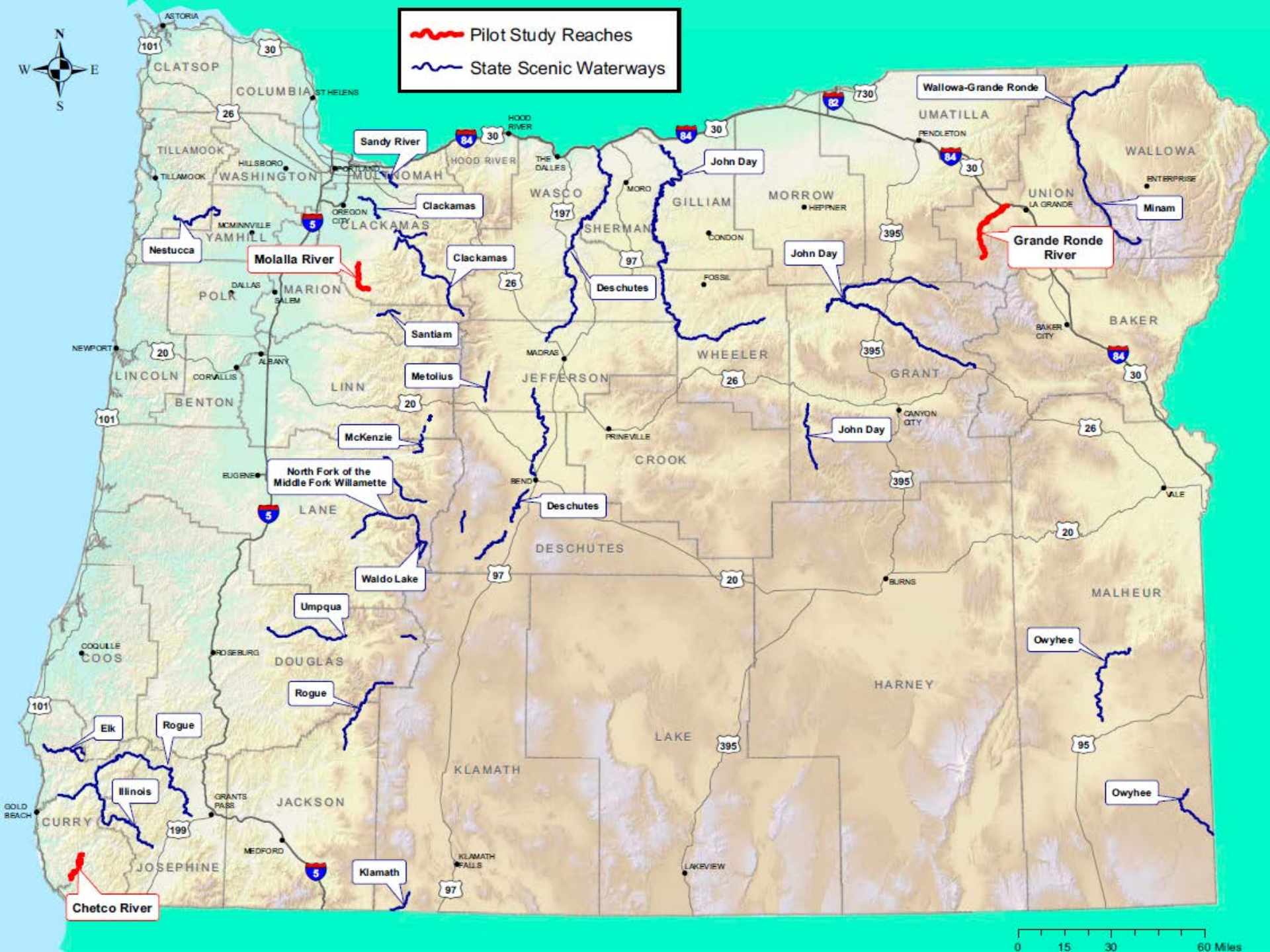
2014 Scenic Waterway Assessments:

