of 24,300 cfs and a low of 18 cfs (Farnell, 1979). The quantity of water, as demonstrated in Figure 4 varies substantially over the year, with the late fall through early spring months having the highest flows, and late summer and early fall having the lowest. Below is a hydrograph of expected monthly streamflow near the downstream end of the study area (i.e., the area above the North Fork of the Molalla). 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).

Historical information indicates that there were many sawmills in the Molalla valley, and at least three used the Molalla and associated tributaries for transporting logs, up to round River Mile 32 (there was a mill located near Shotgun Cr.) in the early 1900's, however, much of this type of activity occurred below the North Fork or on Milk Creek which was used as a natural flume for many years, starting in the late 1800's (Farnell, 1979). Based on his research, Farnell (1979) found that there were grounds to determine the Molalla navigable from its mouth to river mile 26.5, just downstream of the study area. However, DSL has not since conducted an official navigability study for the Molalla pursuant to ORS 274.400-274.412.

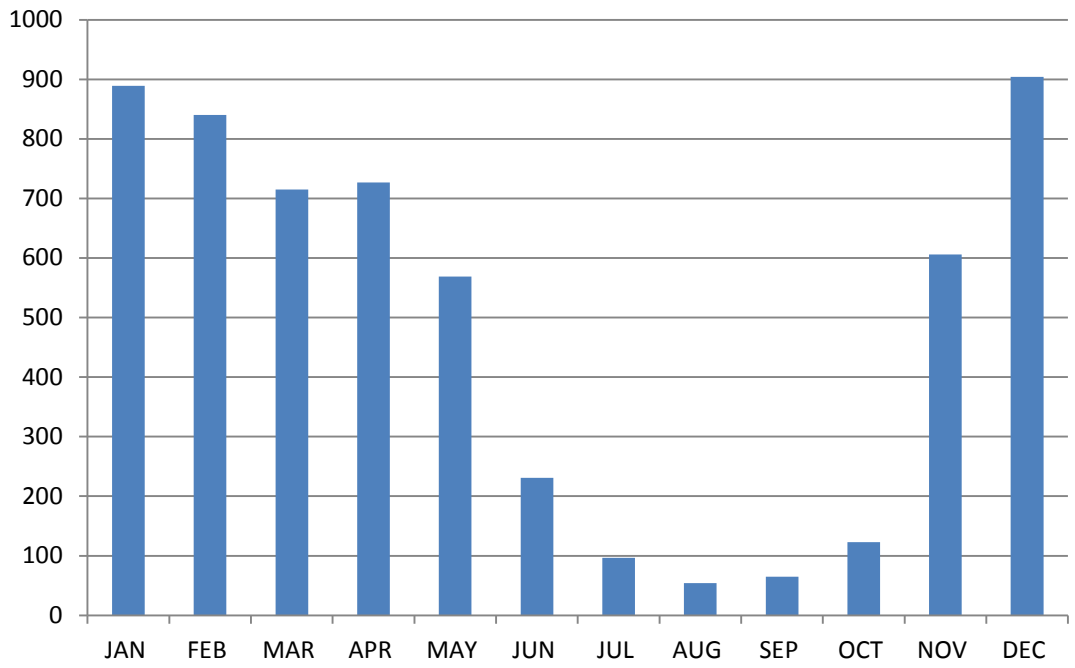


Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation. Monthly Stream-flow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) on the Molalla River, above the North Fork. Annual volume at 50% exceedance in Acre-Feet. Source: Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

The BLM found that while water quality is important for other outstanding resource values, namely recreation, the character of the Molalla's hydrology is not unique enough to be outstandingly remarkable in regional significance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The Molalla River is the source of water for the cities of Molalla (est. pop. ~8,000) and Canby, Oregon (est. population ~16,000). The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has found that the Molalla-Pudding has exceeded water quality standards for summer stream temperatures. To improve stream temperatures, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were established in 2008 that target recovery or maintenance of effective shade. The BLM is the designated agency responsible for monitoring water quality in the area (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Designated beneficial uses for the Molalla River include public and private domestic water supply, irrigation, livestock watering, fish and aquatic life, wildlife and hunting, fishing, boating, recreation, aesthetic quality, hydro-power, and commercial navigation and transportation (Department of Environmental Quality, 2005).

Ecoregion

The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse West Cascades Ecoregion. The ecoregions in the vicinity of the study area, shown in red, are shown in Figure 6, below.

The *West Cascades Ecoregion* is further described in the Oregon Natural Areas Plan (ORBIC, 2010) as

> ***"…This mountainous, heavily forested ecoregion is bounded on the west by the farms and woodlands of the Willamette Valley or the drier forests and valleys of the Klamath Mountains. To the east, it spills over the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the drier pine forests of the East Cascades.***
>
> ***The crest of the Cascade Range is dominated by a series of volcanic peaks. In Oregon, Mount Hood is the highest at 11,240 feet, but a dozen others top 8,000 feet. The western slopes of the range feature long ridges with steep sides and wide, glaciated valleys. Most of the rivers draining the northern two-thirds of the ecoregion flow into the Willamette Valley and then to the Columbia River system; the southern third drains to the Pacific Ocean through the Umpqua and Rogue River systems. The climate varies with elevation and, to a lesser extent, latitude. Higher elevations receive heavy winter snows…***
>
> ***The ecoregion is almost entirely forested. Douglas-fir-western hemlock forests dominate large areas up to elevations of about 3,300 feet. However, most of the previously-harvested forests of the lowlands and lower slopes now support mixed conifer-deciduous forests, with young Douglas fir and western hemlock forests found in a mosaic with hardwood species such as bigleaf maple and red alder."***

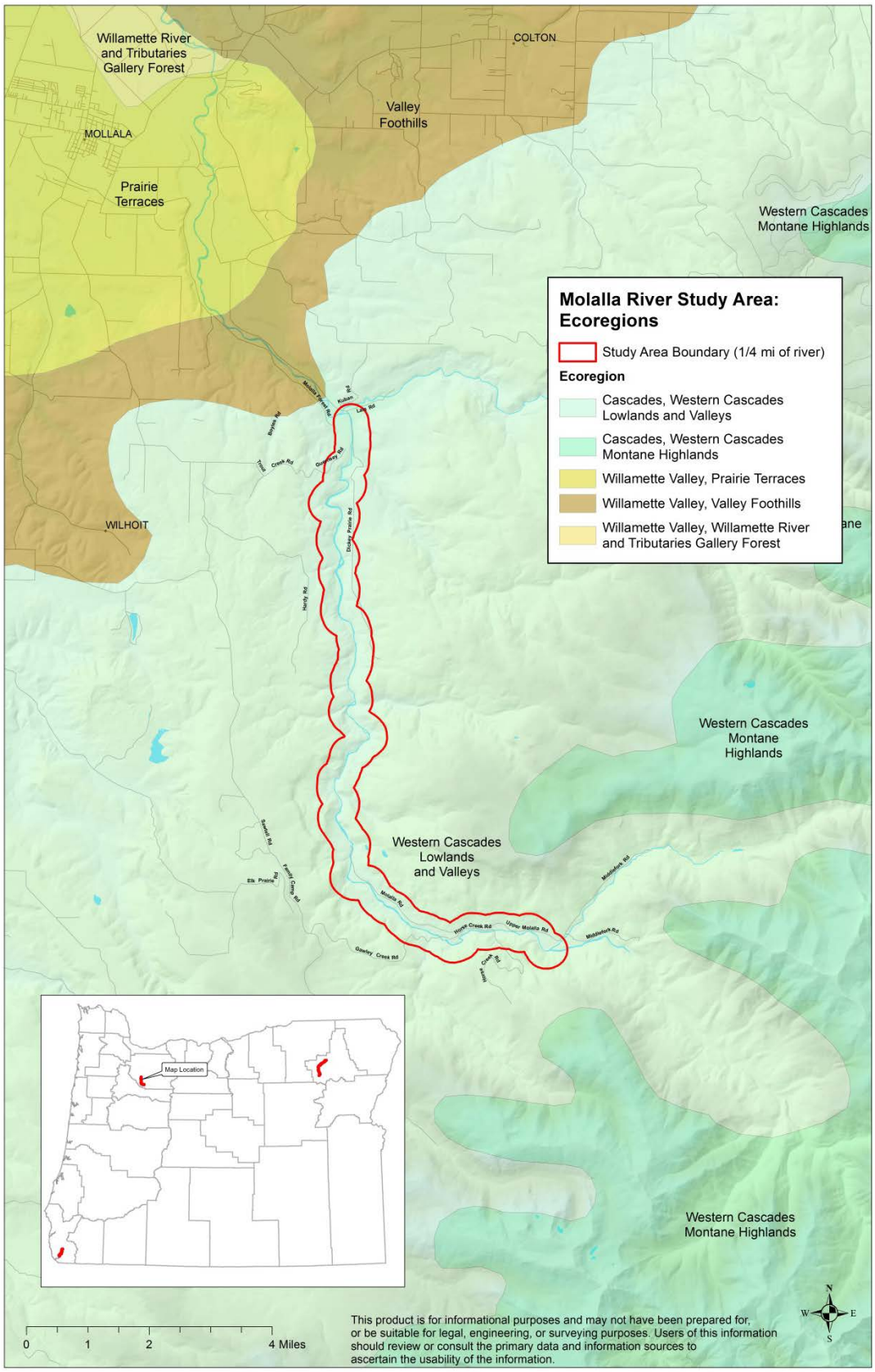
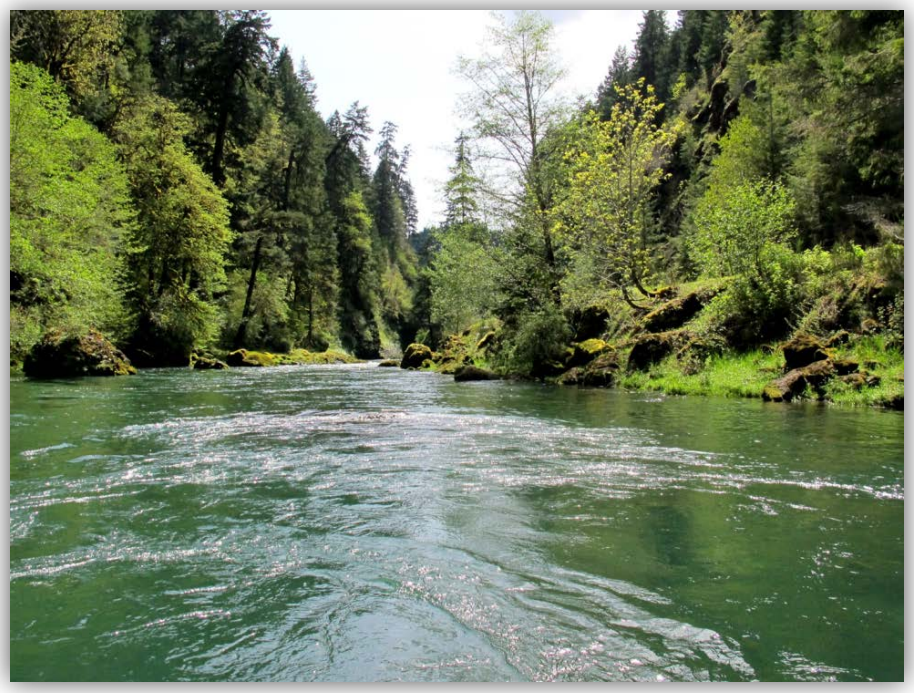


Figure 5. Ecoregions surrounding the Molalla study area

Vegetation

The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. Riparian vegetation of gravel bars and wet toe-slopes with soil is typically characterized by alder, douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, salmonberry, ninebark, ferns, bryophytes, and Scouler's corydalis. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest. Riparian vegetation associated with wet cliff walls is characterized by abundant hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages.



Vegetation along the banks of the Molalla River

Upland vegetation in primarily mesic coniferous forest dominated by douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, and red alder. Some steep and rocky peaks and ridges are home to Oregon white oak woodland and grassy wildflower meadows. Scotch broom and blackberry are sporadically abundant in upland areas. Much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, but some impressive late-seral forest is present. While much of the study area's uplands have been impacted by logging, unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas", many adjacent to the river (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Disturbed roadside fillslopes and cutbanks are visible from the river in many locations. The upper reaches of the river segment assessed are generally in better condition with respect to native vegetation than are the lower reaches. Lower reaches contain much more evident human modification and settlement.

At-Risk Plant Species

There is habitat for a few at-risk, but unlisted plant species including *Actaea elata* and *Corydalis aqua-gelidae* shown below in Table 1. The habitats present in the study area also support a number of listed wildlife species, described below in the fish and wildlife section.

Table 1. At-risk plant species in the vicinity of the study area[1]

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
Actaea elata var. elata	Tall bugbane		C	4
Corydalis aqua-gelidae	Cold-water corydalis	SOC	C	1

[1] Source: ORNHIC
C-Species of Concern; SOC-Species of Concern
State heritage rankings 1-4; 1=extremely rare to 4=concern.

Fish and Wildlife

The study area provides a diversity of upland and aquatic habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. Mammals of note include elk, black-tailed deer, river otter, and beaver. Notable breeding birds include northern spotted owl, osprey, golden eagles, harlequin ducks, and many neotropical migrants. Other wildlife include squirrels, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, cougars, bears, rough skinned newts, Pacific tree frogs, pacific giant salamanders, garter snakes, song birds, wood ducks, grouse, pileated woodpeckers, dippers, great blue herons, osprey, and mergansers. Wildlife values of local significance found to be interesting and unique include the presence of a golden eagle nest site and harlequin duck nesting area (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Northern red-legged frog, a sensitive species documented in the study area (image source: ODFW)

Aquatic species include a number of native and non-native fish species. The BLM's watershed analysis (1999) notes that native populations of fish in the river include winter steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarki clarki*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrocheilus*), longnose dace (*Rhinichthys*

cataractae), redside shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*) and northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*). A list of at risk species is presented below. Non-native species include resident rainbow trout and stray hatchery summer steelhead trout (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). A list and discussion of at risk species is presented below.

At-risk Fish and Wildlife 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). The study area contains suitable habitat for a number of at-risk species and a number of state and federally listed species are known to exist in the area, including several salmonids (Table 2) and the Oregon slender salamander (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), which is a species of concern (ORNHIC, 2010). None of these species were found during the course of the present study, although specific animal surveys were not conducted.

This list shown below in Table 2 was developed by compiling documented species occurrences in databases maintained by ORNHIC, USFS, eBird, ODF, and ODFW, as well as potential habitat within the study area buffer determined from the Oregon GAPS vegetation project. Five species listed under the Federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area (Table 2).

Table 2. At-risk animal species occurrences in the vicinity of the study area[1]

Scientific Name	Common Name	Occurrence	Federal Listing	State Listing	State Rank
Anaxyrus boreas	Western toad	Potential		SV CS	S4
Aneides ferreus	Clouded salamander	Potential		SV CS	S3S4
Batrachoseps wright	Oregon slender salamander	Present	SOC	SV	S3
Rana aurora	Northern red-legged frog	Present	SOC	SV	S3S4
Rana pretiosa	Oregon spotted frog	Potential	FT	SC	S2
Rhyacotriton cascadae	Cascade torrent salamander	Potential		SV	S3
Accipiter gentilis	Northern goshawk	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle	Present			S3
Chordeiles minor	Common nighthawk	Potential		SC	S5B
Contopus cooperi	Olive-sided flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV CS	S2S3B
Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated woodpecker	Present		SV	S4
Empidonax trailli bresteri	Little willow flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV	S3B
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine falcon	Vicinity		SV	S2B
Histrionicus histrionicus	Harlequin duck	Present	SOC		S2B,S3N
Melanerpes lewis	Lewis's woodpecker	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B,S2?N
Oreortyx pictus	Mountain quail	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
Patagioenas fasciata	Band-tailed pigeon	Present	SOC	CS	S3B
Podiceps grisegena	Red-necked grebe	Potential		SC	S1B,S4N
Progne subis	Purple martin	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B

Sialia Mexicana	Western bluebird	Vicinity		SV	S4B,S4N
Strix occidentalis caurina	Northern spotted owl	Vicinity	FT	ST	S3
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Steelhead, winter run Upper Willamette River ESU	Present	FT	SV	S2
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon, spring run Upper Willamette River ESU	Present	FT	SC	S2
Bliabates oregonius	Salamander slug	Present			SH
Calliophrys johnsoni	Johnson's hairstreak	Potential			S2S3
Hemphillia malonei	Malone jumping slug	Present			S3
Megomphix hemphilli	Oregon megonmphix	Present			S3
Arborimus longicaudus	Red tree vole	Vicinity	SOC	SV CS	S3
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	Potential	SOC	SC CS	S2
Lasionycteris noctivagans	Silver-haired bat	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3S4
Myotis evotis	Long-eared myotis	Potential	SOC		S4
Myotis Volans	Long-legged myotis	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma myotis	Potential	SOC		S3
Sciurus griseus	Western gray squirrel	Potential		SV	S4
Actinemys marmorata marmorata	Western Pond Turtle	Potential	SOC	SC CS	S2

[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 Molalla River is a natal stream for Upper Willamette River Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) chinook and Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of winter steelhead. Both species are unique in that their run timing coincides with high spring water flows that allow them passage over Willamette Falls, and from there to disperse to multiple sub-basins including the Molalla. Once past the falls, adults disperse through the waterways and "hold" in deep pools until spawning (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011).

Salmon seen from the banks of the Molalla R. (image courtesy of Mark Schmidt)

Chinook in the study area are severely depressed, and are at high risk of extinction, whereas steelhead are at low risk of extinction (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011) and the late-run fish are entirely native stock (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). About 20% of the Willamette Basin winter steelhead are produced in the Molalla watershed (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Restoration actions that would benefit both anadromous salmonids species include increasing physical habitat structure especially via large wood presence, reducing fine sediments, improved access to wade-able streams, improving water quality through vegetative shading and reducing agricultural run-off, and restoring suitable spawning areas. For more information on chinook and steelhead, see the Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011).

Recreation

The Molalla was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having "outstanding recreational resources", particularly for canoeing/kayaking, salmon and steelhead fishing and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including rafting, trout fishing, and "other recreation" which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). Boating, coupled with fishing and other activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Molalla River.

The BLM notes that recreation on the Molalla River is an "outstandingly remarkable value" due to the river-related resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Key recreational uses that were found to be exceptional include fishing, day-hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, and swimming/wading. Other recreational uses noted include biking and nature study (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The BLM found that the "presence of year-round angling opportunities is important (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)". Recent estimates of annual visitation in the corridor are around 50,000 visitors per year, with much of the use occurring between May and the end of September (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Access

The study area is accessed by travelling east on Highway 211 following signs to Feyrer County Park to S. Feyrer Park Rd and onto Dickey Prairie Road. Once over the Glen Avon Bridge, primary access is along the S. Molalla Forest Road once it begins to run along BLM property, about 1.5 miles after the bridge. All recreation sites are accessed from this road. There is a parallel road on the other bank, but it does not provide recreational access. Major trailheads along this road with parking and restrooms are Hardy Creek Trailhead and Turner Creek Bridge. Others include Amanda's Trailhead, Americorp's Trailhead, Sandquist's Trailhead, and Annie's Cabin Trailhead. Paddlers typically put in for the "3 Bears Run" near Turner Bridge or higher up on the river for a longer run. Some kayakers will also put in higher up on the river (above the study area), both on the Table Rock Fork and for the challenging Copper Creek rapids known as Lightning Lonnie (Class IV) and Dungeon, located near Dungeon Cr. (Keller, 1998).

River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access points, however, the BLM has it in their plans to develop a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. Potential sites for improvements (e.g, signing, pedestrian ramps for kayaks and rafts) include Turner Bridge, located within the study area.

Focal points

Most of the recreation focal points are minimally developed and dispersed locations within Molalla River Recreation Area, operated by the Salem BLM District. The BLM maintains several new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including Three Bears Recreation Site and Cedar Grove, all access from the S. Molalla Forest Road. BLM previously had dispersed campground along the corridor but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds. The use-season for the first-come-first served campgrounds is mid-May to mid-September. Three Bears is located at the about four miles south of Glen Avon Bridge, approximately 10 miles SE of Molalla, Oregon. Activities include picnicking, swimming, scenic enjoyment, floating and other forms of non-motorized water sports, along with tent camping. Facilities include restrooms, fire-rings, picnic tables, potable water, restrooms and river access. Cedar Grove, a group-camp operated by special recreation permit, is located at milepost 6 on the Molalla Forest Road. Facilities include water, restrooms and 11 tent camping sites with fire rings and picnic tables. Groups of up to 40 people may stay at the group-camp with advance reservations through the Salem BLM District office. Trailheads (some with parking: P and restrooms: R) include: Amanda's Trailhead, Americorp's Trailhead (P), Sandquist's Trailhead, Hardy Creek Trailhead (P, R), Annie's Cabin Trailhead (P), and Turner Creek Bridge (P, R).

Important recreational features within the study area are presented in Table 3, including access points and key locations for various types of water-dependent and water-based recreation along the Molalla River.

Table 3. Important recreational features within the study area

Key feature	River Access	Fishing	Boating/ floating	Major Rapids	Swimming/ wading	Camping	Other water-based recreation
Table Rock Fk	U		X		X		X
Horse Cr. Canyon			X	X	X		X
Turner Cr. Br.	U	X	X		X		X
Papa Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Mamma Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Baby Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Annie's	D	X	X		X		X

Trailhead						
Cedar G. Rec Site	D	X	X	X	D	X
Hardy Cr. Trailhead	D	X	X	X		X
3 Bears Rec Site	D	X	X	X	D	X

X-present; U-Undeveloped; M-Maintained (e.g., some facilities); Di-Dispersed; D-Developed facilities in the vicinity of these key features/areas on the Molalla River.

Types of use

Annually, thousands visit the Molalla River Recreation Corridor for year-round recreation including hiking, kayaking and white water rafting, touring and mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, nature watching, or to simply enjoy the sounds of the river (Table 4). There are more than 30 miles of non-motorized trails which access numerous waterfalls and vistas.

The Molalla is well known as a recreational river for visitors from the surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland and Salem. However, it is also beloved by locals from Molalla and surrounding communities in Clackamas County for its swimming holes, scenery, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. The Molalla has two seasons of peak (and different) use. In fall and winter months, the primary uses include fishing for steelhead, primarily from the banks, along with whitewater enthusiasts and other day-uses like hiking. In the spring, while there is still enough water in the river, whitewater boating continues. The summer recreation season starts and use shifts to bank-based activities such as camping (in the past dispersed, shifting to developed campsites), wading, hiking, along with swimming, fishing and recreational boating (including inner tubes and similar inflatables) and sightseeing.

A summer recreation user study conducted for the BLM (White & Virden, 2007) found the most popular activities to be swimming (68%), picnicking (56%), camping (50%), trail-hiking (40%), and fishing (40%). Other popular activities include sightseeing, wildlife viewing/birding, horseback riding, photography and nature study. A small number of visitors were engaged in recreational mining, mostly hand-panning for gold. The majority of visitors surveyed are day-visitors, spending about five hours on-site with slightly fewer visitors (slightly under half) staying overnight (White & Virden, 2007). Most visitors noted that the Molalla River was the primary destination for their trip (79%) and that they travelled there in a group (93%). The majority of survey respondents noted that viewing the scenic beauty is very important to them along with recreation in the corridor (White & Virden, 2007). Respondents from the survey noted they come to the Molalla for:

- Natural qualities and features, viewing the scenery and nature;
- Opportunity for solitude/experiencing tranquility; and
- Unique recreation opportunities and opportunities to socialize

Table 4. Recreation use seasons within the Molalla River study area

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

Non-motorized boaters can float for much of the year on a variety of craft, including inflatable and hard-shell kayaks, canoes and rafts during the spring and on other types of flotation devices (e.g., inner-tubes) during the summer months. One commercial guide has been issued a permit from the BLM to run a limited number of small guided trips on the river in the study area. Experienced whitewater kayakers, canoeists and some on rafts paddle the river during higher water months (typically Nov-May, depending on rains), when the challenging Class 3-4 (and higher depending on flows) rapids of the Molalla River "3 Bears Run" surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Mama, Papa, Baby-Bear, Porridge Bowl, and Goldilocks rapids are a draw.

Kayaker on the Molalla River

Flows of around 2400 cfs are noted to be ideal for floating the rapids, however a range (as measured at the Canby gauge) of between 800-3000 cfs is provided to paddling enthusiasts (Keller, 1998). The river is most often run when the river is a Class 3-4 intermediate run but some "big-water" expert whitewater enthusiasts will float the river during higher water (e.g., 6500) when it becomes a more advanced run (Giordano, pers. communication, 2014).

During the study visit, the river was running around 2200 cfs, as measured at the Canby gauge (Figure 6). At these levels, one portage around one of the major rapids was necessary (for safety) but it provided an enjoyable and exciting rafting and kayak trip, with more opportunities to evaluate the area than would be afforded during higher water.

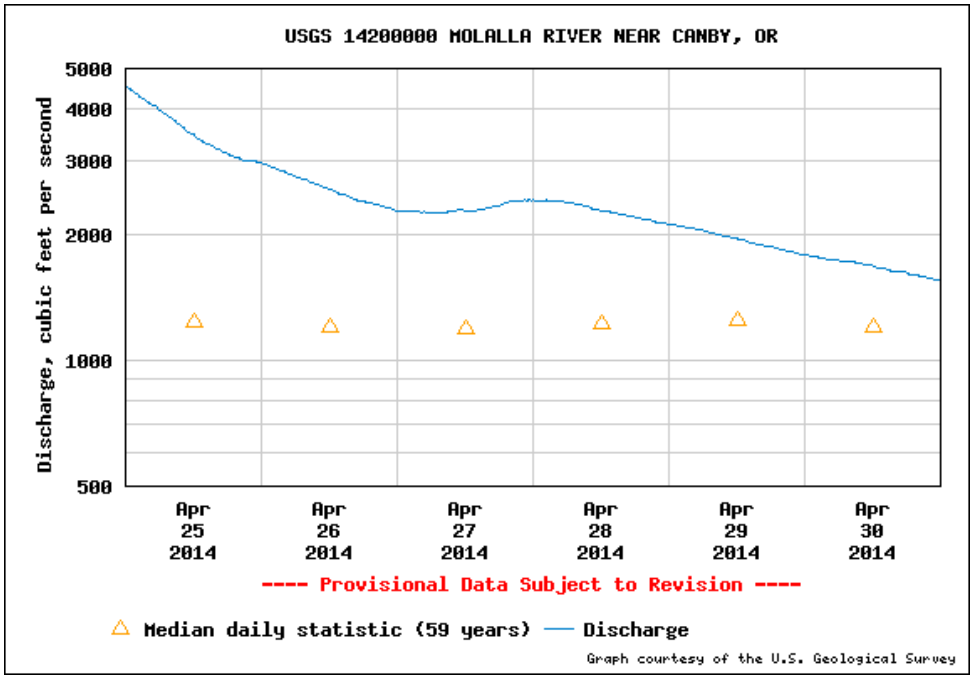


Figure 6. Water levels before, during, and after the study visit (April 28, 2014)

The river is no longer stocked (since the late 1990's), being managed instead for wild steelhead. The steelhead typically make their way in from the Willamette sometime between Sept-November. Fishing is open year-round for adipose fin clipped chinook salmon and steelhead (i.e., not wild) up to the Turner Creek Bridge. The season for non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead is from July 1-Aug 31. The river (up to Turner Cr. Br.) is also open for coho salmon all year. Bait is not allowed, except from May 15-July 15th, "in order to provide opportunities for spring chinook harvest while minimizing impacts to native winter steelhead and juvenile salmonids (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014)**."** The river is popular for catch-and-release fishing for wild winter steelhead, and the good numbers offer an "opportunity to catch this majestic fish in relative solitude. Limited numbers of naturally produced and stray summer steelhead may be present in the system in many of the same areas where winter steelhead are typically found (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014)." Although numbers are down, some fishermen still consider the Molalla "one of the best winter steelhead streams in Oregon", although much of this use occurs below the study area (Schuhmann, 2012)" where both bank and drift-boat fishing is popular. There is also some catch-and-release fishing for trout and bass, although much of this is on the lower river. ODFW encourages the use of single barbless hooks on the river and fishing allowances are all below the Turner Cr. Bridge (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014).

The BLM's recreation user study (White & Virden, 2007) helps capture some of the major users and perceived conflicts on the river. The majority of survey respondents were very satisfied with their visit to the Molalla River. However, some issues were identified from the survey and BLM and BLM planning efforts including impacts on the upland areas due to a lack of managed camping and day-use sites. BLM's management focus in the area has been to develop and delineate use areas to manage the recreational use and reduce impacts to the areas. This has resulted in the

development of (2) new campgrounds and the closure of many pull-offs and user created river access trails.

Scenic resources

The view from the river and adjacent lands ranges from pleasing to outstanding along the entire study reach. The thirteen mile study area is less steep than the upper wilderness section of the river as it flows through a series of pools, riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Due to the geology and dense vegetation along the river, in many places the view as seen from the river is limited to a few hundred feet. However, in a few areas hillsides and more distant landscapes (e.g. mountains in the Table Rock Wilderness) are visible. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. In some sections, namely through a few narrow gorges, including Horse Creek Rapid, and an area of basalt canyon walls that surround the area known as the Molalla basalt rosette, or "eye of the Molalla", where the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations.

The 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 natural setting of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as "Bee Ranch" located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

Bee Ranch property and structures seen from the river

The BLM notes that scenery on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas, setting it apart from other rivers (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Water clarity, interesting geology and hydrology combine to the overall visual quality of the river corridor.

Notable scenic features include (Bureau of Land Management, 1993):

- clear water with cascade and pool characteristics
- numerous vertical and near vertical cliffs descending to the river
- constricted canyon
- large moss covered boulders and diverse streamside vegetation
- proximity to major metropolitan areas (e.g., Portland)

During the study visit to the river, staff filled out field inventory datasheets to help document scenic quality and determine if the views were “pleasing” as required by statute. 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, three locations were chosen that help characterize the river-scape and they are described below in Table 5-Table 7. The region of comparison for determining scarcity is the state of Oregon, particularly other riverscape views.

Table 5. Scenic resource inventory of the view below the confluence of the Table Rock Fork

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

Landform	Molalla River in a wide canyon with steep (almost vertical in some places) slopes on one side and a bench with a braided high-flow channel on the other with large boulders, cobbles and downed trees.
Vegetation	Mature, partially old-growth forest with mixed deciduous (e.g. hemlock) and conifer (e.g., Douglas fir) trees. Seepy banks with mossy vegetation and fallen trees create visual interest.
Water	Clear water with class 2-3 smaller rapids, with pools and drops, braided high-flow channel. Small waterfall on the steep slope on opposite side of river.
Color	Variety of greens, bright to dark in the vegetation, Green tinted water with white rapids, blue sky, rust orange on the opposite banks, and brown cliffs. Grey rocks, some covered with mossy bright greens. Bleached brown logs.
Adjacent scenery	Riverbank, distant mountains visible.
Scarcity	Common, pleasing riverscape view typical of the Cascade foothills
Cultural modification	Small bridge, some evidence of past logging practices, doesn't detract from view.

Table 6. Scenic resource inventory of the view within Horse Creek Canyon, just downstream of Horse Creek bridge and waterfalls.

The view as seen from within Horse Creek Canyon is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river canyon view with interesting geology, in remote-feeling setting.

Landform	Deep incised basaltic canyon with clear waters of the Molalla River running through a (sometimes) quite narrow corridor. Steep, constricted canyon slopes with a forested setting.
Vegetation	Seepy sparsely vegetated, moss covered basalt walls, with some saxifrages, ocean spray, service berry, herbaceous meadow visible on top of cliff along with shrub zone and Douglas fir forest. Typical vegetation of W. Oregon. *Epilobium* flowering provides seasonal colorful accents.
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	Bright to dark greens, grey basalt, milky green water, white rapids, blue sky with white clouds.
Adjacent scenery	Forested slopes (some young plantation forest) with views of Table Rock Wilderness and snow topped peaks.
Scarcity	The gorge-like narrow canyon is distinctive and interesting.
Cultural modification	None, some signs of historical logging (in the vegetation).

Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view from the riverbank below Goldilocks Rapids.

The view as seen from the riverbank is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view with interesting water features and landform in a forested, remote-feeling setting.

Landform	Molalla River with steep basalt canyon walls on one side of the river, a large rock juts out of the river, mossy covered riverbank on the other side, with a small sandy beach.
Vegetation	Conifer forest with cedar and deciduous forest riparian zone. Salmonberry, aster, monkey flower. Some willow, hazelnut, vine maple, nine bark, salmonberry, piggyback plant. Ferns, moss covered rock on the banks with monkey flower and *Montia, Claytonia*, and swordfern. 220+ yrs old in older areas.
Water	Rapids, milky opaque color to water, small waterfall, just below Goldilocks rapids.
Color	Mostly green (variety of bright to dark), brown in banks and tree bark, dark grey basalt, milky green water, white on water.
Adjacent scenery	Mixed deciduous, thick forested setting, road is hidden from view at this point.
Scarcity	The setting does not parallel the road, fairly common view, interesting rock formations.
Cultural modification	None

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout the whole study area by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, some of it cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road, but there are frequently trails down to the river.

More photos that capture the scenery of the Molalla 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 (~80%) is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and includes lands within the BLM's Salem District, headquartered in Salem, Oregon. Much of the BLM's current riverfront ownership resulted in a 1992 land exchange between BLM and Weyerhauser (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The BLM has staff or volunteers patrol the area and will be having hosts at the new campgrounds, additionally as funding allows the Molalla Police Department patrols the area, particularly during the peak-use season. Private lands, which make up approximately 16.5% of the study area, include private industrial forest lands (e.g., Weyerhaeuser Company) along with a mix of other smaller timber holdings and non-timber lands such as rural residential, primarily near the end of the study area. Table 8 shows the break-down between public and private land ownership as does Figure 7 which shows the same thing spatially on a map.

Table 8. Approximate land-ownership within the Molalla River study area

Ownership type		Approximate percentage
	state	>1%
	federal	80%
	Total:	80%
Private	private	10%
	industrial timber	6.5%
	Total:	16.5%
Other*		2%

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

The Oregon Department of State Lands, although it has not conducted an official navigability study pursuant to ORS 274.400-274.412, does have information from the "Farnell" Reports" including historical information relevant to the potential navigability of the Molalla River (Department of State Lands). The Molalla may be navigable (although not officially) from its mouth to river mile 26.5, just downstream of the study area (Farnell, 1979).

Land use

The majority of land-use in the study area is forestry and recreation, with some rural residential. Most of the private property in the area is zoned for "Exclusive Farm Use." Much of the forestry is industrial timber, most of which is owned by Weyerhaeuser but there are also some smaller woodland lots used for timber and agriculture. The unincorporated communities of Glen Avon and Dickie Prairie lie mostly out of the study area beyond the Glen Avon Bridge, but a few homes along the banks of the Molalla are in the study area. A few of these homes are visible from the river; however, most of them are screened at least partially with vegetation. The only property on the upper section of the study area with a visible structure as seen from the river is the one known as "Bee Ranch", other properties lower down include the Molalla Retreat and a few other residential

structures. The river in this study segment is crossed by several bridges and has a road paralleling it for much of the study area. However, the road is not visible from the river for much of the study area.

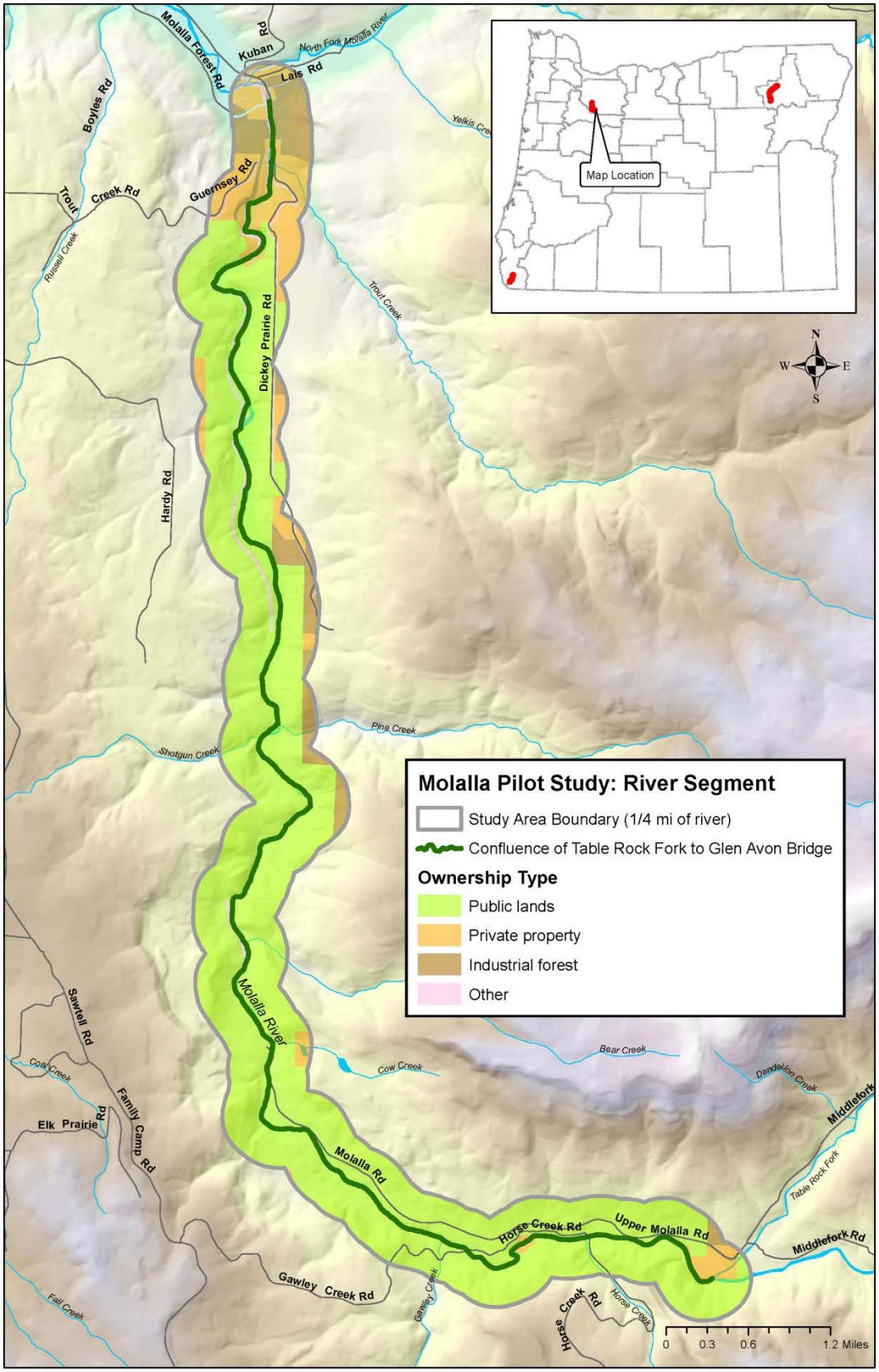


Figure 7. Approximate land ownership types within study area

Application of Waterway Eligibility Criteria

The entire study area **meets** the criteria (ORS 390.855) for eligibility as a state scenic waterway.

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

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

Scenery: The second criteria that must be met is that the "scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral, or these conditions are restorable."

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

The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as "Bee Ranch" located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that must be met are that the river or segment of river and its setting must "possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality"

and be “large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource or quality of the recreation experience.”

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

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

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

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

Natural resources of national and state importance exist in the study area as there are quite a few rare and listed species known to occur or that have the possibility of occurring because of habitat and proximity to known occurrences. Five species listed under the Federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of

the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest in the riparian areas, which also provide visual interest especially in areas with wet cliff walls that have hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages. While much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, some impressive late-seral forest is present and unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)."

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

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 Molalla 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 Molalla 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 most property owners within the Molalla River study area were accepting of the possibility of new regulations associated with a Scenic Waterway designation. Most of the private property owners own commercial forests and are already associated with similar land use regulations administered by Clackamas County. Clackamas County has a river and streams overlay that restricts development and vegetation management within 50 to 200 feet, depending on the water way category. The Scenic Waterway study area falls within the 200 foot development restriction category.

OPRD reviewed preliminary study findings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a large land holder in the study area, to obtain feedback on the potential designation. BLM staff noted that many recreational activities occur along the Molalla River including camping, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, fishing, swimming, floating and paddling. BLM stated that they recently completed a new recreation management plan (2011) that is expected to increase recreational use of the Molalla River.