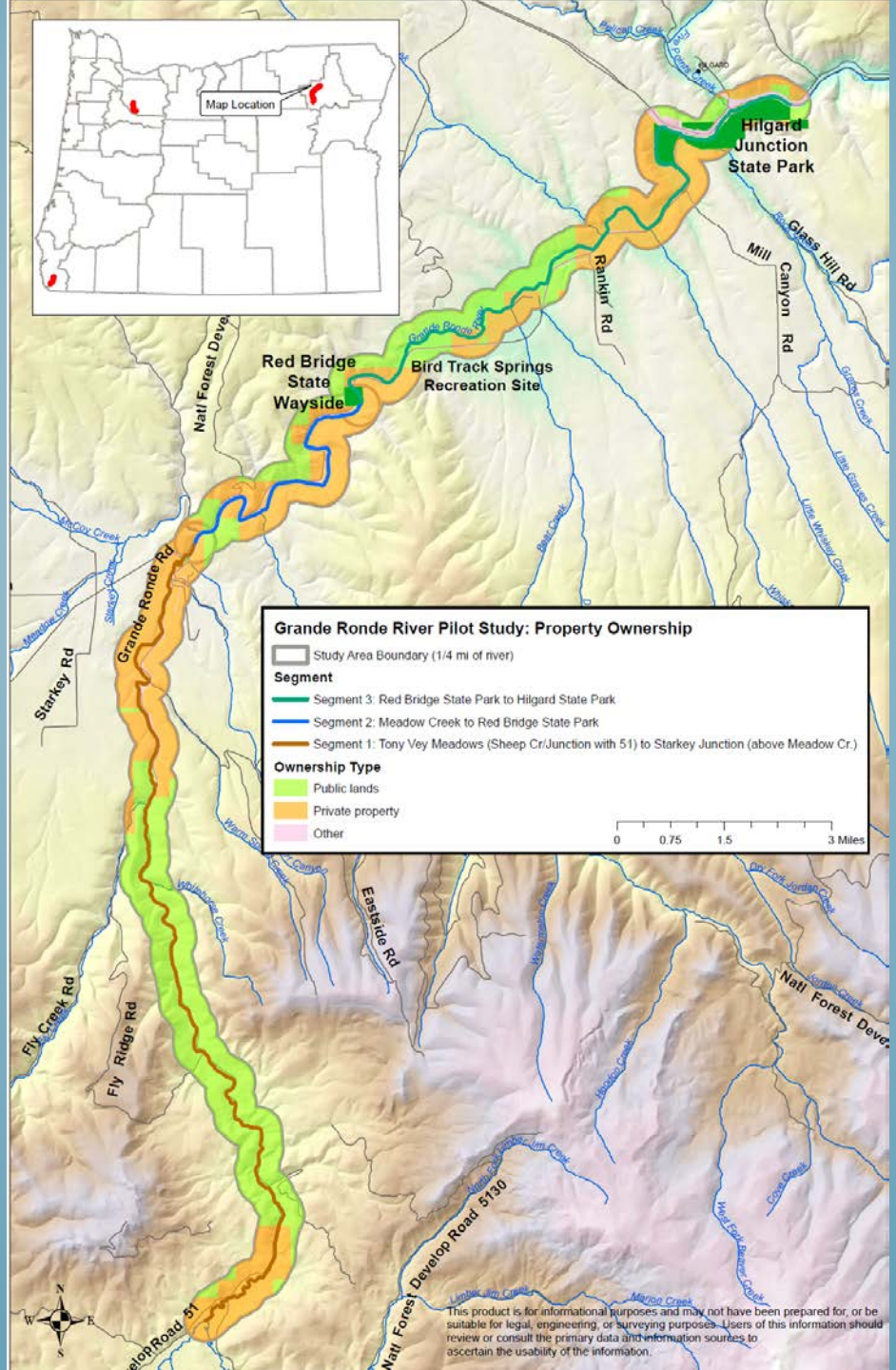
Grande Ronde River

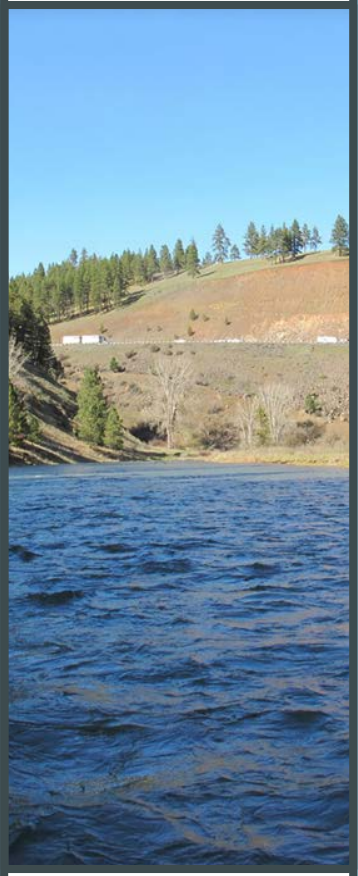
OREGON STATE PARKS

Nature
HISTORY
Discovery



Pilot Study Reaches
State Scenic Waterways
N
S
E
W
Sandy River
Clackamas
Nestucca
Molalla River
Clackamas
Santiam
Metolius
McKenzie
North Fork of the Middle Fork Willamette
Waldo Lake
Umpqua
Rogue
Elk
Rogue
Illinois
Chetco River
Klamath
Deschutes
Deschutes
John Day
John Day
John Day
Wallowa-Grande Ronde
Minam
Grande Ronde River
Owyhee
Owyhee
CLATSOP
COLUMBIA
TILLAMOOK
WASHINGTON
MULTNOMAH
HOOD RIVER
WASCO
SHERMAN
GILLIAM
MORROW
UMATILLA
UNION
WALLOWA
YAMHILL
CLACKAMAS
POLK
MARION
LINCOLN
BENTON
LINN
JEFFERSON
WHEELER
GRANT
BAKER
CROOK
LANE
DESCHUTES
MALHEUR
COOS
DOUGLAS
HARNEY
LAKE
KLAMATH
JACKSON
CURRY
JOSEPHINE
ASTORIA
ST HELENS
HILLSBORO
PORTLAND
TILLAMOOK
OREGON CITY
MCMINNVILLE
DALLAS
SALEM
NEWPORT
ALBANY
CORVALLIS
EUGENE
HOOD RIVER
THE DALLES
MORO
CONDON
FOSSIL
HEPPNER
PENDLETON
LA GRANDE
ENTERPRISE
BAKER CITY
MADRAS
PRINEVILLE
BEND
CANYON CITY
VALE
BURNS
COQUILLE
ROSEBURG
GOLD BEACH
GRANTS PASS
MEDFORD
KLAMATH FALLS
LAKEVIEW
0
15
30
60 Miles


Map Location
Hilgard Junction State Park
Red Bridge State Wayside
Bird Track Springs Recreation Site
Grande Ronde Rd
Starkey Rd
Ranklin Rd
Mill Canyon Rd
Glass Hill Rd
Natl Forest Develop Road 5130
Eastside Rd
Fly Creek Rd
Fly Ridge Rd
Grande Ronde River Pilot Study: Property Ownership
Study Area Boundary (1/4 mi of river)
Segment
Segment 3: Red Bridge State Park to Hilgard State Park
Segment 2: Meadow Creek to Red Bridge State Park
Segment 1: Tony Vey Meadows (Sheep Cr/Junction with 51) to Starkey Junction (above Meadow Cr.)
Ownership Type
Public lands
Private property
Other
0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles
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.