OPRD met with the Molalla River Alliance to discuss the Scenic Waterway study. They indicated that they are a non-profit organization that is focused on advancing habitat protection, salmon recovery, and family recreational opportunities on the Molalla River. They reiterated the recreational activities that BLM identified. They also communicated that the Molalla River is a prime example of a wild Cascadian stream and home to the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the upper Willamette River system.

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 15, 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. In addition, a postcard campaign was also conducted by a Molalla River proponent group to demonstrate support for the potential designation. An analysis of other individual emails, letters, and community meeting comment forms also show strong support for including the Molalla 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 Molalla River into the Scenic Waterways Program has been provided below in Table 9.

Table 9. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Molalla study area.

Written Comment Type	Opposed	Support
Individual Emails and Letters	2	7
Community Meeting Comment Forms	0	1
Email Campaign	0	164
Postcard Campaign	0	33
Total Written Comments:	**2**	**205**

Online Survey

From August 25th to October 15th, OPRD posted a link to an online survey for the Molalla River study area on the agency's 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment webpage. The survey resulted in feedback from 33 respondents. Surveyed participants were asked about what benefits or problems they associate with including the Molalla 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 6% of survey respondents were opposed to designating one or more of the waterway segments, and 94% 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 15, 2014 meeting, OPRD sent out a news release to all media outlets in NW Oregon and published a public notice in the Molalla Pioneer newspaper. In addition, a personal meeting invite was sent to 49 property owners within the study area along the Molalla River. An additional 19 adjacent landowners were called with a personal meeting invitation. The meeting was facilitated by OPRD staff and was attended by 8 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 attendees stated general support for the designation. There were many questions on how a Scenic Waterway designation would impact riparian vegetation, permits for restoration work, and activities on federal lands. Community members were interested in how a scenic waterway may assist BLM in managing their lands for recreation. The public offered up some minor study boundary area suggestions to match the Federal Wild and Scenic River proposal. OPRD found that all public comments received at the community meeting were in general support to the possible Scenic Waterway designation. 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 Molalla River Scenic Waterways study from the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. On October 28, 2014 the Commission held 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, OPRD asked the Clackamas County Commission if they would like to consider a resolution in support or opposition of the possible designation. On October 28, 2014, the Clackamas County Commission will review public comments from the September 15th community meeting and will consider passing a resolution in support or opposition of the designation. When this resolution is available, it will be Included with Appendix B.

WATERWAY SUITABILITY CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study's eligibility and public input findings, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has concluded the Molalla 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 Molalla 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 BLM staff input indicate that the waterway clearly meets all of 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 provided input within the study area did not express significant concerns with new regulations associated with a Scenic Waterway designation. Through the analysis of community meeting comments, stakeholder input, emails, other written comments, and the online survey, there is well-defined support for the potential waterway designation. For all of the reasons identified above, OPRD finds that the Molalla River study area has high suitability for the Scenic Waterways Program.

If this section of the Molalla River is designated into the Scenic Waterways Program, OPRD would re-engage with 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 for accommodating 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 Molalla 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

Molalla Scenic Waterway Study

Community Meeting Transcription – Molalla Library

September 15, 2014

(Rocky): I want to welcome everyone tonight. So we're here to talk with the community about the Molalla River so hopefully you've got the right meeting. I'm Rocky Houston, I'm the State Scenic Trails Coordinator and I'll be facilitating tonight's event. You'll notice that I'll be looking at this pad of paper occasionally, that's because we're holding a few of these around the state so we want to make sure we're providing consistent information. So, I need the cliff notes every once in awhile. So, really tonight is about you and getting feedback, we want to talk to you about the initiative of the program, the study that we're undertaking, the reasons behind the study, and then talk about the Scenic Waterway program in general. From there, we're going to have a lot of time to hopefully set up for you to ask us questions. Then, once we're kind of through that, then we'll have an opportunity at the very end if you want tonight to provide public testimony here orally as well as plenty of other options, written, email, a survey you can take in lieu of not wanting to do that, testifying today in front of the microphone. Any questions about the scope tonight? So, we've had the Scenic Waterway Program around since the 70s and 80s…we have roughly 20 Scenic Waterways around the state designated primarily in two rounds in the 70s and 80s and there are these blue lines, and we were doing a pilot project …there's been a lot of interest in Scenic Waterways over the last few years and the Governor directed us and the Legislative Body to go out and look at three waterways and do a study, and we're going to be looking at three Scenic Waterways every two years and to ensure that we have a good review of the whole state we are looking at the Chetco, the Molalla and a portion of the Grand Ronde. Hopefully we will be looking at three every two years, we're kind of pilotng this format because the last two ways it was done

differently, how they were designating Scenic Waterways. So, we're trying to figure this all out. The valuation process is based off of our state law and our regulatory program in regards to the water's eligibility. So these would be free flowing, which means there can be dams or other barriers in the waterway. It must have a scenic quality as viewed from the river, it has to be natural and have great recreational values, it can be seasonal recreational values as well as year round recreational values. What we're going to do is through the study process is we're looking at the waterway's eligibility, then we're taking and looking at the feasibility and that's why we're here tonight and why we've been reaching out and it's really the feasibility of the communities, the communities want this to be a designated Scenic Waterway and what are your values locally in regards to that and then we compile that into our report to give that eligibility of the waterway as well as that feasibility to the community feedback to come out. We're finding a lot of different ways of gathering that feedback through our stakeholder meetings we're reaching out to adjacent land owners, other groups of the community, this meeting tonight we have comments that can be given to us at scenic.waterways@oregon.gov If you didn't bring your pen we have a little piece of blue paper in the back, easily lost or put in your wallet, one of the two ways and that will be another way, it has all that information. We also have a survey at that link, correct Laurel?

(Laurel): Either that link or on the blue paper.

(Rocky): On the blue paper will be the link to the survey, so you can find that, just keep one date in mind which is Oct. 15th, that's when the survey will close. So you've got a full month, 30 days, before that comes up and then we will take that information and move it forward to the Governor's office. So, it's always important to kind of say, well, State Parks you're managing this (inaudible)… really, our role is to do studies. We don't have any vested interest one way or the other in regards to the outcomes. We're not advocating for designation or not for designation, we're looking at the eligibility criteria and the community's feedback to help with the effort of the decision makers. So were trying to be as (inaudible) as we can in evaluating that possibility and trying to get as much information as we can so once it gets to the Governor's office and the Legislative Body there's no surprises, there's always been an opportunity to (inaudible) through our report and our study (inaudible) those concerns have

been raised. And, if there's no support, there's no support, if it doesn't meet the eligibility requirements, that's what we're trying to do is present back that eligibility report. Really, what we want to make sure is that the information we give is thorough, and that there is plenty of opportunities for people to provide feedback. So whenever I think of (inaudible) made me think of fish habitat. So for this next portion of the eligibility, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Laurel Hillman, and she's going to talk to you about the eligibility process, and provide or review that, Laurel?

(Laurel): Thanks Rocky. I won't spend too much time on this but basically I want to tell you what the criteria are, based on state law, and what we're doing to determine eligibility and then hopefully, look forward to input from folks in the room and folks that aren't in the room to get more feedback on those criteria and whether or not you feel like it meets those criteria. So, this is an overview of what we've done so far to determine, you might have the question, why are we looking at the Molalla River, so we were asked to do a study of three waterways per biennium. So we didn't want to start from scratch, so we looked at existing lists of potential candidate rivers that existed, we had old outdoor recreation plan documents that outlined potential rivers for study, the National Park Service has a national river inventory that has lists of potentially eligible waterways that aren't currently designated, and there was a senate bill in the last session, senate bill 401 which had a list of waterways, that, if the bill had passed, would have been designated as State Scenic Waterways. So we looked at all this existing information, existing lists of waterways that might be eligible, and used that to whittle down a list of rivers that we could study. We looked at some course level screening criteria, is the river free flowing, so rivers that had a major damn on them were called out in this course level screening. We looked for rivers that, based on the information we have, based on statewide surveys of their input from stakeholder groups, and other management agencies, Fish and Wildlife, DEQ, other state agencies and federal agencies, would it meet those other criteria of having some level of recreation use and scenic values. Once we came up with a shorter list of study, we vetted that with partner groups, agencies and determined that as Rocky said, we would study those three study reaches for this pilot year. What we've done so far on the Molalla, we've conducted a field visit to the river to

document existing river conditions, look at the scenic quality of the river, and start to identify some outstanding natural and recreational features of the waterway; and ongoing right now, hopefully after this meeting we might be able to reach out with other folks, is ongoing discussions with experienced users, folks that know the river, folks that recreate on the river, people that live on the river, Resource Managers, Federal/ State agencies, watershed groups, that might have a better understanding than we do about what the natural values on the river are, scenic values and recreational values to help us determine whether or not it has outstanding natural, recreational and scenic qualities that would make it eligible as the State Scenic Waterway. I think I already went through that but these are the criteria that are spelled out in our statutes that say it must meet all of these to be a State Scenic Waterway. It must be free flowing, the scene from the river must be pleasing, it has to have outstanding natural and recreational values and the river must be large enough to sustain recreation use without undoing impairment of the natural values of the river and the quality of the recreation experience that make it a special river. So, so far this is pretty much the easiest criteria in consultation with the Water Resources department determined that the Molalla is, at least in this section, a free flowing river with no major damns or major divergence. So that was a relatively easy task. Slightly more difficult although it wasn't that awful to go out and check out the scenic quality of the Molalla River. Whether or not the view from the river is pleasing, is this view pleasing to you. You guys know the Molalla River better than I do. Do you find the view from the river pleasing along the study site?

(Public): Oh, that's horrible (joking).

(Laurel): It's horrible. Does anybody have any key features that make the Molalla River a special scenic quality to you?

(Public): The center of the world is one.

(Laurel): The basalt rosette. Anything else that makes the Molalla special from a scenic standpoint?

(Public): There is some additional basalt formations a little higher up that are pretty spectacular.

(Laurel): The geology. The geology's a key feature.

(Public): And also the Bureau of Land Management has designated what they call Molalla Meadows as an outstanding natural area and it's on top of the cliffs. There's the sheer rock cliffs like you're looking at here and up on top there are meadows with actually a fairly unusual…because they have oak trees growing on them instead of fir which dominates the area and that's very visible from Turner Ridge.

(Laurel): And that's the kind of information we're looking for. And we'll have that information, I think it's in the Molalla, in the BLM's Management Plan, a description of that they've done a lot of research on the river but anything, those type of things, the natural and scenic qualities, those are all things that we must consider as part of whether or not it is eligible. Another criteria is whether or not the river has outstanding natural and recreational values, so can folks think of any outstanding, you mentioned some, outstanding natural features that would make the river unique…if you guys can think of anything after this meeting…key natural and recreational values, types of recreation use, amounts of recreation use, that's all the kind of information that we're looking for. And we got a lot of great information from Adam Milner from the BLM, they did a recreational survey so that has a lot of good data for us, but anything else you can think of. Why do you like to recreate on the Molalla River? Think about that and if maybe you wanted to include that in your comments to help us characterize the recreation use would be helpful. As I said, we need your input on the outstanding natural features, recreation use and then we want to hear your issues, concerns and opportunities. Rocky will now discuss what State Scenic Waterway Designation might mean so that might address some of your concerns or issues that you might have or questions. So that's just a brief outline of eligibility criteria. Here goes Rocky.

(Rocky): Thank you Laurel. So by now, I'm sure your wondering will simplication of the Molalla River to you if it is (inaudible)…so the first thing that is important to know is that we're just doing a study and we're going to have a report that's going to go to the Governor's office. It will go in January, I believe. The Governor may decide to make a decision or he can move it on to the Legislative Body in session which would be, you know, whenever that ends,

July, September, 2015. And an outcome could be that one of the three rivers that you're looking at, two, three, maybe none are actually recommended to be designated. So if it is designated it will move forward, there's always been a few consequences, obligations, opportunities, just depends on how you look at it. First, the benefits would be, it almost becomes a badge of honor, this is a way to really take this stretch of the Molalla and put it up on the bookcase and to showcase that this is the best of the best in Oregon, this is essential Oregon landscape. This is why we came and our forefathers came to Oregon, because of this sort of quality. It provides a layer of protection, a layer of sort of cartilage around those scenic qualities that are there today for future generations. With that comes some obligations that requires us, all of us to come together and develop a management plan to set what those requirements are, what those boundaries are in regards to existing uses and future protection, so that's a collaborative process that we work to develop. As well, the designation has a quarter mile buffer on either side of the middle of the river. Within that is sort of the reach of the program for Molalla so within that there is a limitation of some uses, so it (inaudible)…so there would be some potential impacts through the language process for those uses. So if it is a new waterways added, we would come back out, State Parks and engage with you and your neighbors in regards to developing that management plan. So we would be looking at these issues that have come out of this process and opportunities of what the characters are of the waterway and concerns raised by your community and work on those paramount. We would look at those existing uses and look to accommodate those uses, this is sometimes called a grandfather so those uses are there now is what is continued, about keeping that character today. It would encourage sort of through a collaborative process with our staff when things go up to the Linus process to work with those adjacent land owners. For that, as the maps show on the back, predominately most of the waterway that is in question is BLM, is the adjacent land owner. So, that brings on another set of opportunities, but before I get into that it would be nice to show our partner here, we will have Dwight come up and talk about water resources and what their process is in this.

(Dwight French): Thanks Rocky. So my name is Dwight French and I work at the Water Resources Department in Salem. I'm in charge of our water right

programs, like water right applications, or if you have a water right already and you want to move it to a different location, that kind of stuff. And our department has some responsibility and role with the Scenic Waterways Designation as well and I wanted to share just a little bit about what our agency does. So that has to do with protection of flows within a designated Scenic Waterway. So if a new waterway is included into the program in the one, two or three of the different pilot reaches that we're talking about. Our department will determine what flows should be protected when reviewing new water right applications. So what we have to do along with our Commission is adopt a certain flow number that is going to be protected for each month of the year, for these one, two or three different reaches. To figure out what those flow numbers will be, we'll do an investigation of any related publications that talk about what the scenic flows are, like right now on the Molalla it's not as scenic as it is at other times of the year cause the water is pretty low. We'll also coordinate our efforts with the Parks department staff and talk to them, we may do this with Parks as part of the management plan or separate, we're kind of figuring that out, what is the best way to go about that, but there will be public meetings in the effective basins, there will be a public comment period, there will be recommendations to our Water Resources Commission and then the Commission will approve, maybe they will change or maybe they will not approve, send us back to do more work, ask staff to develop the flows. Another thing, I've got to fix this slide because I forgot one point was the investigation of related publications, you know, any literature that is out there, but also in the experienced user, I'm thinking of rafting guides, who know that the Molalla.. for example, I don't know what it is but they might say yeah, from about mid - January to May 1st it's really good rafting because the river is between these flow levels and we can, you know, look at that kind of information. So, we'll contact people that know more about it than we do and take that under consideration. So existing water rights are not effective, like Rocky said, there's some grandfather clause ideas with part of the Scenic Waterway Act and this water rights part is a part of it. Once the new waterway is included, any water rights that already exist would not be effected. But new water rights applications might be effected depending on what the flow levels are and what kind of impact those flow levels might have with the water that is currently available, or in some cases, not available for future users. Any questions about

that or you can ask me at the end too because I'll be here until we close down too. Alright? Ok, thanks Rocky.

(Rocky): So through our process so far, we've gone out and spoken to a lot of you I'm sure, some of our staff has. We've compiled a list of opportunities and also concerns. So far, sort of the list of potential concerns that could/would/may category, a big if, if the Molalla, this reach of the Molalla is designated as a Scenic Waterway it could prohibit some existing development and activities. So there would be a different restriction perceived. There's also required additional permits that would add some costs and add time to an existing review process. Other concerns that have been brought up is permanent removal of trees along the waterway as well as the restriction of some of the recreational activities that are ongoing their currently. I'm not used to being so formal so I apologize. With that it's always good to think about when/if it is designated there is a review process that goes through our staff to look at those things that are being reviewed versus those things that aren't being reviewed. So these are things that are not being reviewed through that process if it is a designated Scenic Waterway. So recreational activities are not being reviewed through this process…(inaudible)…if you have existing development maintenance activities that are there and identified through the management planning…(inaudible)..grazing and farm uses, grazing and farm uses could include construction of fencing or for grazing, it would not be reviewed through this process. The removal of hazard trees or fire trees are not being reviewed. Any land uses or activities that are on Federal lands technically they're above State law but often, not often, sometimes BLM, the Forest Service will come to State Parks to look for consistency, they want to be a good neighbor (inaudible)…and activities and uses on Federal lands managed by Federal agencies. So, those things that would be reviewed through the process if it was designated a Scenic Waterway would be new development proposals, so if you're going to build something you have to go down to the county and ask what kind of permits and land use requirements. So with any new development the county is going to require a review of that and through that review process they would be letting us know. I believe the process is 120 days at the county …(inaudible). Usually we get notice right away within three to four weeks, still within that 120 days, our staff is reviewing

it and giving our comments back to the county. Outside of any engagement with that land owner, person who has submitted the proposal, and so with that, if there was a question that was raised, our staff would engage you and try to develop a plan with you that would match the management plan that we have and work sort of one on one to develop consensus as to what that plan would look like. A lot of times what that really means is that we're going to do some work and it's going to require the removal of some vegetation, so we're looking to see long term, is there a vegetation plan, what's that timeline look …(inaudible) you know a lot of times that can be up to five to ten years to allow some of that regrowth to occur. And what we do for State law review timber harvest proposals so ODF gets notice and then we get notice from the Department of Forestry in regards to those planned timber harvests. Essentially what we're doing is.. that you've followed a lot is the Oregon Forest Practice Act which means that you already can't remove trees within 100 feet with…(inaudible). Sometimes we may have additional questions in regards to the view shed (inaudible)…in looking at it and making sure it has the best scenic quality from the river. The way this river is set up that's not a big issue, there's a lot of cool canyons and other things. And there again there would be the, much like with new developments the re-vegetation management plan which once again would include the Oregon Forest Practice Act, the two for one or is it three for one…(inaudible)…

(Public): Can I ask you a question.

(Rocky): Yes.

(Public): Would you be, you know, so much of the adjoining land to your proposal all of it under the Federal law scenic is totally within BLM ownership and regulation control. You wouldn't have any, you're not a part of the loop on timber harvest if it's BLM land.

(Rocky): That's a good question, I'm going to defer over here, I think the answer is…

(Andrea) So my name is Andrea and currently I'm doing Scenic Waterways reviews for when folks have a new project on the Sandy, the Clackamas, Mckenzie and a couple others in the state and there are few places that go

through BLM land, I believe the McKenzie, where they do notify us, they have a timber harvest, and they have always done that.

(Rocky): And I think that gets back to consistency.

(Andrea): Yeah, so we've done some site visits with them for certain harvest proposals and helped tweak things to minimize scenic impact.

(Rocky): Right, we don't have any rules on Federal land.

(Public). Yeah. Right.

(Rocky): Other question

(Public): Yes Sir. You spoke about the process going forward, is your report reviewed, approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission? And from there, do they then develop recommendations to the Governor?

(Rocky): So that is a good question, and the short answer is yes, it's going to be presented to State Parks Commission as well as the Water Resources board? Commission? Commission…I'll get it right. But both of those will be reviewed in parallel and before it's presented to the Governor. So…is that the Rosette? They call it the eyeball or something like that.

(Public): Actually a lot of people have different names for it. I've always called it the Sunburst. The Sunburst, yeah, that's not very scenic. No. Especially when you're standing up looking down at the clear water below. It's not scenic.

(Rocky): So this concludes our presentation in regards to…(inaudible) so we really now are turning it over to you. We're here to answer any questions, hear any comments. Of course, just like in class, there is rules to the room, so the rules to the room really is just have one person speak at a time, if you have several points you would like to get across, it's not like we have hundreds of people here so it would probably be fine but let everyone have a chance to speak and everyone in the room may not have the same opinion as you so be respectful as everyone is presenting their information, and so, again tonight what we're hoping to do is have a big question and answer opportunity to gather as much information as we can, and then we have an opportunity for a hearing, an opportunity for oral testimony. You're not required to do it, it is an

option, but we want to hear from you, a lot of different ways. Through the meeting, through oral testimony. We also have the website, comment cards, my email address, all that, so we have these opportunities, and with that I will turn it over to you.

(Public): I do have a question, I'm with the Molalla River Watch and we do a lot of restoration work…on the main (inaudible) of the Molalla, there are, side channels, well, in that area you are talking about, the upper watershed, there's really not that many opportunities for restoration but the Tributaries, Table Rock and Copper Creek, my understanding is that those are going to be included too, and sometimes there might be a permitting process, especially if you're thinking about doing large wood in a stream and that sort of thing. So I was wondering how that would affect the permitting process in that regard.

(Rocky): Andrea?

(Andrea): Yeah, that's a great question and there has been a couple projects on the Clackamas and a couple projects on the Sandy in my time with State Parks that have come up that were restoration projects that were involving large wood, and so looking at the specific Oregon and Administrative Rules for those waterways, we determined generally for large wood jams, the only requirements to project the scenic quality of the river would be to have the cut ends of the large wood pieces be roughened and be made to look like they had naturally sort of gotten that way rather than have them be

(Public): A nice beaver chew.

(Andrea): Yeah, so there not so obvious that first year their in for river users. And there's also restrictions on cabling we've done…but there were some cases were cabling was the only option because there was a bedrock clear underneath, they couldn't dig the logs in so we had to make some exceptions there but generally we're trying to limit the amount of artificial, shiny..

(Public); And generally funders don't like to fund projects with cabling.

(Andrea): Yeah, so far this has been the only example of I can think of in my time regarding restoration projects. But yeah, lots of side channel work has

been going on in those rivers, we are pleased with those because they do promote the natural qualities of the river. Great. Thank you.

(Rocky): Yes Ma'am.

(Public): I can speak to the recreation as far as the water, as soon as the rains come which is usually anytime now I guess, maybe the middle of October, the river comes out enough to be a boating river and it stays that way until the rain stops, generally in the Spring.

(Rocky): When you say boating is that rafting, canoeing?

(Public): (inaudible)..class IV river.

(Rocky): (inaudible)…any other questions?

(Public): I have one Rocky. So right now the management is BLM and the agency would be Parks?

(Rocky): Good Question. So I'm going to tease that out a little bit. So the land manager is BLM, it would remain BLM, the management that this designation would have would be on new development or those sort of logging operations that were within the corridor, then those would be presented to us to review. So BLM would still have a role, all the land which is green back there which is BLM, they would still have that as Federal land we really don't have any say over it but they often consult with us. And then, did I miss anything in regards to that? I'll look around..the people who know more than I.

(Public): Just on that same line though, BLM has adopted a RAM, or Recreation Management Plan about a year and a half ago, I assume that would still be operative.

(Rocky): Yeah. I think that would be part of, sort of that management plan that would be developing if this reach was designated.

(Public): Bill Taylor , Molalla (inaudible): I'd like to comment on that too, that BLM a number of years ago determined that this section was suitable and eligible for Wild and Scenic Designation and they have been managing the

river as if it were Wild and Scenic for a number of years so they're already pretty much managing that section for Wild and Scenic values.

(Public): So along that same line, when we went into the management plan, there was like a phase 1, phase 2, phase 3, which I guess we're still in phase 1 now. So since that management plan is already in effect, even though it's not in existence, would it continue to be allowed, or would it have to be reviewed again.

(Rocky): I think if this was designated, it would not interfere with those existing plans. So that's already an adoptive plan (inaudible) Federal land. I think it would be complimentary, I'm assuming, I don't know that plan of course. The Wild and Scenic Designation and Scenic Waterways in Oregon have a lot of similarities in the outcomes we are looking for.

(Laurel): They were designed to be a complimentary program.

(Public): Ok, because I think like one of the next phases was going to be an RV camping area and that hasn't begun yet at all so...but it is in the management plan for the next couple of years.

(Rocky): I know they've done a lot of new campground repair.

(Public): Yes. That was in the phase 1 where the old campgrounds were.
(Rocky): It seems like they are formalizing recreational activities and camping and stuff, not letting as much, sort of, free for all.

(Rocky): Ok, we have one more question.

(Public): I have a lot of questions I guess. Ok. I'll be honest with you, I'm kind of questioning all of this. To what degree do you anticipate this plan will affect how BLM is managing their property? Or is there an option coming down the track that BLM would be giving up what control they have, or BLM land would then be turned into campgrounds and all that kind of thing. The reason I'm asking for this is that I have a 300 acre farm that backs right up to the BLM, my farm is right on the map that you guys sent me, thank you very much. So, I have serious questions about... and I guess it's one of my questions.

(Rocky): So the first one, my understanding is that we would be looking at that plan that BLM has put together and that would be used to help develop the management plan for the Scenic Waterway, if it was designated. So the program's not set up to take away their plan. The only asterick I would…again, it's Federal land so we wouldn't be able to tell BLM no, we would be wanting to work with them on making sure that character which it sounds like their plans are..(inaudible)..and not going to look to other people…I think the only situation would be if it was private land and the developer had an idea of developing something there but it wasn't developed today and hadn't gone through land use yet, so it wasn't already on the books as being planned, there would be an opportunity for us to review those plans in the future or when they did do development in the future, that would be the situation where we would be wanting to work (inaudible) with that developer to make sure the scenic qualities of the river are maintained..(inaudible). From our understanding so far, our designation, the State's designation, would be consistent with the direction that they are going in the management plan.

(Laurel): I think an important point, I don't know if it was made clear, it's the scenic quality as viewed from the river, so like in the river. So if it's something you can't see from the river, the review process is…doesn't happen. With a river like this with some steep canyon walls, that really eliminates about a quarter mile from the bank, what's actually visible.

(Public): I guess one of my thoughts is, as this goes forward, I would hope that there would be a kind of stepped up oversight of how people are using the land because I have a clear view of what's happening on the BLM chunk, and people are not following the rules, they're up there with the horses, beating the trail to death, we tried to walk out this Spring on one of the trails.. (inaudible)…and the trail was so bad we couldn't even walk on it and it was such that we couldn't go outside the trail either..(inaudible)…so I have concerns about how much there, the powers that be or whoever they are able to control the use that's there now. And now I have another example of loss of control, because we have a huge fire that is coming this way too, that's what the smog is from.

(Andrea): That's a really good question and I would say that the projects that I review have to constitute a "project", they have to become a proposal for something specific the landowner is proposing in order to come to State Parks for review of the Administrative Rules for that waterway and for working with the landowner on minimizing impacts to the scenic qualities. As far as lapses in enforcing existing rules or, things like what you're describing, I haven't seen anything like that come to us but I would imagine that if there were major impacts happening and the public was concerned about it, I can't see why we couldn't have a conversation with the Scenic Waterways sort of overlay (inaudible)..with those issues.

(Rocky): It provides a discussion point, the Scenic Waterways program isn't a strong regulatory program, it was never designed that way to have these big teeth that say this is a line in the sand, period, it's designed to look at the intent and the scenic qualities and try to work collaboratively with those private property owners that maintain that and usually it's in all the parties best interest, and we're for that way, so that's the approach we have, it doesn't have the same regulatory elements that another program could have regarding some water rights, or something. I may be minimizing it but our goal is really to try to work with the landowners and not shake our finger. Well I'm sensing a silence, sometimes people like to talk one on one, other times on paper, or via email, or again we do have an opportunity if anyone wants to make a formal comment, we can transition, whatever your questions are answered tonight.

(Public): I've got some testimony to offer at that right time, and, you know, don't take the lack of comment tonight as…you know, we've been working on a parallel path with Federal Wild and Scenic Designations since 2009. We had in that session we had two bills both in the senate and the house that were stand alone bills for the Molalla River and we came within a hair's breath of having…it passed nearly a unanimous floor vote in the house and it passed all of the committees, all the leadership votes and I think we missed by about a day of getting the floor vote from the senate. The next session we had another two bills. This session we've got three bills, two in the senate and one in the house. Throughout that entire process and all of the testimony that's been given and received both locally and at the Federal level and the hearing that we participated in and all of the comments that have been received there has

never been to our knowledge a negative comment made about the Molalla River being included in the Federal Wild and Scenic program. As John's going to mention there are some broader geographic parameters to the both lesser and greater in the proposed Federal designations. But, so we've talked this through an awful lot and I think we understand the issues, understand the National and scenic benefits of this amazing river and you've got…we're trying to support.. John and I are involved in the Molalla River Alliance and we represent a broad cross section of interests from timber owners to environmental groups to recreational users to everybody in between. We've got nothing but broad based support and this is the fifth or sixth year that we've been involved in this process. So, it's nothing new to us, we certainly support what you are proposing. We've got some ideas about some minor (inaudible).

(Public): Would you like to take a statement from me as well?

(Rocky): Yeah. Let me…sorry, I'm wrapping my procedure rules in my head, will just take me a second. When I do formal testimony, I talk out loud a lot.

(Public): Do you have to swear me in?

(Rocky): Do I need to make a formal statement? See I usually run hearings, or public meetings, this is my first combo so I'm thinking out loud here. I think for the record we'll have you state your name and say this is your testimony, and I think that should suffice. So we're moving into the testimony portion of the meeting tonight for the hearing for the Molalla River Scenic Waterway designation and certainly state your name and provide any testimony that you have.

(Public): Thank you Rocky. John Atkins, President of the Molalla River Alliance. And as the principal non-profit organization seeking to advance habitat protection, salmon recovery and family recreational opportunities on the Molalla River. The Molalla River Alliance wholeheartedly supports designating the upper portion of the Molalla as one of Oregon's Scenic Waterways. As you know, 21 miles of the upper Molalla have been proposed and bills currently pending in Congress for inclusion in America's Wild and Scenic River program. The criteria for being nominated for Wild and Scenic status are essentially the same as the Water Scenic Waterway Program. Those criteria include

possessing outstandingly remarkable, geologic, hydrologic, scenic, biological and recreational values. The free flowing Molalla is a prime example of the Wild Cascadian stream. It provides extensive, native fish habitat including critical cold water refuges and spawning beds. It is home to the largest run of wild, winter steelhead on the upper Willamette system. The upper Molalla is also a magnet for recreational enthusiasts. Over 65,000 visitors a year flock to the Molalla for rafting and kayaking, hiking and picnicking, swimming and tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting and fishing. We believe these diverse attractions, together with the outstanding natural features of the upper Molalla, more than satisfy the criteria identified by the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for a Scenic Waterway designation. The MRA would like to suggest two modifications to the Molalla Scenic Waterway study boundaries. We outline these modifications in a letter sent today to the Parks and Recreation Department. The first modification would be to remove private property holdings along the lower portion of the study area. From the Glen Avon Bridge to the lower portion of the study area, from the Glen Avon Bridge upstream to the BLM property boundary, a distance of about a mile. The second change would be to add portions of the Table Rock and Copper Creek Forks to the proposed Scenic Waterway boundaries. These changes, if approved, would make the Molalla Scenic Waterway and the Federal Wild and Scenic River boundaries identical. The MRA believes that having the same boundaries for State Scenic Waterway and Federal and Wild Scenic designations on the upper Molalla reinforce each other as policy actions and eliminate inconsistencies that could become problematic in the future and we very much appreciate the opportunity to come here tonight. Thank you.

(Rocky): Thank you. Anyone else that would like to provide oral testimony? Yes Sir.

(Public): Yes, I'm Bill Taylor with Molalla River Watch Watershed Council and our organization pretty much supports the same possession as the Molalla River Alliance. We would definitely like to the Upper Copper Creek and Table Rock Forks included in this study and in this designation. We think that those forks do contain valuable recreation value. I'd like to read just one sentence from BLM's study. The 5700 Table Rock wilderness designated by Congress in 1984 is embraced by the Molalla, and Table Rock Fork, and designation of

these river segments would reinforce the protections in place for the wilderness area. So, I think you know with those two forks close to the wilderness area boundary would be desirable to have them included in the State Scenic Waterway designation. So, thank you.

(Rocky): Thank you. Alright, with that we will close the oral testimony portion of this and talk freely.

(Bill Taylor): Any timeline you're looking at in getting through this process? You're going to try to complete your report to the Commission by January?

(Rocky): We will have reports to the Governor in January and then he will review it and determine whether or not to move it to one, two, three or none, make a decision there or move it on to Legislative review, that's his discretion there. If they made it to the Governor's office and he moved them forward, one way or another if it went to Legislative Body I assume it would be the end of session or middle of session before a decision was made through that process. But we will be done with our study before Christmas.

(Laurel): So to be clear, there are three ways that a State Scenic Waterway can be designated. By the Governor directly, by the legislature or by a ballot initiative, so if the Governor chooses to designate it, it's designated unless the Legislature chooses to have a joint resolution against it.

(Public): Oh. So they can veto it.

(Laurel): So he could choose to put it forward to the Legislature to have an opinion either way, but it's not required. So he can designate it, but they have to have a joint resolution against it, unless there's a bill introduced.

(Rocky): So by February I assume by when our birthday is for State we would know where the Governor was at and in what process and timeline and go from there…whether it was over and then there would be the ballot initiative idea or be designated…(inaudible).

(Public): How long do you plan to keep the comment period open?

(Rocky): October 15th is when the survey ends, and I re-question, there's my stall tactic, I believe it's a similar timeline because we still have to write the

report and present it to our Commission in November. So, I'm going to make an executive decision, October 15th.

(Laurel): We will still accept comments at the Commission level.

(Public): The Commission would hold some kind of a public hearing on this, would they not?

(Rocky): They would always allow public comment in the beginning of that meeting, sometimes they choose to hold the public comments during the actual agenda item but they would review it…so yes.

(Public): Thank you.

(Staff): That will be in the second week of November in Astoria.

(Rocky): So to repeat, that will be in the second week, that will be a Tuesday? Wednesday. They changed the date on me.

(Staff): Wednesday.

(Rocky): Wednesday in the second week of November in Astoria, Oregon...and…let's see if I can get a date.

(Laurel): There's also a Commission meeting on Wednesday of this week at Silver Falls and there will be an agenda item about this but it's just an update to the Commission, an information item, they're not taking action.

(Rocky): So November 12th in Astoria is the State Parks Commission meeting where this will be reviewed.

(Public): Where's that going to be in Astoria?

(Rocky): On our website, there is a tiny url…is it at the Maritime Museum? The Canner y is another location…

(Dwight): The Water Resources Commission will be planning to take a recommendation to the Water Resources Commission the Thursday and Friday, it's either the Thursday or Friday…it's a two day meeting in Hillsboro, the week before Thanksgiving, I think that's the 21st, 22nd of November, so about a week or 10 days after the Parks Commission meeting.

(Rocky): Well you guys have been an awesome crowd tonight. We're here for another 45 minutes and then these darn people kick us out, we're here to answer as many questions until then and then we have to pack up, unfortunately. So thanks for coming. My name, number, phone number, email is the best way to get a hold of me so if you don't get me on the rings, just email me, I'm on the road a lot, especially the next six weeks. Feel free (inaudible)…get back to you.

(Laurel): Send an email to the scenicwaterways@oregon.gov which is maybe easier, I don't know what is easier than Rocky Houston, scenicwaterways@oregon.gov one of us will get back to you if it's a question, otherwise it's a comment and we'll try to get back to you, there are several folks that have access to that email address. So if there's input on the study, you know the criteria that I mentioned in our presentation, any information would be helpful that you think…

(Rocky): Yeah, and if you think Laurel did a great job tonight, make a comment.

(Public): So what made you pick the designation that you did? Geographically?

(Rocky): Well we use some advance scientific rubic technology so we've created a matrix so there was…Terry you should…I don't want to put you on the spot…so we looked at prior information in regards to different studies, I keep looking at other people cause they're going to tell me when I get it wrong, then we used GIS to look at some different elements to look at the scenic qualities and then the recreational use level, then we combined that information to determine which had potential scenic qualities and had a high recreational value. Then we informed an advisory committee that was stakeholders statewide and did a refinement from that down to a list of about 24-26 top tier potentials. From there, they looked at flow, free flowing of some of those reaches potentially had some impediments there, we looked at other issues and that subcommittee, that advisory committee narrowed it down to six initially, eight reaches, from there it was further refined down to these three based on geographical, to make sure that we have some rivers that we are looking at all over the State to pilot this new process out as well as other

elements that I can't recall. So that's kind of how we use science, local knowledge and other information to make it happen. We want to have a good opportunity to look at different issues, different types of rivers to see if the process is meeting the needs of you, the citizens.

(Laurel): Something that we didn't mention, there are three types of designation options. There's twenty existing State Scenic Waterways, 19 rivers and (inaudible) lake. And all of them except for one, the Sandy river were designated by one of the other two processes, by ballot initiative or by Legislative bill. So we haven't done this very many times.

(Public): When was the last time we had a waterway declared scenic?

(Laurel): 1988

(Rocky): Yeah, I was going to say 1988. Yeah, I was only in my 20th year with the State then, it was a long time ago. It was a good year in high school for me. I won't tell you which year.

(Public): There are other rivers that haven't been developed here in the State. How are those developments funded?

(Rocky): In regards to the studies in the management plan?

(Public): No, the management, the ongoing management of it, beyond the feasibility studies.

(Laurel): Existing Scenic Waterways, how are they managed and how is it funded?

(Rocky): Through State Parks, through our funding, and we have people, Natural Resource Specialists who, that's part of their duties, is to review those applications, that's through lottery funding and user fees. And I believe that's how they're funded. We used to have a much larger rivers program in the 80s and that's dwindled down. So we have three, four, staff that a piece of their job responsibilities is reviewing this.

(Laurel): That's sort of why you're getting the Ocean Shore planning policy person, Statewide Trails person.. but Andrea doesn't necessarily go

around…Jim is our supervisor hiding in the back, he manages the Stewardship program.

(Rocky): So I may not be the river guide per se, but I have managed the water trails program, my job is to work with communities all over the State, Regional Recreation Planning.

(Jim): This program also depends on cooperation from local land use authorities, we meet with land use planners around the state to make sure they're aware of this designation…(inaudible).. so it's not only our staff but local land use agencies…(inaudible).

(Rocky): And that's a good point.

(Laurel): And there's a publication on our website called the State Scenic Waterways Landowner's Guide..it has some good examples in it..some scenarios…(inaudible)…and that's available via that link or you can email us and ask for it.

(Rocky): Thank you.

(Public) Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Molalla River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Molalla Library
September 15, 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: John Atkins

Address: [redacted] City: Portland State: OR 97225

E-mail: [redacted]

COMMENTS:

ATTACHED.

APPENDIX B
Submitted Written Comments

Comments by John H. Atkins, Jr.
President, Molalla River Alliance
Sept. 15, 2014
Molalla, Oregon

As the principal nonprofit organization seeking to advance habitat protection, salmon recovery and family recreation opportunities on the Molalla River, the Molalla River Alliance wholeheartedly supports designating the upper portion of the Molalla as one of Oregon's Scenic Waterways.

As you know, 21 miles of the upper Molalla have been proposed in bills currently pending in Congress for inclusion in America's Wild and Scenic River system. The criteria for being nominated for wild and scenic status are essentially the same as the Oregon Scenic Waterway program.

These criteria include possessing "outstandingly remarkable" geologic, hydrologic, scenic, biological, and recreational values. The free-flowing Molalla is a prime example of a wild Cascadian stream. It provides extensive native fish habitat including critical cold water refuges and spawning beds. It is home to the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the upper Willamette River system.

The upper Molalla is also a magnet for recreational enthusiasts. Over 65,000 visitors a year flock to the Molalla for rafting and kayaking, hiking and picnicking, swimming and tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting and fishing. These diverse attractions, together with the outstanding natural features of the upper Molalla, more than satisfy the criteria identified by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a scenic waterway designation.

The MRA would like to suggest two modifications to the Molalla Scenic Waterway Study boundaries. We outlined these modifications in a letter sent today to the Oregon of Parks and Recreation Department. The first modification would be to remove private property holdings along the lower portion of the study area—from the Glen Avon Bridge upstream to the BLM property boundary—a distance of about one mile. The second change would be to add portions of the Table Rock and Copper Creek forks to the proposed Molalla Scenic Waterway boundaries.

These changes, if approved, would make the Molalla Scenic Waterway and the federal Wild and Scenic River boundaries identical. The MRA believes that having the same boundaries for state scenic waterway and federal wild and scenic river designations on the upper Molalla reinforce each other as policy actions and eliminate inconsistencies that could become problematic in the future.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute our suggestions.