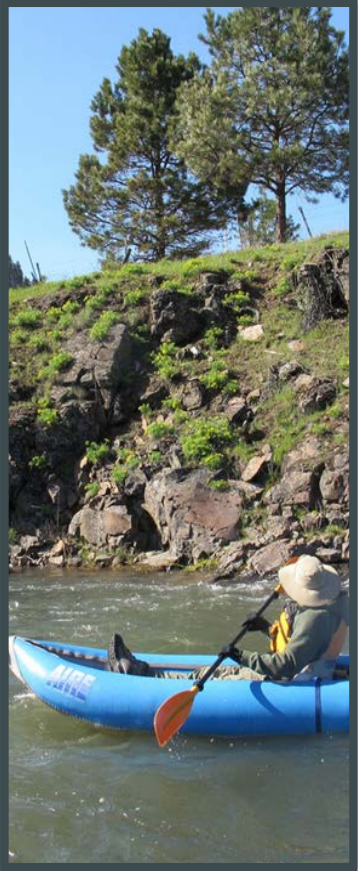


Scenic Waterways Program

Study Process

- *Evaluation of the Waterway's Eligibility*
  - Free-flowing nature of the waterway
  - Scenic quality, as viewed from the river
  - Natural and recreation qualities
- *Evaluation of the Feasibility of Including the Waterway in the Program*
  - Obtain feedback from stakeholders
  - Review findings at community and County Commission meetings
  - Review public comments
    - scenic.waterways@oregon.gov
    - Online survey (closes October 15th)

http://tinyurl.com/scenicwaterwaysreview



Scenic Waterways Program

Study Process: State Parks Role

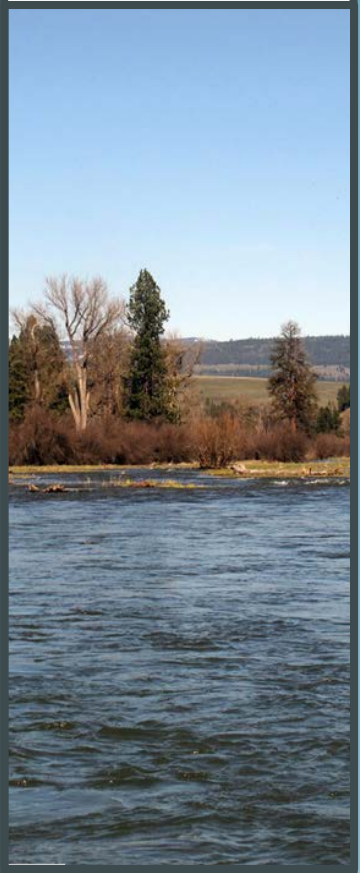
- Not advocating for new scenic waterway designations
- Objectively evaluate eligibility based on Scenic Waterway criteria
- Provide multiple opportunities for public input
- Evaluate public interest, support, and concerns
- Report on whether the waterway is a good addition to the scenic waterway system

http://tinyurl.com/scenicwaterwaysreview

Scenic Waterways Program

Study Process: Eligibility Process

- *Course level screening process to identify potential study candidates*
  - Free-flowing, recreation and scenic values
- *Field Visit*
  - Documented river conditions
  - Assess scenic quality
  - Started to identify natural and recreational features
- *Discussions with experienced users, resource managers (ongoing)*
  - Natural Values
  - Scenic Values
  - Recreational Values



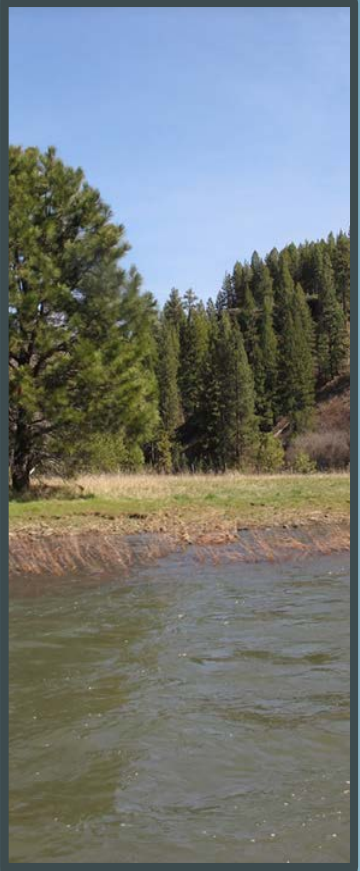
Scenic Waterways Program

Study Process: Eligibility Criteria*

- Free flowing
- Scene from the river is pleasing
- Outstanding natural and recreational values
- Large enough to sustain recreation use without undue impairment of
  - Natural values
  - Quality recreation experience