Molalla River Alliance

www.molallariveralliance.org | PO Box 214, Molalla, OR 97038

Sept. 16, 2014

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

Subject: Molalla River Scenic Waterway Study

Dear Mr. Morgan,

As the principal nonprofit organization seeking to advance habitat protection, salmon recovery and family recreation opportunities on the Molalla River, the Molalla River Alliance appreciates the time you took recently to brief members of our board on the Molalla River Scenic Waterway Study. The MRA wholeheartedly supports designating the upper portion of the Molalla as one of Oregon's Scenic Waterways.

The upper Molalla ranks among the richest of Oregon rivers in recreational opportunities. Over 65,000 visitors a year flock to the Molalla for rafting and kayaking, hiking and picnicking, swimming and tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting and fishing. These diverse attractions, together with the outstanding natural features of the upper Molalla, more than satisfy the criteria identified by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a scenic waterway designation.

The MRA suggests two modifications to the proposed boundaries of the Molalla Scenic Waterway, hoping that these will be embraced by the parks and recreation staff and be included in their recommendation to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Remove the lower portion of the proposed scenic study area, consisting of private property downstream from the Bureau of Land Management property line in T.6 S., R.3 E., sec.7, to the Glen Avon Bridge—a distance of approximately one mile.

- Add to the Molalla scenic waterway recommendation approximately 6.2 miles of the Table Rock Fork from the easternmost Bureau of Land Management boundary line in the NE ¼ sec. 4, T. 7 S., R. S., R. 4 E., downstream to the confluence with the Molalla River.

- Also add to the Molalla scenic waterway recommendation approximately 2.1 miles of the Copper Creek Fork, also known as the South Fork of the Molalla River, from the southern boundary line of T. 7 S., R. 4 E., Sec. 19 downstream to the confluence of the Table Rock and Copper Creek Forks at the Bee Ranch.

The MRA supports these modifications because:

1) All but the lower portion of the proposed study area as modified by the MRA recommendation (except for the Bee Ranch) is owned and managed by the BLM. The Bee Ranch at the confluence of the Table Rock and Copper Creek forks is not inhabited and is under consideration for possible acquisition as a conservation preserve. The owners of the Bee Ranch have consented to inclusion of their property in the Proposed Federal Wild and Scenic River designation. Deleting the private property holdings downstream (between the BLM property line and Glen Avon Bridge) will eliminate any risk of controversy that could arise over scenic waterway status of these properties. It was for this reason that those properties were not included in the Federal Wild and Scenic Molalla River boundaries proposed in legislation currently pending in Congress.

   Since 2009, when Federal Wild and Scenic River status was first proposed for the Molalla, a Spring Chinook salmon fry acclimation facility has been constructed on private property at the confluence of Trout Creek and the Molalla River, just upstream from the Glen Avon Bridge. This acclimation pool has been in operation since 2012, releasing 100,000 smolt into the river each year. The acclimation facility was approved by the ODF&W Commission. There is no public access to the river through this property, nor from private property on the other side of the river. Eliminating these private property holdings from further consideration will have no effect on scenic waterway recreational values or opportunities.

2) Adding portions of the Table Rock and Copper Creek forks of the Molalla River, as shown on the accompanying map, and deleting the private holdings in the most downstream portion of the proposed study area will make the proposed scenic waterway boundaries coterminous with the Federal Wild and Scenic River boundaries contained in legislation currently pending in the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Both forks of the river are popular recreation areas that meet essential criteria for state scenic waterway protection. The MRA believes that having identical boundaries for state scenic waterway and federal wild and scenic river designations on the upper Molalla reinforce each other as policy actions and eliminate inconsistencies that could become problematic in the future.

   In testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on April 25, 2013, BLM Acting Deputy Director Jamie Connell expressed the BLM's support for S. 353, the Oregon Treasures Act, sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden.

   > "The bill (section 4) proposes to designate 15.1 miles of the Molalla River [including the Copper Creek fork] and 6.2 miles of the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Department supports these designations. In earlier planning analyses, the BLM evaluated the Molalla River and the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla River and determined that most of these two rivers should be considered for designation as wild and scenic rivers. As a result, the designation called for would be largely consistent with management currently in place and would cause few changes to BLM's current administration of most of this area. The 5,700-acre Table Rock Wilderness, designated by Congress in 1984, is embraced by the Molalla and Table Rock Fork, and designation of these river segments would reinforce the protections in place for the wilderness area."

Since Federal Wild and Scenic River status was first proposed for the upper Molalla River six years ago, no opposition has ever been voiced. It is our hope that, by making the proposed state scenic waterway boundaries congruent with the federal ones, that the same outcome can be achieved.

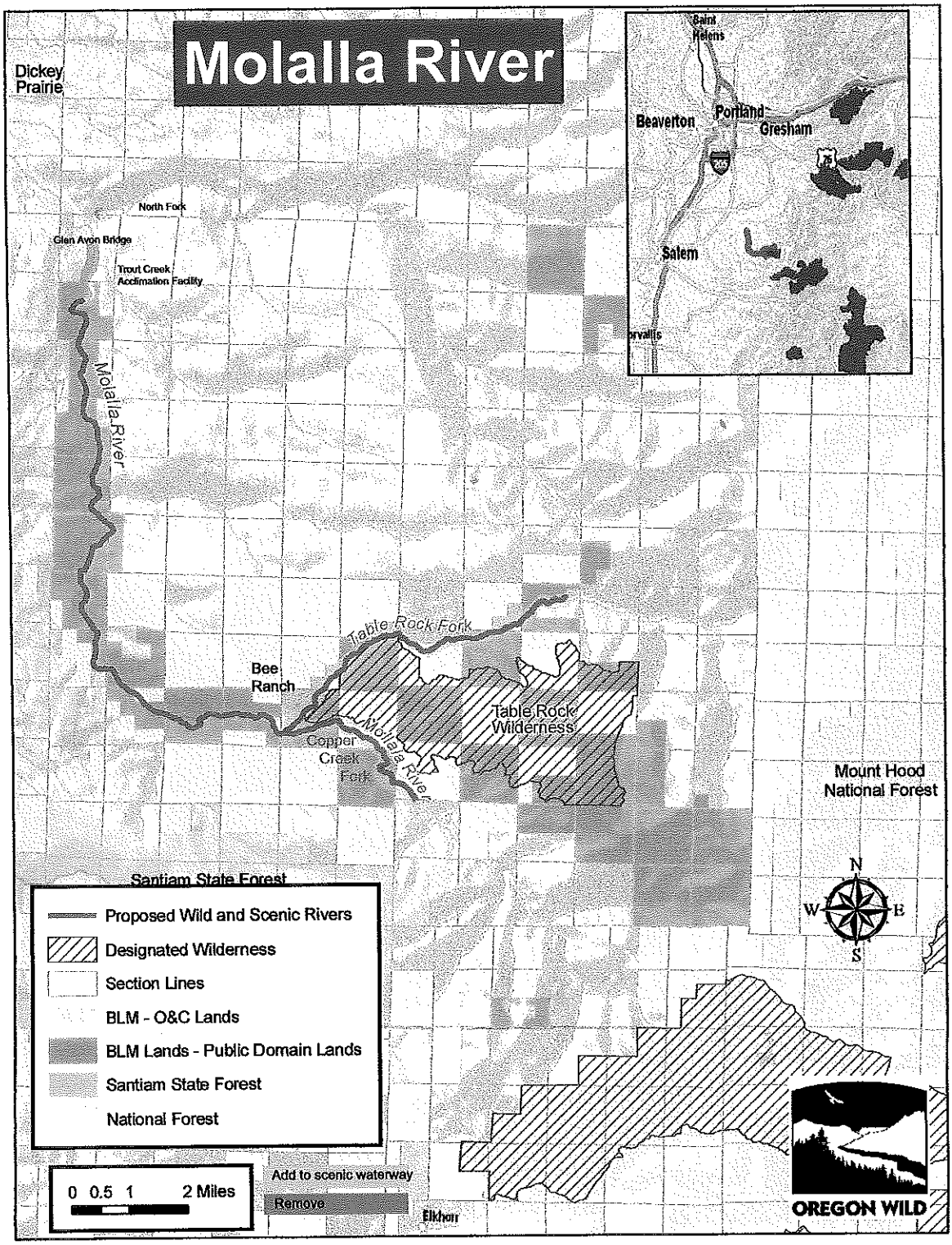
Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue. Your consideration of the Molalla River for scenic waterway status boosts efforts by the Molalla River Alliance, local governments, state and federal agencies, and our elected representatives in Congress to preserve one of Oregon's natural jewels and a premier recreational destination.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

John H. Atkins, Jr., President
Molalla River Alliance

Encl: Molalla River map


Molalla River
Dickey Prairie
North Fork
Glen Avon Bridge
Trout Creek Acclimation Facility
Molalla River
Table Rock Fork
Bee Ranch
Copper Creek Fork
Molalla River
Table Rock Wilderness
Mount Hood National Forest
Santiam State Forest
Elkhorn
Saint Helens
Beaverton
Portland
Gresham
Salem
Proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers
Designated Wilderness
Section Lines
BLM - O&C Lands
BLM Lands - Public Domain Lands
Santiam State Forest
National Forest
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
Add to scenic waterway
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OREGON WILD

Comments by John H. Atkins, Jr.
President, Molalla River Alliance
Sept. 15, 2014
Molalla, Oregon

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Thanks for the opportunity to contribute our suggestions.

PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Molalla River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Molalla Library
September 15, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
Jack Hammond	[redacted] Canby, OR 97013	[redacted]
Melissa Gentry	[redacted] Molalla, Oregon	[redacted]
Merrily Enquist	[redacted] Molalla 97038	[redacted]
Becky Wolf	[redacted] Molalla 97038	[redacted]

PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Molalla River Scenic Waterway Assessment Meeting
Molalla Library
September 15, 2014 - 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address INCLUDING City and Zip	Email Address
Fran Taylor	[redacted] Molalla, OR 97038	[redacted] molalla.net
Bill Taylor	"	"
John Atkins	[redacted] PORTLAND, OR 97225	[redacted] @frontier.com
Kay Patterson	[redacted] Molalla, OR 97038	[redacted] @molalla.net

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Molalla is my Home Town

(Signed) Debra Helvey

(Address) [redacted]

Longview, Wa 98632

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Oregon City, OR 97045

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Oregon City, OR 97045

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Sarah Eustance

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) James Toops

(Address) [redacted] molalla

OR 97038 OR

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Received

SEP 30 2014

State Parks and Recreation Department

(Signed) Carl Hazen

(Address) [redacted]

Colton Ore 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Received
OCT 01 2014
State Parks and Recreation Department

(Signed)

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Please consider making the Oregon Scenic Waterway boundaries coterminous with the proposed federal Wild + Scenic designation

(Signed) Fran Taylor

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed)

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

My small creek, which I cherish, is part of the Molalla Watershed. I want the Molalla River area preserved.

(Signed) Judy Crawford

(Address) [redacted]

Colton, OR 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Sheridan Lucas

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR. 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

I totally support this.

(Signed) N. Olive Thomas

(Address) [redacted]

Colton, OR 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Peri L Monroe

(Address) [redacted]

Mulino, OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

This might improve tourism.

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Mulino, OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [redacted]

(Address [redacted] April FARMER

[redacted] Ave Portland, OR 97219

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

JAMES WHITMORE

(Signed) [redacted]

(Address) [redacted]

PORTLAND, OR 97214

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) NOAH GARRISON

(Address) [redacted]

MOLALLA OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [redacted]

(Address) [redacted]

Colton 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla OR

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

THIS BEAUTIFUL RIVER IS A REAL TREASURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF OREGON

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

MULINO OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Let's protect that Oregon chub habitat!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Corvallis OR 97330

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Corvallis, OR 97330

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Please help protect our river for future generations!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Mulino OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [illegible]

(Address) [redacted]

Sherwood, OR 97140

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [redacted]

(Address) BRUCE HOSFORD

[redacted]

Mulino, 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Katie Glover

(Address) [redacted]

Oregon City, OR 97045

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

Please help to protect as much of the upper Molalla River waterways as physically possible. These are beautiful and treasured recreation areas!

(Signed) [redacted] Dean Cheeks

(Address) [redacted] Rd.

Colton, OR. 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Yvonne Gardner

(Address) [redacted]

Colton, OR 97017

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Douglas Monroe

(Address) [redacted]

Mulino, OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) Charles Hill

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) George E. Carroll

(Address) [redacted]

Molalla, OR 97038

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) [redacted]

(Address) [redacted]

MULINO, OR 97042

I support naming the upper Molalla River an Oregon Scenic Waterway!

(Signed) DANIEL Kubes

(Address) [redacted]

Colton, OR 97017

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

[redacted]

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 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:

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.
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..
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.
NO mineral resource potential is a category reserved for a specific type of resource in a well-defined area.
UNKNOWN mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where information is inadequate to assign a low, moderate, or high level of resource potential.

Levels of Certainty:

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

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.

Molalla State Scenic Waterway Letter of Support

Thomas O'Keefe [okeefe@americanwhitewater.org]

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:28 AM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Attachments: 20140926_molalla_state_sce~1.pdf (153 KB)

Please find attached our letter for support for designating the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway.

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

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115
okeefe@americanwhitewater.org

September 26th, 2014

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

Subject: Molalla River Scenic Waterway Assessment

Dear Mr. Morgan:

American Whitewater writes to express our support for designating the Molalla 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 Molalla River provides.[1] Designating the Molalla 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 Molalla River. A significant percentage of American Whitewater members reside in Oregon—a short driving distance from this river for recreation.

The Molalla 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 proposal to designate the river as a Wild and Scenic River. American Whitewater has actively supported designation of the Molalla River as a Wild Scenic River through federal legislation (H.R. 1230 - Molalla River Wild and Scenic Rivers Act , H.R. 1230 and S.353 - Oregon Treasures Act of 2013). We recommend that the State Scenic Waterway correspond with the legal description in current federal legislation as follows:

(i) Molalla river (including Copper Creek Fork)--The approximately 15.1-mile segment

[1] Our inventory of whitewater resources for the Molalla River includes the following:
http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/2712/
http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1533/
http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3763/

[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-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

from the southern boundary line of T. 7 S., R. 4 E., sec. 19, downstream to the edge of the Bureau of Land Management boundary in T. 6 S., R. 3 E., sec. 7.

(ii) Table Rock Fork Molalla River--The approximately 6.2-mile segment from the easternmost Bureau of Land Management boundary line in the NE\1/4\ sec. 4, T. 7 S., R. 4 E., downstream to the confluence with the Molalla River.

By making the boundaries for the state waterways congruent with the federal legislation, we can take advantage of the existing strong public support for protecting river values, which include outdoor recreation. Additionally, this will provide the opportunity to develop a coordinated river management plan.

We look forward to working with you to protect this river for future generations. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the opportunities for whitewater recreation on the Molalla River and the benefits that a State Scenic Waterway designation would bring in protecting this use.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Molalla Scenic Waterway Comments

Taylor [redacted]

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 3:44 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Attachments: MRW Scenic Waterway letter.pdf (131 KB)

Attached is a letter from Molalla River Watch Watershed Council regarding the Scenic Waterway proposal for the Molalla River. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Best,
Bill Taylor, Presidnet
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council

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http://www.avast.com

Molalla River WATCH WATERSHED COUNCIL

P.O. Box 867 Molalla, Oregon 97038-0867 503-829-7858

riverwatch@molalla.net
www.molallariverwatch.org

Sept. 26, 2014

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

Subject: Molalla River Scenic Waterway Study

Dear Mr. Morgan,

Molalla River Watch Watershed Council is very pleased that the Molalla River is being considered for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway. Our board fully supports adding the Molalla to the list of state scenic waterways.

Molalla River Watch would like to see the study boundaries expanded to include the 6.2 miles of the Table Rock Fork and the 2.1 miles of the Copper Creek Fork above the confluence to match boundaries being considered for federal Wild & Scenic designation.

Both of the upper river forks have high value to fishermen, picnikers and boaters. Here are excerpts from the book Soggy Sneakers: A Paddler's Guide to Oregon Rivers.

- Table Rock Fork of the Molalla River Second Bridge to Gravel Pit
  Class: 3 (4) T
  Flow: 500 – 1500 cfs
  Gradient: 110 fpm, C
  Length: 5 miles
  Character: Continuous, roadside
  Season: Rainy

  "The upper section of the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla River is a great intermediate run for up-and-coming creekers. Although most of the drops are small, the continuous nature of the rapids keeps boaters on their toes. The road is always close, which allows for easy scouting during the shuttle and an escape route if the rapids are too demanding."

- Molalla River Copper Creek to Table Rock Confluence
  Class: 3 (4) T
  Flow: 500 cfs
  Gradient: 103 fpm, PD

Length: 5.1 miles
Character: Canyon: forested
Season: Rainy

> "This run offers a variety of rapids winding through a deep canyon with pretty views of a moss-laden forest. Being near the upper reaches of the Molalla, this run is runnable only after several days of heavy rain. Immediately below the put-in, where Copper Creek enters the main Molalla, is a small gorge that begins with a sharp, narrow Class 3+ drop. This drop can be skipped by starting just downstream. The drops in this beautiful gorge can be scouted from the road or the river. A long boulder garden is situated just before the Copper Creek Bridge, another put-in."

The flow level needed to float these river segments can occur during fall, winter or spring seasons after periods of heavy rainfall.

The Table Rock Fork and the Copper Creek or South Fork are in close proximity to the 5700-acre Table Rock Wilderness Area, a real gem for northwest Oregon residents and visitors. Eventually, the area has the potential to become a large continuous tract of old-growth forest, a rarity at low elevations in northwest Oregon. The view of an ancient forest rising on one side of the steep river canyon will certainly enhance the scenic and recreational value for river users.

Please consider including the upper two river segments of BLM land in your recommendation to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission. Molalla River Watch Watershed Council supports inclusion of the approximately one mile segment at the lower end of the study area which is not part of the federal Wild & Scenic proposal, unless there is strong opposition from private landowners.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Bill Taylor, President
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council

Including the upper Molalla River as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway

Kathy Schaeffer [redacted]

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:41 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Hello,

I am writing to support including the upper Molalla River as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway. The meeting will be held tomorrow night, 7-9 pm at the Molalla Public Library, 201 E. 5th St., Molalla, OR 97038. This is an important opportunity to provide your support and comments about this designation that includes mostly public lands.

Thank you,
Kathleen Schaeffer

[redacted]

Molalla River

Jude Strader [j[redacted]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 6:09 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

To: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Date: September 22, 2014
Re: Molalla River for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway

To Whom it May Concern:

I encourage the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to designate a portion of the upper Molalla River as an Oregon Scenic Waterway.

As a fourth generation resident of the area, and, one who lives on the lower Molalla River, it's exciting to see all the great work that's been done to preserve the upper portion of the River.

The steadily increasing numbers of visitors that are taking advantage of all that it has to offer is impressive. I have many friends from all over the metro region who have hiked, biked, rode horseback, fished, swam, kayaked, camped and/or picnicked multiple times. And it's always a destination for family visiting from out of state.

Lastly, I wish to commend the Molalla River Alliance for all its dedication and ongoing hard work.

Sincerely,

Jude Strader and Family
Mulino, OR

[redacted]

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Molalla River

James Reed[redacted]

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 8:48 AM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

10/9/14

My name is James Reed my wife lived on the Molalla river with her grand parents off and on her whole live . We dated during during some of that time and I always wondered why the river the did not get more attention for what it was a beautiful river . It should be set aside as one of Oregons natural wonders.
James and Deloris Reed

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

Support for Molalla River State Scenic Waterway Designation

Bill Bakke [[redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:42 AM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Attachments: 9-23-14 LTR to State Park~1.docx (36 KB)

Please see the attached letter supporting designation of the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway

--
Bill Bakke
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·´¯`·.¸. , . .·´¯`·.. ><(((º>`·.¸·...¸><((((º>
"One lives with the ghosts of what was and the hunger for what could have been."

Native Fish Society

221 Molalla Ave., Suite 100
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-496-0807
[redacted]

Conserving biological diversity of native fish and protecting wild populations

September 23, 2014

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

Subject: Molalla River Scenic Waterway Study

Dear Mr. Morgan,

The Native Fish Society wholeheartedly supports the designation of the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway and the proposals of the Molalla River Alliance (MRA) in its letter of September 16, 2014.

The Molalla River is a unique and important watershed in the upper Willamette River for its recreational benefits and ecological value. The State of Oregon now manages the river for recovery of wild winter steelhead, a threatened species protected through the federal Endangered Species Act. Designation of the Molalla River as proposed along with recommendations by the MRA would improve protection for this species. In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is managing the Molalla River for wild native rainbow and cutthroat trout both of which would be provided increased benefit from a Scenic Waterway designation.

The Molalla River is a beautiful and accessible place that attracts thousands of hours of recreational use and is an important ecological state asset for fish and wildlife. Taken together, these important benefits would be enhanced and protected with a Scenic Waterway designation.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Bill Bakke, Founder and Director of Conservation and Science

Molalla River

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD

Per the Molalla Pioneer article requesting feedback and comments:

Please do Not include the Molalla River as a state scenic waterway.

Thank you.

Hope you have a wonderful day!

AIMEE DAVIS
Oregon Realtor®/Principal Broker dba
FireflyRealEstate
503-829-8328
www.callAimee.net
Video Channel

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,

Brad Lucas
North Vancouver, BC
V7m3m1

Craig Langer
Bend, Oregon
97701

John Gwin
Boise, ID
83702

Charles B Hammerstad
San Jose, California
95120

Ramsey Gregory
Elk Grove, CA
95758

Auction Attendee Supporter!
Ashland, Oregon
97520

Pierce Flynn
San Marcos, California
92078

David Kalinowski
Ashland, OR
97520

Barbara Bauer
Ashland, OR
97520

Wild Fish Supporter!
Oregon City, OR
9704

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

Henry Carlile
Portland, OR
97202

Stan Chesshir
Portland, ORegon
97201

Charlie Cassagnol
Santa Fe, NM
87502

David Charles Quinn
Ocean Shores, WA
98569

Daniel McGinley
Lake Oswego , Oregon
97034

Rob Hollander
Bend, OR
97701

Jackson K Meadows
Klamath Falls, Oregon
97601

John Appleton
La Grande,, OR
97850

Jake Crawford
Portland, Oregon
97218

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

Howard M Stern
Portland, OR
97212

Jon Lund
Eugene, Oregon
97401

David Nay
Myrtle Creek, Oregon
97457

Niall McCarthy
Chicago, IL
60622

Jeff Evershed
Lake Oswego, Oregon
97034

Jim Kelso
Portland, OR
97215

James Wong
San Francisco, CA
94133

Auction Attendee Supporter!
Colton, Or
97017

Crystal Freeman
Harrisburg, OR
97446

Sean young
Hood River, Oregon
97031

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

Charles Gehr
Ashland, Or
97520

Joel La Follette
West Linn, OR
97068

Daniel Hockett
Tigard, Oregon
97223

Spragg Derek
Vancouver, BC
V6K 1J5

Bruce Greene
Portland, Oregon
97214

M. Steve Turner
Ridgefield, WA
98642

Michael Aldridge
Kerrville, TX
78029

Stephen P Starke
San Rafael, CA
94901

Craig l stemmer
highland beach, fl
33487

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

Harry W Goertz
San Jose, California
95127

Gene Trump
Corvallis, OR
97330

River Steenson
Portland, OR
97222

Fletcher Chouinard
Ventura, CA
93001

Derek Yost
Eugene, Oregon
97408

John M. Aronian III M.D.
Yorktown Heights, NY

Steven Webb
Springfield, Oregon
97478

Jeff Van Horn
Portland, Oregon
97217

Robert Joseph Burch
Coquille, Oregon
97423-8509

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

Zach Lazzari
Missoula, MT
59801

Barbara Anne Burke
Crescent City, CA
95531

Dennis Jacobson
San Jose, CA
95123

George widener
Columbia falls, Montana,
59912

Dan Ellis
Portland, Oregon
97229

Matthew Lund
Dallas, OR
97338

Nan Robertson
Lake Oswego, Oregon
97034

Gary Edward Mikesh
West Vancouver, BC
V&V3K4

Daisy Franzini
Portland, OR
97222

Benjamin j valum
Custer, Wa
98240

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

Peter Murray, Wild Fish Supporter!
Redmond, Oregon
97756

Jeffrey Martin
Seattle, Wa
98117

Hilma Crowfoot
Bend, Oregon
97701

Lawrence Peter Levine
Glide, Or
97443

Bob Bumstead
Eugene, Oregon
97403

Bruce Nelson
Littleton, Co.

Luke Kelly
Seattle, WA
98103

Dave Lacey
Gold Beach , OR
97444

Michael Jolliffe
Portland, OR
97204

Adam Elson
Ashland, OR
97520

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

Dean Baxter
Eugene, Oregon
97404

Garry Dale
Athens, Georgia
30601

Jennifer Willis
San Francisco, CA
94117

Tom Derry
Molalla, Oregon
97038

MURRAY DEBATES
SALEM, OR
97304

Constance Freeman
Portland, Or
98232

Jennifer Griffith
Woodside, NY
11377

John S. Luis
San Jose, CA
95129

Daniel Pierce
Parkdale, OR
97041

Dena Nickell
gold beach, Oregon
97444

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

Tom cheek
Portland, Oregon
97212

Stephen Wagner
Spokane, WA
9921

Dake Traphagen
Bellingham, WA
98227

Nathan Hall
Portland, Oregon
97216

Gary Abbott
Bow, Washington
98232

Augusto D. Abellar
Union City, CA
94587

Erin Hewitt
Tigard, Oregon
97223

Jonathan Stumpf
Seattle, WA
98136

John Weiss
Brookings, OR
97415

Tom Calvanese
Port Orford, Oregon
97465

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

Kenneth Terrell
Fredericksburg, Tx
78624

Mike Gabrion
O'Fallon, MO
63368

Dale Greenley
Myrtle Creek, OR
9745

Douglas Rohn
Tucson, AZ
85712

Peter D. Ware
Talent, Oregon
97540

Lon Otterby
Marcola, OR
97454

Tim Knecht
Portland, OR
97215

DALE MADDEN
MAUPIN, OR
97037

Terry L Kinser
talent, OR
97540

Norman T. Baker, PhD
Sequim, WA
98382

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

Josh Wainwright
Pewee Valley, KY
40056

Daniel J. Bastian
Bend, Oregon
97701

Laurence W. Taylor
Gold Beach, OR
97444

Robert Sims
Maupin, OR
97037

Ken Finney
Portland, OR
97215

Dorothy Toppercer
Portland, OR
97202

John larison
Corvallis, OR
97330

Kathy Kinser
Medford, Oregon
97501

Chris Conaty
Portland, OR
97213

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

Timothy Devine
Hayward, CA
94544-1126

Scott Willison
Bellingham, WA
98229

Steve Myers
South beach, Oregon
97366

Michelle Epperson
Eugene, OR
97404

Sean Armstrong
Salem, OR
97301

Jason Grant
Redmond, OR
97756

Steven S. Lent
Beaverton, OR
97007

Jack
Medford, OR
97501

Shawn Donnille
Eugene, OR
97405

Dana Travers
Medford, Oregon
97501

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

Brian Bennett
Federal Way, WA
98023

Cole graves
Santa Rosa, ca
95409

Dennis Biggins
Hillsboro, OR
97124

Robert Parker
Medford, Oregon
97504-8501

Raven Wing
Princeton, OR
97721

Forrest Jones
Hood River, OR
97031

Bruce skinner
Portland, OR
97202

Ethan Barrow at Adventures Across Oregon LLC
Banks, OR
97106

Glenn Short
Sherman Oaks, CA
91403

Cameron Derbyshire
Florence, OR
97439

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

Caleb Lockyer
Bend, Oregon
97701

McCain McMurray
BOULDER, CO
80304

Richard Kelllogg
Camp Sherman, OR
97730

Nathaniel Johnson
Chicago, IL
60622

Kris Olson
Salt Lake City, UT
84103

Eric Brentlinger
Hood River, Oregon
97031

Peter Newell Zabriskie
Ogdensburg, New York
13669

Eric Shoemaker
Portland, OR
97201

Lori Cook
Sandy, OR
97055

Thomas B. Parry III
Boise, Idaho
83704

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

DICK LAW
WASHOUGAL, WA
98671

Brice Crayne
Eugene, OR
97402

Jonathan McFarland
PORTLAND, OREGON
97206

Patrick Dunham
Pendleton, OR
97801

Mark Sherwood
Brookings, Oregon
97415

Kavan Cronin
Vancouver, BC
v5w3b9

Mary Duvall
Clatskanie, OR
97016

William J McMillan
Concrete, Washington
98237

James Stegemeyer
Gresham, Oregon
97080

Yancy Lind
Bend, Oregon
97701

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

Tom Davis
Sisters, Oregon
97759

Daniel Leonard Wise
Salem, OR
97302

Moey Newbold
Bend, Oregon
97701

Quinn Read
Portland, Oregon
97217

Angela Crowley-Koch
Portland, Oregon
97209

Jason Rolfe
Seattle, WA
98108

Arthur Kayser
Portland, Oregon
97225

Kirby Franklin
San Jose, CA
95130

Stu Wood
San Diego, CA
92107

Olaf Sweetman
Newport, OR
97365

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

Julie Cymore
Ashland, OR
9752

Susan GAyle Wilcox
Port Orford, Oregon
97465

Francis Reedy
Albany, Oregon
97321

Bradley Staples
West Linn, Oregon
97068

Steven Klein
Portland, Oregon
97219

Clay Newton
Portland, Oregon
97212

Henry Newhouse
Florence, Oregon
97439

APPENDIX C

Molalla 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 Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) to the State Scenic Waterway System. Those interested in providing comments were directed to complete the questionnaire on the Survey Monkey internet website (http://www.surveymonkey.com/) during a period from August 20 to October 15, 2014. The total number of completed surveys was 33. 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 94% of respondents lived in Oregon, 3% resided in California, and 3% were from Idaho. Among respondents, 33% were from Multnomah County, 24% lived in Clackamas County, 6% in Benton County, 6% in Deschutes County, 6% in Linn County and 6% from Marion County.

Table 1. Respondent location of residence

State	**Percent**
Oregon	94
California	3
Idaho	3
Oregon County	
Multnomah	33
Clackamas	24
Benton	6
Deschutes	6
Linn	6
Marion	6
Columbia	3
Douglas	3
Lane	3

The next question asked respondents if they support or oppose the addition of the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program. The majority (94%) of respondents supported the proposed Scenic Waterway corridor addition, while 6% opposed the addition (Table 2).

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

	Percent
Support	94
Oppose	6

The remainder of the report includes verbatim open ended responses to a number of questions related to the potential addition of the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Open-Ended Comments

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

- Citizen.
- The protection of water quality and especially in regard to the preservation of wild native fish species.
- I would like to see more SW designations statewide.
- I want to keep the whitewater free flowing for the fish and other wildlife that naturally inhabit the river. I also want to keep the river available for boaters from around the world.
- Fishing.
- I am a whitewater boater.
- Paddling.
- Protecting wild Steelhead populations from habitat loss.
- Rafting.
- Recreation, scenic.
- Native fish runs.
- Recreational kayaking.
- Access to whitewater rafting, wildlife conservation, and fish habitat.
- Whitewater river use.
- Helping to maintain clean wilderness and waterways to enjoy for as long as possible.
- Whitewater kayaking.
- Whitewater paddling.
- Canoeing and kayaking.
- I have rafted sections of the river in the past and it is a beautiful river corridor.
- I have paddled the Molalla River in a kayak and appreciate the tranquility and clear, blue water. I hope that it remains this pristine and preserves its "remote" character.
- I am a whitewater kayaker that frequents the Molalla River at least 6 times a year.
- I am interested in seeing this river remaining to be free (w/out dams) and protected as a public water way. My interest in this is primarily as a white water kayaker that has kayaked this river, it's beautiful and its beauty should be maintained.
- Recreational user of the Molalla River (kayaker).
- I paddle many of the whitewater sections of the Molalla River during the rainy months.
- I am a property owner near the project area and frequent user (recreation) of the Molalla River Corridor. Further I am an ecologist by profession and interested in the study and preservation of free-flowing streams in the Willamette River Basin.

- I like the idea of protecting this river.
- We live near the Molalla River proposed Scenic Waterway and would like to use it more, but in the summer it is heavily used and very crowded. The heavy use it has during the summer limits how much we use it in our own efforts to reduce use impacts.
- It is where my drinking water comes from.
- Fishing.
- I'm keenly interested in improving rivers and streams throughout Oregon and especially in proximity to the Portland metro area for their natural resource and recreational values because these are essential to long-term economic development. State Scenic River Designation is the best way to accomplish these goals.
- We live on the Molalla River and enjoy the beauty and nature of the area, we want to protect it.
- Protecting and enhancing salmonid habitat, ensuring clean drinking water for residents of the region, recovering wild salmonid populations, and encouraging low-impact recreational use of the scenic waterway.
- My family has property along Dickey Prairie road above Glen Avon Bridge.

Please state why you support of oppose the Molalla River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

- I have spent some very quality time on the Molalla River. It is a beautiful place and hopefully it will be that and perhaps even more for my grandchildren.
- The Molalla River is a beloved river and it deserves protection against development pressures.
- I want to keep the habitat undisturbed for the creatures that inhabit and utilize the area.
- Limits use.
- This is a beautiful section of river that I have run before. It deserves protection as a scenic waterway.
- This section of the Molalla is a beautiful (scenic) section of river that has a considerable wild character. The water is clean and clear; the banks are intact, and there's good fish habitat. A secondary interest is angling.
- Protecting Wild Steelhead populations from habitat loss.
- Most of the rivers I float are classified as wild and scenic. Although it is not as wild as the Illinois or as scenic as the Owyhee, I would compare the Molalla to the Clackamas or the North Umpqua River. It's a great river and definitely deserves protection.
- I fished with my father in sections of this area. I remember seeing dirty camp sites, garbage, burned-out car bodies, etc. in this area and felt such activity needed to be regulated or stopped. Recently my family has hiked the area - it is much improved from my memory, but could use more attention. We have done litter pick-up.
- Need to restore more wild fish runs.
- There are very few free-flowing rivers left, and we should protect those we can.
- I support keeping industry in check and keeping a few treasures off limits to corporate financial gain.
- Protection of a beautiful natural resource for future generations to enjoy. The intermediate difficulty level and quantity of quality whitewater make it very accessible to a large number of paddlers.
- This section of the Molalla is one of the most scenic stretches of river with great recreation access for all kinds of recreation. It is highly important that we protect and fund these types of places so that future generations can enjoy them as we have.
- The Molalla River is a wild and scenic river close to the Metro area that offers exceptional boating, fishing, and hiking opportunities.

- Support for the scenic and water quality and recreational boating.
- The Molalla is a gem of a river. I support the protection of its water quality and the ability to float its rapids and calm pools.
- I support the Scenic Waterway because it a beautiful river and I do not want to see it exploited.
- Support.
- Keep the view-shed pristine.
- This is a beautiful, undeveloped river and it should be preserved for generations of paddlers, fishermen, and those that love to hike near rivers.
- See above regarding my primary interest in the Molalla River.
- Environmental consciousness.
- We oppose this because we feel there are enough protections on the Molalla River without adding the Oregon Scenic Waterway designation. This area also needs to be properly managed from a timber perspective to maintain healthy forests that will reduce the risk for catastrophic wild fires. There is a risk that the Oregon Scenic Waterway Program will have a direct negative effect on proper timber management.
- Healthy maintained water source should increase my chances of viable drinking water.
- The Scenic Waterway program helps protect the quality and accessibility of our waterways.
- This is a spectacular area. The addition will enhance protection and conservation while bringing increased recreational economic development opportunities to the area.
- Because I see my above listed interests as likely being addressed wholly or in part by the inclusion of the described section of the Molalla in the OSSW program.
- It is a scenic area and needs to be protected from pollution and over development.

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

- The river as an ecosystem will undoubtedly benefit from greater protection. This program will especially benefit water quality and fish habitat.
- The river is scenic and supports recreation.
- None.
- Protection of the riverine ecosystem including the river itself, riparian areas, and the resources that depend on both. Continued access for whitewater enthusiasts.
- Oregon would be a better place to live and visit. River access for recreation could be prioritized.
- Better habitat for wild steelhead.
- I would hope the water quality would improve.
- Addition to the pride of this State as well as my personal satisfaction.
- River access, fish habitat, tourism, recreation.
- Cleaner water, better fishing and kayaking and tourist potential.
- Increased protection of a beautiful section of river.
- Preservation.
- Preserves the river's relatively wild character from encroaching logging, development, and other compromising activities. Increases the attractiveness of the river corridor, attracting more low-impact users, thereby enhancing the local tourism economy.
- Increased water quality, fisheries, other wildlife and recreational uses.
- It is a convenient river that feels remote, like a wilderness area close to a larger population center. I believe that if others have the opportunity to float or fish on the Molalla, they will learn to appreciate our fresh water resources more and in turn conserve more water.

- It is protected!
- It would insure that it would be wild and open to kayaking and fishing w/out disturbances (e.g. dams or other development) that would destroy its beauty and habitat (plants, animals, fish) and water quality.
- Preserve it from development and from activities that could compromise water quality, such as logging.
- Greater protection for a relatively natural large stream system and its native fish and riparian habitat.
- Keeping it clean and improved to enhance wildlife, making it a nicer place to visit.
- None.
- I think there would be better water quality, less chance of pollutants from man and industry, less chance of a water shortage due to misuse of the river.
- Maintaining and improving the quality of the waterway. Raising awareness.
- Increased recreational and economic development opportunities.
- Hopefully continuation of improvements along the corridor as we enjoy hiking in the area.
- Protected wild salmonid habitat, clean drinking water, enhanced recreation and greater regional economic benefits from increased recreational dollars spent following the area's improved visibility and reputation resulting from the new OSSW status.
- It is a precious water resource and if brought into the scenic waterways program it will be provided with some oversight in that requests must be made to the parks and recreation department before certain detrimental activities can take place.

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

- Change is always difficult. Remember that the opponents will benefit just as much as the proponents.
- None.
- Ending of opportunity in the form of reduced or eliminated hatchery raised fish.
- None.
- I don't see any.
- None.
- None.
- Some folks may feel deprived of an opportunity to use the river and its banks for parties or other polluting activities.
- Logging, mining, other forest exports for financial gain.
- It doesn't extend far enough upstream. Table rock fork and the copper creek fork are spectacular as well.
- None.
- Possible opposition of local community due to restrictions on motorized use of this area?
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- I don't see any problems, only advantages.
- My perception is that this type of designation often comes with greater management costs which will likely be passed on in some way to those who recreate there. This could potentially limit access

to those who currently use the river in low impact ways. Especially if the designation would limit access to the area (i.e., reduction in open roads and/or trails).

- None.
- This program has the potential to increase the number of people using this area that is probably being used to its maximum capacity now. There is also the issue of proper timber management that could be further restricted. The area is already in serious need of thinning and fuel reduction to maintain a healthy forest and habitat for the various species that live in the forest. A burned forest kills animals that cannot escape and reduces the habitat available for those who do escape the fire. This places added ecological stress on the surrounding areas that did not burn as more animals compete for the limited food supply.
- I can't see any problems.
- None.
- There must be minimal funding to maintain the area, remove liter, etc. There is also the risk that the designation will increase attention and visit and thereby degrade fish habitat.
- I am aware of no problems created by enacting this proposal.
- Detrimental activities can still occur.

What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Molalla River segment?

- Pristine waterway with a healthy and viable wild fish population.
- Scenic, recreation, fish and wildlife.
- Free flowing, natural river flesh, changing course dependent on Mother Nature.
- Free-flowing and pristine river. Fish and wildlife. Recreational opportunities.
- Beautiful clear water cascading over drops with intact riparian forest. Just a fantastic place to visit.
- Great spawning habitat.
- The three bears section is a fun stretch of river for rafts and kayaks. It is exciting without being too dangerous. From water level you feel removed from the road and have small canyon walls with interesting geology.
- It is unique in its limited access portals. Persons passing through the area to upper watershed hiking and recreational opportunities could, if the segment is designated as proposed, pass through a more nearly pristine area thus adding significantly to their outdoor experience. Further, the segment is currently vulnerable due to lack of patrols to limit garbage dumping and other polluting activities. Such control resulting from the proposed designation could help the situation in the segment and the resulting downstream consequences significantly.
- Native steelhead, recreation.
- Astounding geologic features unique to anywhere in Oregon, great whitewater, beautiful forests.
- Great whitewater, amazing scenery, great fishing, good camping, hiking, mountain biking.
- Beautiful river features - rock formations, constrictions in the waterway, vegetation, water quality.
- Scenic and recreational and water quality.
- Clear, blue water.
- Rock features
- An awesome 3+/4- class pristine white water river in the Willamette valley through beautiful vegetation and basalt canyons. Off the beaten path –it’s a true wilderness experience, yet close to the cities of Salem, Corvallis and Portland for kayak enthusiast as well as fishermen/women.
- Excellent range of rapids for whitewater recreation--a sport that brings tourist dollars and paddler dollars to the local area. Beautiful basalt canyons. Great water quality.