*ORS 390.855

Study Process: Initial Eligibility Findings

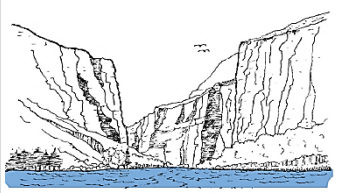


- **Free flowing**
  - ✓ **Grande Ronde has no dams or major diversions**

Scenic Waterways Program

regon State Parks

- We need *your input* on
  - outstanding natural features
  - recreation use
  - issues, concerns and opportunities



Scenic Waterways Program

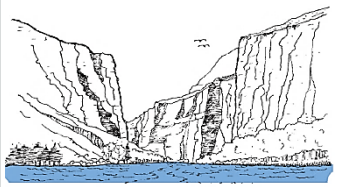
Management of the Program

- Designations provided to rivers which provide exceptional outdoor recreation experiences
- Benefits of the program
  - Protects existing natural, scenic and recreational values associated with the waterway
  - Promotes the waterway as a special place, enhancing tourism and economic development opportunities associated with outdoor recreation
- Obligations of the Program
  - Requires the development of a Management Plan to encourage the protection of existing natural, scenic and recreational values
  - Through the Management Plan, certain activities are regulated within a ¼ Mile of the Designated Waterway

Scenic Waterways Program

Management of the Program

- *IF a new waterway is added. . .*
  - Re-engage with the community to develop a Management Plan
    - Address previously identified issues and concerns
    - Accommodate existing uses along the waterway
    - Encourage the protection of natural, scenic, and recreational values associated with the river



Scenic Waterways Program

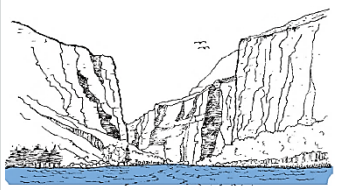
Management of the Scenic Waterway Program

- *IF a New Waterway is Included into the Program . . .*
  - *The Oregon Water Resources Department will determine what flows should be protected when reviewing new water right applications:*
    - *Investigation of any flow related publications.*
    - *Interview experienced river guides.*
    - *Coordination with OPRD staff.*
    - *Public meeting in effected basins.*
    - *Public comment period.*
    - *Recommendation to the Water Resources Commission.*
    - *WRC will approve/modify/not approve.*
  - *Existing Water Rights are not effected.*

Scenic Waterways Program

Concerns identified so far by stakeholders

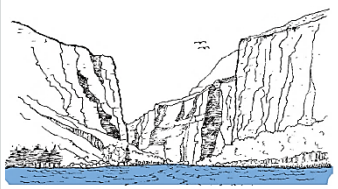
- Concern that scenic waterway designation could/would/may
  - prohibit some existing development and activities
  - require additional permits, add costs, and add time to existing review process.
  - prohibit the removal of trees along the waterway
  - regulate recreation uses along the waterway



Scenic Waterways Program

Activities Excluded From Review

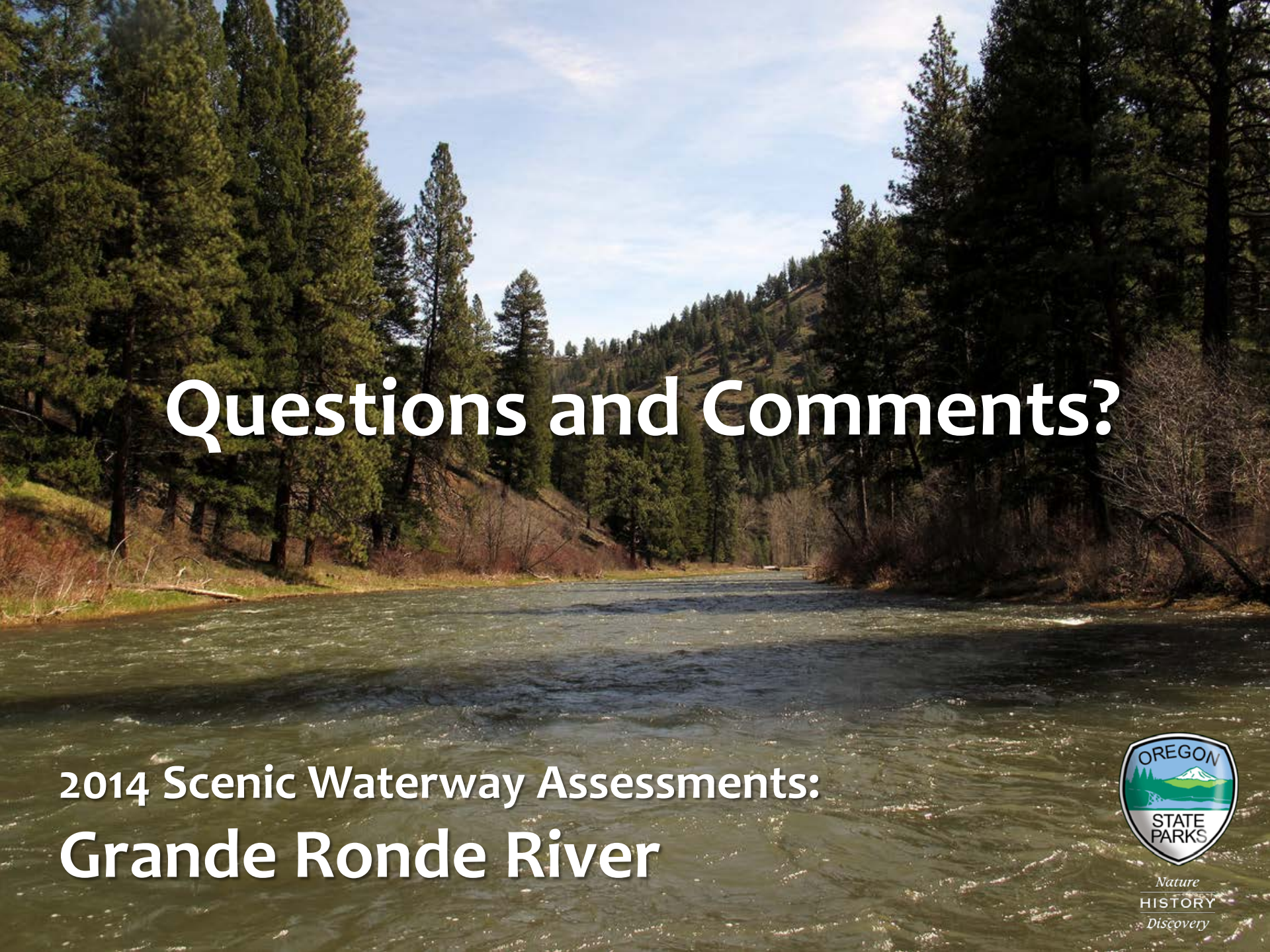
- Recreational activities
- Existing development/maintenance activities
- Grazing and farm uses
- Removal of hazard and firewood trees
- Land use activities on Federal lands
  - Federal agencies may ask for OPRD review for consistency with state laws
  - Activities and uses on federal lands managed by federal agencies



Scenic Waterways Program

Activities Which Would Be Reviewed

- New Development Proposals
  - ➢ County notifies State Parks during their land use review process
    - Details worked out in management plan with stakeholders
    - May require planting of vegetation to provide screening
- Review of Timber Harvest Proposals
  - ➢ Timber harvesters notify State Parks
  - ➢ Follow Oregon Forest Practices Act Rules (e.g., 100 feet riparian buffer along waterway)
  - ➢ Harvest or vegetation management would need to be designed to protect scenic views