- Excellent in-stream fish habitat and stream structure that contribute to clean water. Great and accessible example of western Cascade geology. Excellent access for low-impact recreation (fishing, swimming, kayaking, bird watching, etc.)
- No comment.
- It is beautiful area with lots of recreational opportunities that is being heavily used now.
- A home for returning fish.
- Proximity to Portland. The number of creeks that intersect with the river system.
- Beauty, natural, wild.
- Natural beauty and important spawning and juvenile salmonid habitat.
- That section of the river is in a fairly unpopulated area that supports fish and other wildlife, some old trees and stands of timber...some real natural habitat, which should be protected.

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

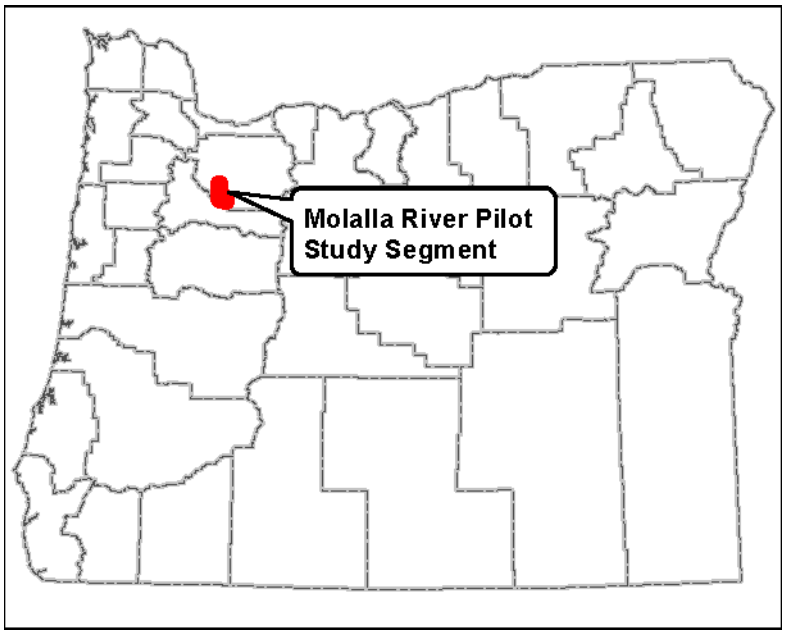
- Should also include fishing regulations to include single barbless hooks and no bait along with no wild fish kill.
- As much as I'd like to secure the beauty, I do not like limiting use in any way.
- I sincerely hope this segment gets added to the Scenic Waterway program.
- As Oregonians, what took us so long to consider it?
- This should be done while it is still possible to do so. 20, 50 or more years from now, there will be vastly increased demand for such areas but much reduced opportunity to accomplish. Thus better now than later.
- Please protect this section of river!
- I would like to see the Table Rock Fork and the Copper Creek Fork added to the Molalla Scenic Waterway.
- No, thank you.
- It an easier Class III river that any competent kayaker or rafter can enjoy.
- Please add it. This is an outstanding river close to an urban area and it deserves preservation for recreation.
- This is a very BIG mistake.
- No.
- This is a gem of a place with a strong local constituency who seem very able to be sustain their stewardship activities for the long run.
- No.
- Do it.

Survey Questionnaire

Molalla 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 prioritized rivers for potential addition to the system. Based on task force input, the Molalla River segment, from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge, 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 Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) to the State Scenic Waterway System.

Question 1: What is your residence zip code? _____

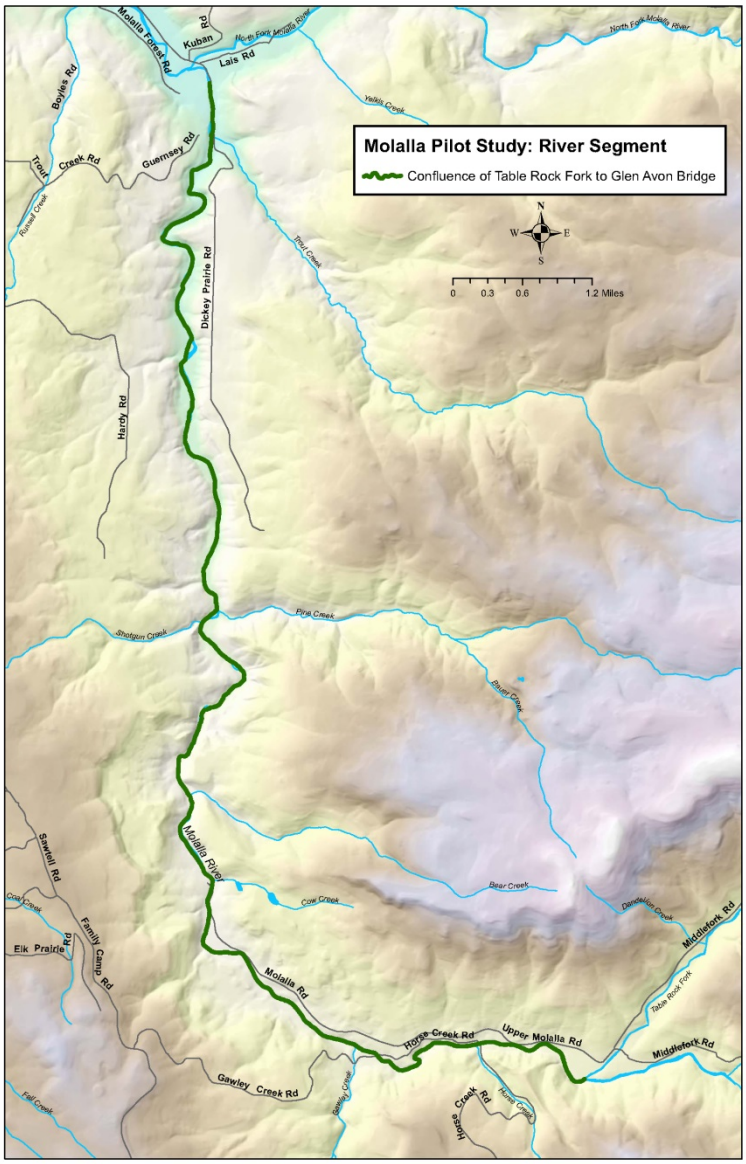
Question 2: What is your primary interest in the Molalla River pilot study Scenic Waterway proposal?

_____

_____

Question 3: Do you support or oppose the addition of the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program (check one)?

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



Question 4: What benefits do you see if the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

_____

_____

Question 5: What problems do you see if the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge) was added to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

_____

_____

Question 6: What are the outstanding features/characteristics of the Molalla River segment (from the confluence of Table Rock Fork to Glen Avon Bridge)?

_____

_____

Question 7: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the potential addition of the Molalla River segment to the Oregon State Scenic Waterway program?

_____

_____

Thank you for your input!

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners voted (4-0) to send a letter of support for the designation of the upper Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway on 3/31/2015. Information from that meeting is available online (see 3/31/2015) and the full informational packet is also available on the Clackamas County website. The letter is included on the next page.

CLACKAMAS
COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

April 1, 2015

Sent via email
rocky.houston@oregon.gov

Rocky Houston
State Trails Coordinator
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street N.E., Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Houston:

This letter serves as acknowledgment from the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to support the designation of the Upper Molalla River as part of the Oregon Scenic Waterway as moved at their March 31, 2015 Policy Session.

We are consulting with staff and Commissioners regarding participation on the Management Plan Committee and will have more information forthcoming.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Ludlow, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

cc: Mike McCallister, Planning Director
Molalla River Alliance

JL:eh

APPENDIX D

DRAFT
Pilot State Scenic Waterway Management Plan

Molalla River

October 2015

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

Acknowledgements

Advisory Committee

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

Staff

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

DRAFT

Executive Summary

Background

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for administering the State Scenic Waterways Program, which is designed to protect the existing scenic, natural, and recreation values of 20 designated waterways throughout the State. OPRD is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been designated since 1988.

In September 2013, the Governor directed OPRD to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders, OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study.

In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. This decision was based on the waterway eligibility findings and public support. OPRD evaluated stakeholder and community input to gauge public support and understand issues and concerns associated with the potential Scenic Waterway designation. A webpage was established for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address, an online survey and a local community meeting was to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised through a news release and public notice in the local paper. Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program.

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

Management Planning

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

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

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

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

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

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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 1180 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 1).

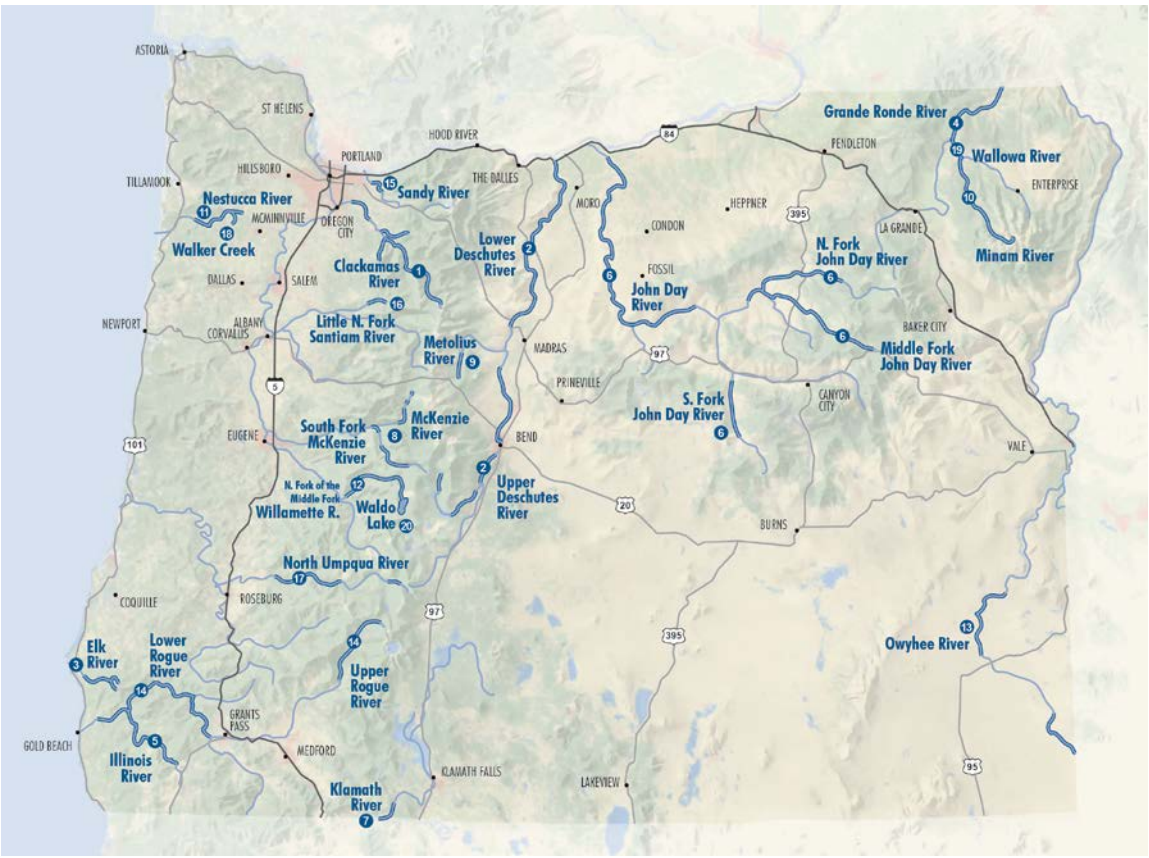

Figure 1. Oregon's Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Scenic Waterway Eligibility Study

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been

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designated since 1988. In September 2013, the Governor directed Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders, OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study. In November 2014, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended designation of segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers. The Commission also directed OPRD staff to cooperate with advisory groups to pilot test the development of draft management plans for the recommended scenic waterway segments on the Chetco and Molalla rivers, and append the pilot draft management plan reports to the existing scenic waterway qualification reports for Commission review by November, 2015. This document is that pilot draft management plan (see: The Management Planning Process). A summary of the eligibility study results is included below as background information.

Eligibility Study Purpose

An Oregon Scenic Waterway study, initiated by OPRD in 2014, serves as the statutorily required first step in the process to possibly designate a new Oregon Scenic Waterway. That process, established by ORS 390.855, allows for the Governor to designate new scenic waterways following study and approval of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The study, covering approximately 13 miles on the upper Molalla River, constitutes the first step - a report to the OPRD Commission. The study was done to accomplish two objectives:

1. Determine if the river segments meet the qualifications for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway (ORS 390.855); and
2. If the qualifications are met, outline, in *general*, what type of management designation would be appropriate for waterway, *if* it is found to be eligible, suitable, and ultimately designated.

Study Location and Area

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

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

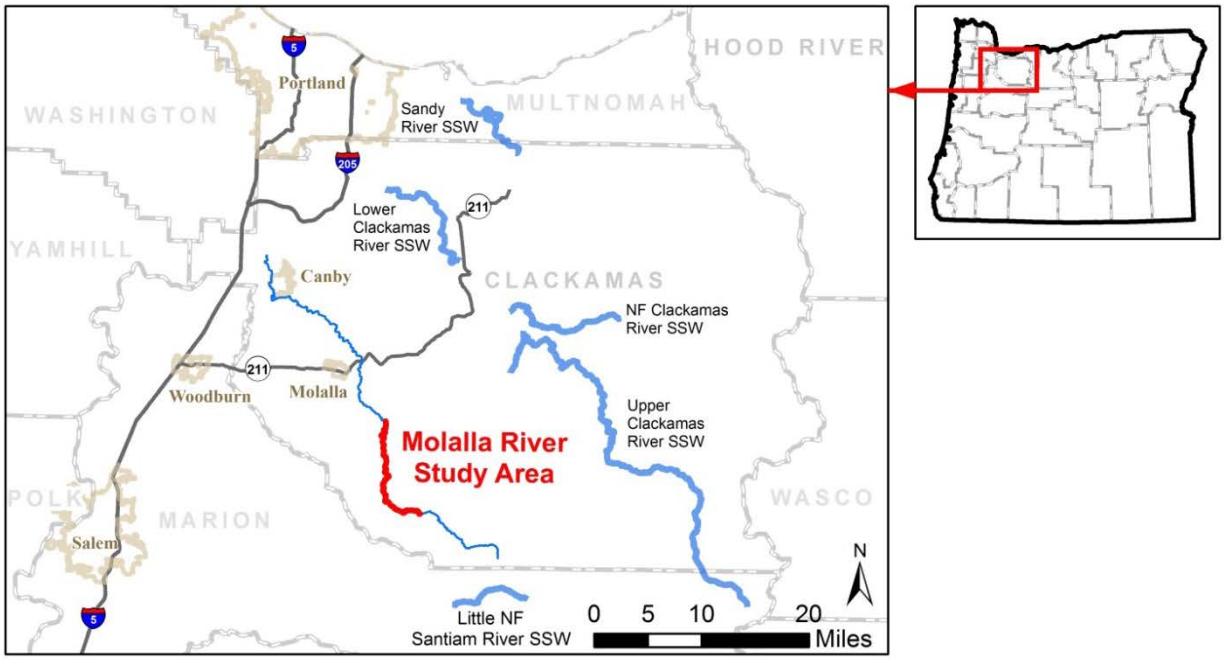

Figure 2. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon

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

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

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

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

Waterway Eligibility Findings

An evaluation of the various natural, scenic and recreational features of the study area was done. This information gathered following research, interviews and on-site observations was compared with the scenic waterway qualifications (i.e. free flowing; pleasing to look at, primitive, rural-pastoral; large enough to sustain recreation use without harming the recreational and natural resources). The criteria (ORS 390.855) were broken down into specific scenic, natural and recreational factors.

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

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

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

Scenery: The second criteria that must be met is that the "scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral, or these conditions are restorable."

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

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

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

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that must be met are that the river or segment of river and its setting must "possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality" and be "large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource or quality of the recreation experience."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Program Goals

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

Five general program goals include:

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

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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.

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Management of Scenic Waterways

The Management Planning Process

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

Pilot: Advisory Groups and Draft Management Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Scenic Waterway Classification

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

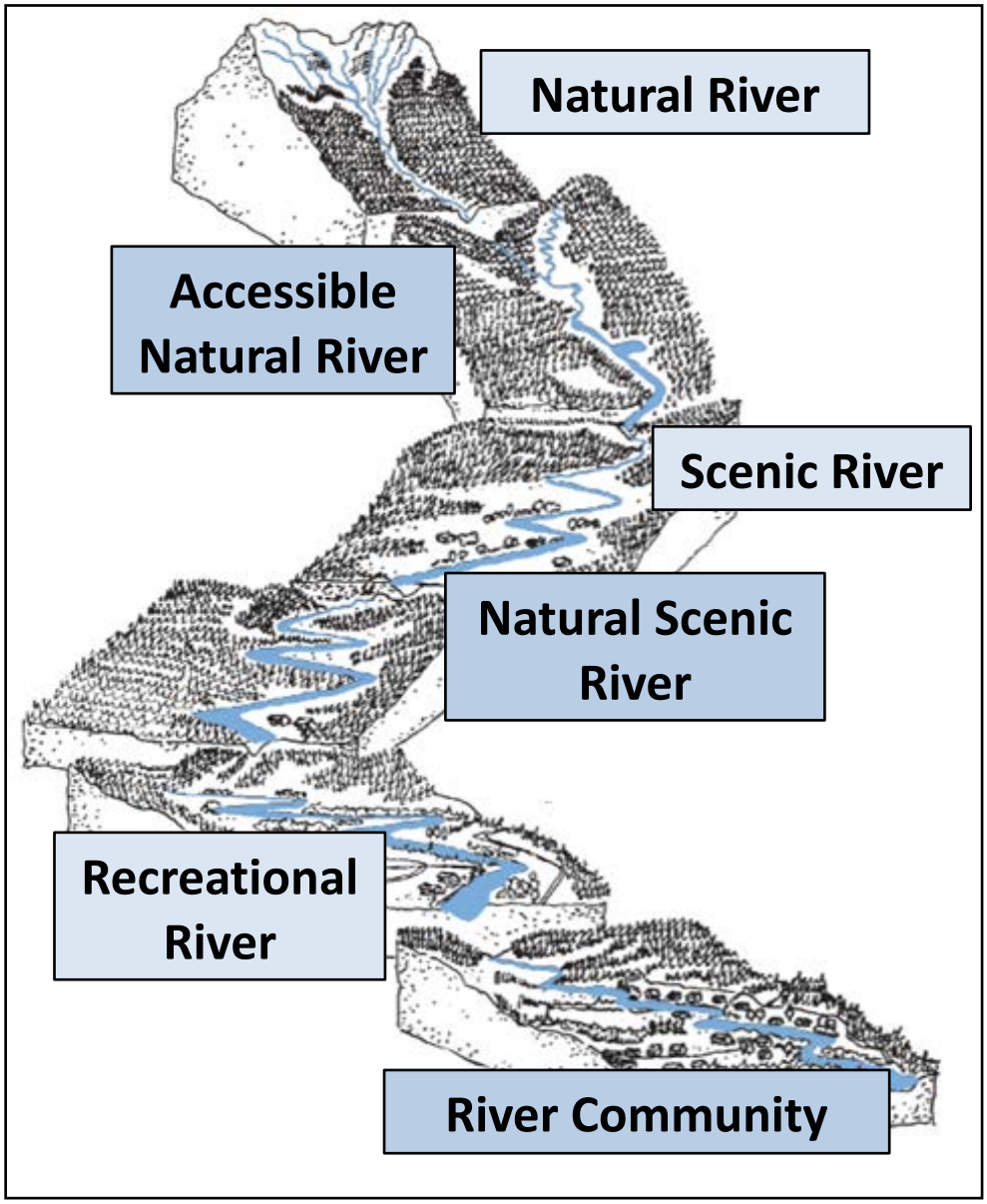

Figure 3. Diagram showing the six types of potential river classifications

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

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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

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

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

The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally needed for construction of new fences; maintenance of farm buildings, fences or outbuildings; laying of irrigation lines; crop rotation; removal of danger trees; construction of grain storage facilities under certain conditions; maintenance of existing residences and outbuildings; minor residential remodeling; construction of garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use. Mining, road building, construction of some new structures, placement of mobile homes, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities typically requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