Questions and Comments?
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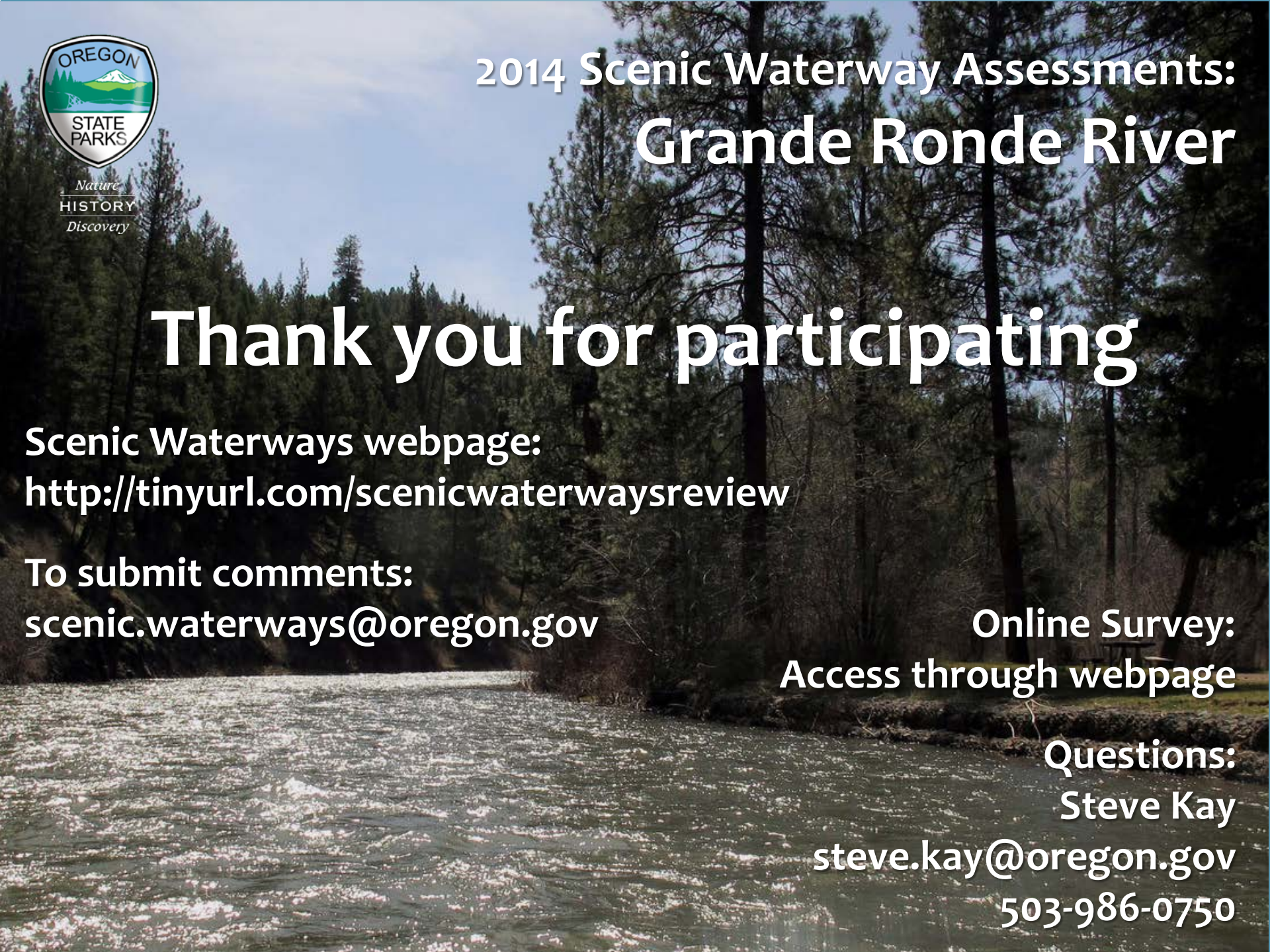

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

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Grande Ronde River

Thank you for participating

Scenic Waterways webpage:
http://tinyurl.com/scenicwaterwaysreview

To submit comments:
scenic.waterways@oregon.gov

Online Survey:
Access through webpage

Questions:
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503-986-0750