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

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

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

Horse Creek Falls and Bridge on the Upper Molalla River

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

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

Basalt rosette on the Molalla River

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

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

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

Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek: Recreational River Area

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

Rapids on the "3 Bears Run" of the upper Molalla River

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trout Creek Confluence to Glen Avon Bridge: River Community Area

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

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

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

The Molalla River as seen from below the Glen Avon Bridge

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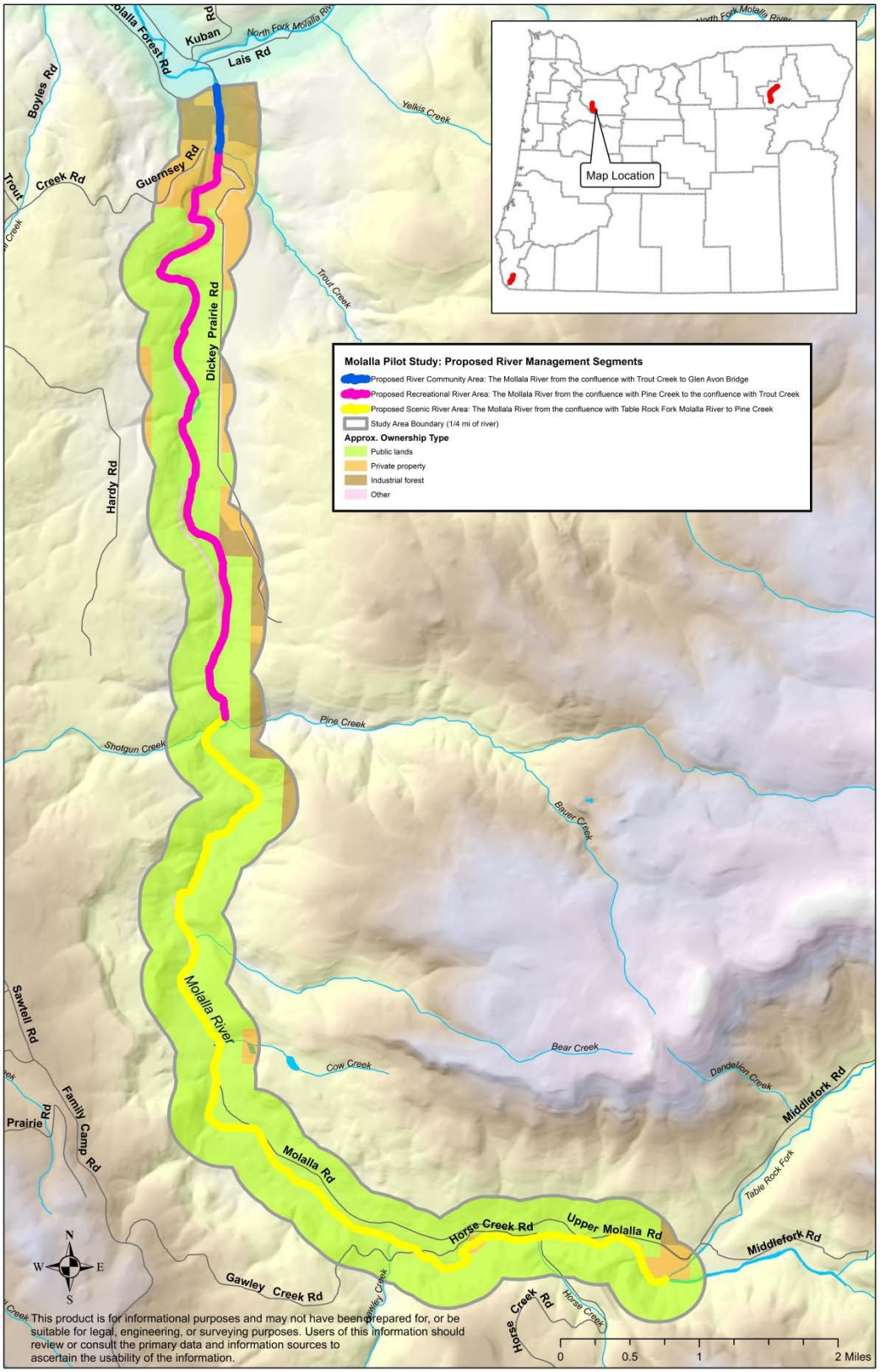

Figure 4. Draft proposed classification types and approximate land ownership

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Potential Land Management Rules

For all scenic waterway areas

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

Scenic River Area

From the Confluence with the Table Rock Fork to Pine Creek

Proposed draft rule guidance:

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

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

Recreational River Area

From the Pine Creek Confluence to Trout Creek

Rule guidance:

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

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

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

River Community Area

From the Confluence with Trout Creek to Glen Avon Bridge

Proposed draft rule guidance:

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

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

Potential Management Recommendations

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

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

Works Cited

Bureau of Land Management. (1993). *Resource Assessment of the Molalla River.* Salem, Oregon: Salem District.

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Keller, R. (1998). *Paddling Oregon.* Helena: Falcon Publishing.

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Palmer, T. (2014). *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers.* Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.

Schuhmann, C. (2012). *Moon Oregon Fishing.* Berkeley: Avalon Travel.

White, D. D., & Virden, R. J. (2007). *Molalla River Recreation Corridor and Table Rock Wilderness Visitor Survey.* School of Community Resources and Development. Phoenix: Arizona State University.

Appendix A

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

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Appendix B: Public Comment Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SIGN-IN SHEET

SCENIC WATERWAY ~~ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~ PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: July 20 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Jack Hammond (AC)	[redacted]
Jan Nelson	
Sandy Kosik	
Jim Myron (AC)	
Margie Walsch	
Karen Graves	
Gary Potter (AC)	
Scott Marcegia (A/C)	
Rainey Castleberry	
Conky Moore	
Mark Schmidt	
Kimberley Priestley	

SIGN-IN SHEET

SCENIC WATERWAY ~~ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~ PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: July 20 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Fran + Bill Taylor	[redacted]
BRUCE W STEWART	

SIGN-IN SHEET

SCENIC WATERWAY A~~DVISORY COMMITTEE~~ PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: July 20 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Email Address (For future updates)
Tony R. FERRELL	[redacted]

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

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

I believe that adopting a protective section on the Molalla is needed and would benefit the community of Molalla.
The benefits of the existing Molalla Corridor can already be seen.
Thank you for all those people who work toward this end.

Rainey Castleberry
[redacted]
Molalla

(Additional space on reverse side)

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

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

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

(Additional space on reverse side)

[redacted] S. WRIGHT RD.

AVISON LUMBER CO.
PO BOX 419
MOLALLA, OR 97038

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

August 16, 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

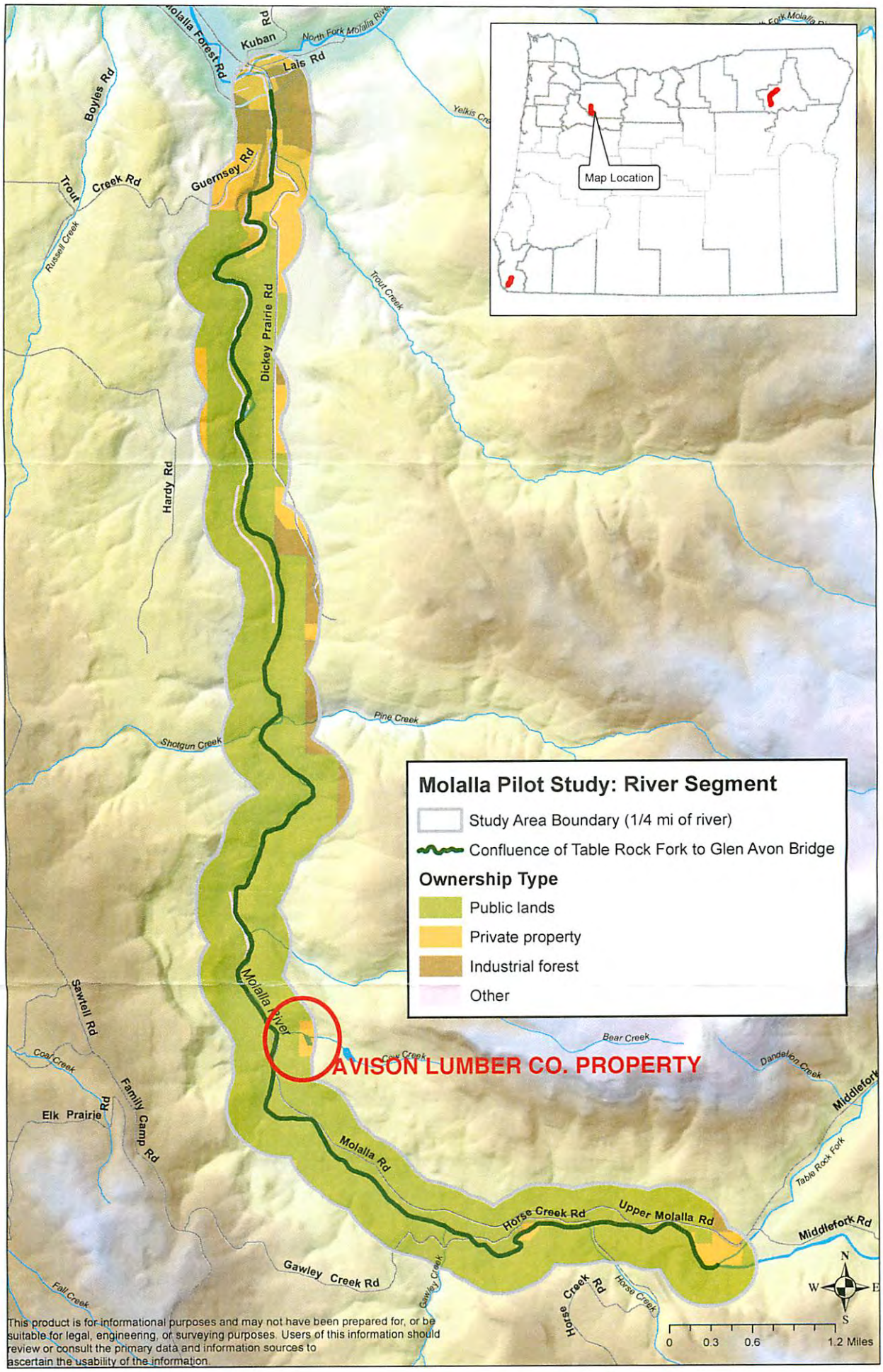
Please call us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerey,

Avison Lumber Co.

[redacted]

William J. Avison
President



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

OPRD Scenic Waterways Program 725 Summer ST NE, Suite C,
Salem, OR 97301

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[redacted]

Aimee Davis

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

August 11, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

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

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

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

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

Thank You,

[redacted]

Bill Taylor
[redacted]
Molalla, OR 97038

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

August 11, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

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

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

Thank You,

[redacted]

Fran Taylor
[redacted]
Molalla, OR 97038

August 1, 2015

Hello Park Planners,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely

[redacted]

Laurie Pavey

[redacted]

Corvallis, OR 97333

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

Scenic Waterways Staff,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Bob Loucks
Resident Glen Avon and Advisor to the Scenic Waterway staff

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

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

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

Attention: Laurel Hillmann and Rocky Houston

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

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

By making that correction, you would be assured of our support in your effort to "protect" the waterways for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Jack Rae JR
[redacted]
Molalla, OR

From: Rae
To: HOUSTON Rocky * OPRD; Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Subject: Molalla River - Potential Designation of State Scenic Waterway
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 4:37:29 PM

Dear Mr. Houston,

My wife and I recently were made aware that the OPRD was reviewing a plan to include our property as part of a state scenic waterway. We strongly disagree with this designation and the need for it. We are already managed by Clackamas County as to setbacks, building regulations, tree cutting, etc. To have the State Parks Division regulating the same thing is onerous to the property owners as well as a waste of tax payers money and time.

We also resent the fact that meetings and much discussion has gone on without making it clear that your proposal does not stop at the Glen Avon Bridge but, actually extends 1/4 mile north of it . This is all private property with no public access so why would you even consider putting it under OPRD
regulation.

Certainly there must be other ways you can use your energy and tax payer resources than pressing for more regulations on the taxpaying residents in our neighborhood.

Most Sincerely,

Jack Rae
[redacted]
Molalla, Or 97038
[redacted]

Molalla River WATCH WATERSHED COUNCIL

P.O. Box 867 Molalla, Oregon 97038-0867 503-829-7858

riverwatch@molalla.net
www.molallariverwatch.org

August 11, 2015

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

RE: Molalla Scenic Waterway Designation

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation:

Molalla River Watch Watershed Council wholeheartedly supports Oregon Scenic Waterway designation for the upper Molalla River as outlined in the Draft Management Plan.

The Molalla River is an Oregon natural treasure located within a one hour drive of Portland and Salem. It is one of the few undammed rivers in the Pacific Northwest, home to the recovering and recently delisted Oregon chub, and provides drinking water for the cities of Canby and Molalla. The River is noted for its geological, historical and cultural values. It offers varied recreational opportunities including swimming, fishing, rafting and kayaking, horseback riding, camping, hiking, picnicking and bicycling. The proposed river segment begins at the lower end of the Table Rock Wilderness Area.

The Oregon DEQ lists the Molalla River as impaired due to low summer flows and high water temperatures. Preservation of instream flows and riparian habitat will help protect listed salmon and steelhead as well as other plants and wildlife.

We urge you to recommend the Molalla River as proposed in the Draft Management Plan for Oregon Scenic Waterway status.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Bill Taylor, Chair
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Division
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 947-6201
FAX (503) 947-6202
www.dfw.state.or.us/

August 19, 2015

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

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

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Danette Faucera
Water Policy Coordinator

WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

August 19, 2015

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

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

Dear OPRD Scenic Waterway Program,

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

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

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

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

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

Recommended scenic waterway flows: The WRD is proposing between 85 to 100% of the median natural flow to be protected as scenic waterway flows, depending on the reach. At the very least, the WRD should be protecting 100% of the median natural flow in all reaches. That said, even at that, we do not believe this provides the full protection mandated by the Act. The Act is clear that the state must protect flows in the quantity necessary for fish, wildlife and recreation. ORS 390.835. The concern with using average median flows to meet this standard is that average median flows are not likely to capture the elevated biological triggering flows, channel maintence flows and/or other streamflow functions associated with high flows needed to support healthy river and fish habitat. The 100% median flow should be the baseflow to build upon for the scenic waterway flow recommendation, not the ceiling. Thus, we urge the state to incorporate elevated flow levels necessary to support biological triggering and channel maintenance, among other things, into the recommended instream flows.

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

And, as a final point, the Chetco advisory group recommended a “non numeric” recommendation that no new additonal water rights should be allocated within or above the proposed scenic waterway. We did not see this recommendation associated with the Molalla. We urge the Water Resources Commission to adopt a similar protective measure for the Molalla.

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

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

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Kimberley Priestley
Sr. Policy Analyst

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY
PO BOX 411
LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON 97034

August 8, 2015

Mr. Steve Kay
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Scenic Waterways Public Comment

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

The Clackamas County League of Women Voters supports the designation of the Upper Molalla River from Table Rock Wilderness to Glen Haven Bridge near Molalla as an Oregon Scenic Waterway. The League believes that our waterways are a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms.

This section of the Upper Molalla River should be given consideration as a waterway of critical environmental concern for several important reasons. First, it is the source of water for the cities of Molalla and Canby. It is an important resource for native fish and a variety of other wildlife. Also, it offers a wide range of recreational uses. Thus, we believe the river is a prime candidate for becoming a Scenic Waterway and should be given this designation.

The League applauds the interagency cooperation between Oregon Parks and Recreation, the State Parks Commission, and the Water Resources Commission that this recommendation represents. Thank you for this opportunity to offer our input on this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Marge Easley
Action Chair, League of Women Voters of Clackamas County

From:	Joseph Blowers
To:	Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Subject:	Please add Molalla as a Scenic Waterway
Date:	Friday, August 07, 2015 3:05:24 PM

I'm writing to urge you to add the Molalla River as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway. I live on a farm less than two miles from the Molalla River. I use the area for bird watching as well as hiking and mountain biking.

The Molalla River is amazing in that it is one of the largest completely free-flowing rivers in the state and certainly among the largest in the Willamette Valley. As you probably know, the lower reaches harbored Oregon Chub at a time when that species was critically endangered. The upper reaches have runs of both salmon and steelhead. The reach you are considering is an amazing recreational gift to the community of Molalla, providing kayaking, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching and swimming to many, many people. It also provides the drinking water for the cities of Molalla and Canby.

I look forward to the additional recognition and protection that the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program can provide for the Molalla River.

Joseph Blowers
[redacted]
Molalla, OR 97038

From: Michael Cerbone
To: Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Subject: Molalla River
Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:16:15 AM

Please accept this in support of the designation of the Molalla River as a State Scenic Waterway. I urge you to designate the entire length of the river. One of our favorite canoe floats in the state is from Aurora on the Pudding River, we float to the Molalla and then take that to the Willamette and pull out at Molalla River State Park. While the Three Bears is a great section (above Glen Avon), the two sections immediately below Glen Avon are also very scenic and worthy of the designation.

If you are looking for other rivers that are worth, I would suggest the Pudding River, it is great, very scenic and very relaxing.

Thanks,

Michael Cerbone, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Cornelius
(503) 357-3011
www.ci.cornelius.or.us

From: Jack and Sue Hammond
To: HOUSTON Rocky * OPRD; Waterways Scenic * OPRD
Cc: John Atkins; "Mark Schmidt"; [redacted]; "Taylor"; "Gary Potter"
Subject: RE: Teleconference information for upcoming Molalla scenic waterway advisory committee meeting
Date: Friday, August 14, 2015 3:22:28 PM

Greetings Rocky and Crew,

Unfortunately on August 24 I will be completely off the grid except by satellite phone which I don't have. Google" Nelson Lagoon- Aleutian Adventures" and you will see where. It My destination is the Steelhead River 4o miles from Nelson Lagoon, a small metropolitan city of 62 members the First Nation Aleut People. I will be accompanied by seven other fly fishing fanatics, 4 Aleut guides, 1 Bear Hunter [for protection] , 3 spey rods and 3 one handed fly rods of varying sizes.

I have appreciated very much the outstanding job you have done regarding the Proposal to designate the Upper Molalla River as an Oregon Scenic River, the first such designation since 1988. I am in full accord with that Proposal as well as the contents of the draft Management Plan including the new language concerning the nonapplicability of the Management Plan to residents north of the Avon Bridge.

Thanks and Wish me Tight Lines

Jack Hammond

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

Dear Scenic Waterways Program,

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

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

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

Best, Kimberley

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

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

August 13, 2015

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

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

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Scenic Waterway Program:

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

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

Both the Chetco and Molalla rivers are excellent candidates for designation under the state Scenic Waterway Act. The crystal clear waters of the Chetco River on Oregon's southern coast support a myriad of recreational opportunities, are the home to important populations of steelhead trout and salmon and provide exceptionally clean drinking water to downstream communities. People flock from all over the nation to recreate on this unique river. Similary, 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 kayacking, 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 concurrance with the Oregon Water Resources Commission (OWRC), recommening desigations 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 insteam flows---including baseflows, biological triggering flows and channel maintence 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 Unlmited

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
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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,

[redacted]

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
[redacted]
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
[redacted]

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
[redacted]
Silverton, OR 97381

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

ORPD,

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

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

Thank you for protecting these rivers.

Cheers,
Susan Elliott

--
Susan Hollingsworth Elliott
Graduate Student, Water Resource Engineering Program
Oregon State University
[redacted].

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 ORPD Scenic Waterways Program,

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

Thanks for your time and work regarding these two rivers!

Sincerely,

Nate Pulliam

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

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

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

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

-jacob

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

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

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

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

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

Regards,

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

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

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

Dear Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

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

Mark Sherwood	Brookings, OR
Richard Kelllogg	Camp Sherman, OR
John Larison	Corvallis, OR
Shawn Donnille	Eugene, OR
Doug Heiken	Eugene, OR
Brent Ross	Eugene, OR
Christopher l 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 Pearcy	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	West Linn, OR
Andrew Miller	West Linn, OR
Don Titterington	Wilsonville, OR
Jeremy Quinlan	Woodland Hills, CA