

# State Scenic Waterway Reports

*Studies for the  
Molalla, Grande Ronde and Chetco Rivers*

***Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting  
November 19, 2014  
Astoria, Oregon***



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*



# Why are we here?

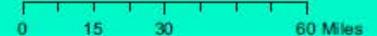
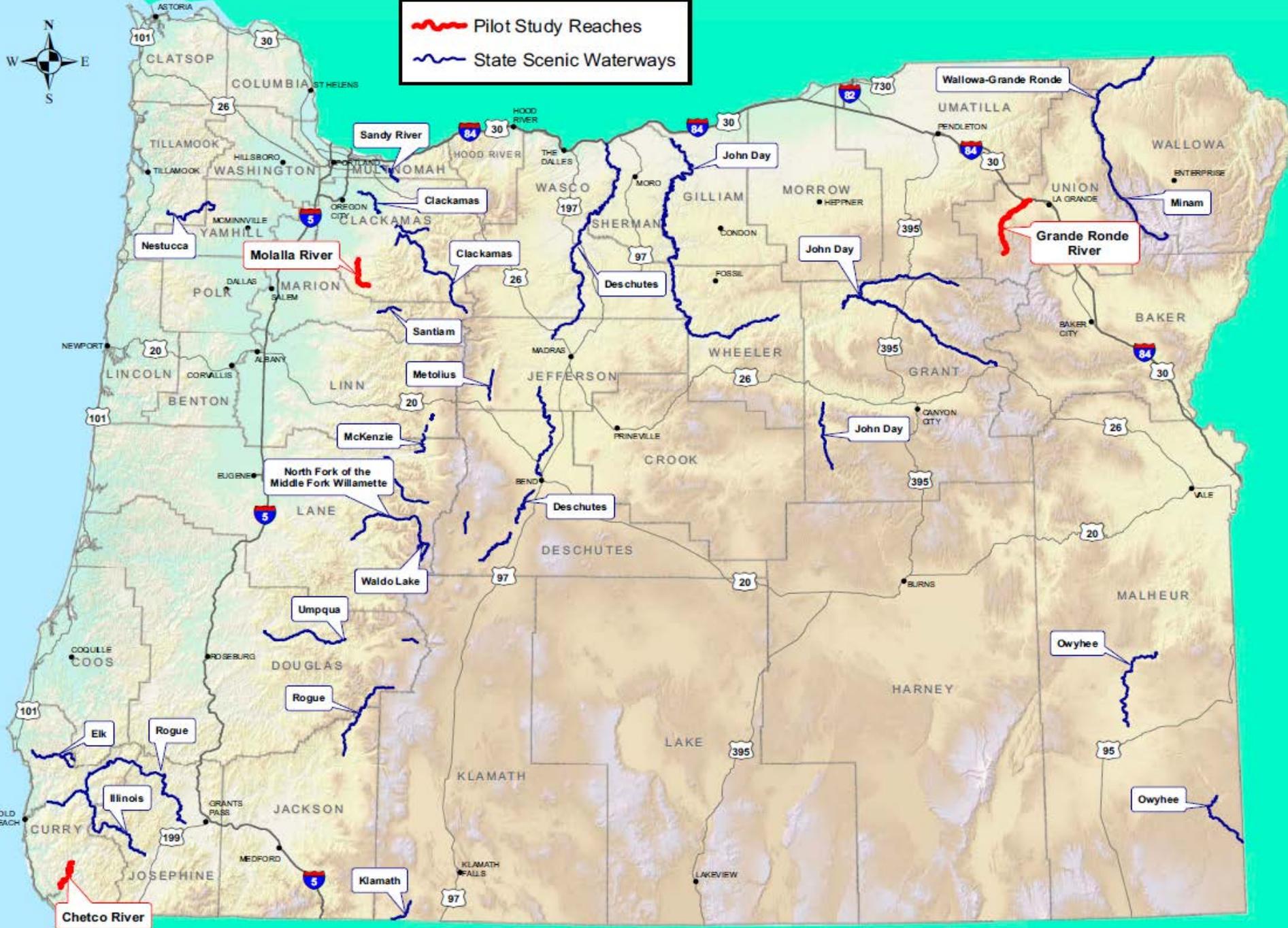
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- Governor asked OPRD to study 3 segments/biennium
- ORS 390.855 requires “ongoing study” with periodic reporting





 Pilot Study Reaches  
 State Scenic Waterways



# Study Process: OPRD Role

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- Not advocating for new scenic waterway designations
- Objectively evaluated eligibility based on criteria set in ORS
- Provided multiple opportunities for public input
- Evaluated public interest, support, and concerns
- Reporting on whether the waterway is a good addition to the scenic waterway system



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
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# Future Management Plans

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- *If a new waterway moves forward...*
  - 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



# Report Format

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- Evaluates the waterway's eligibility
- Presents results from outreach
  - Stakeholders
  - Public meetings
    - Community
    - County Commissions
  - Public comment period



# Eligibility Study Process

- **Field visits**
  - Document study area conditions
  - Assess scenic quality
  - Identify natural and recreational features
- **Discussions with experienced users, resource managers, stakeholders**
  - Scenic
  - Natural
  - Recreational
  - Issues/concerns/opportunities



Nature  
HISTORY  
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# Eligibility Study Criteria\*

- Free flowing
- Scene from the river is pleasing
- Outstanding natural or recreational values
- Large enough to sustain recreation use w/out undue impairment of
  - natural values
  - quality recreation experience



# Chetco River

## Key Eligibility Findings

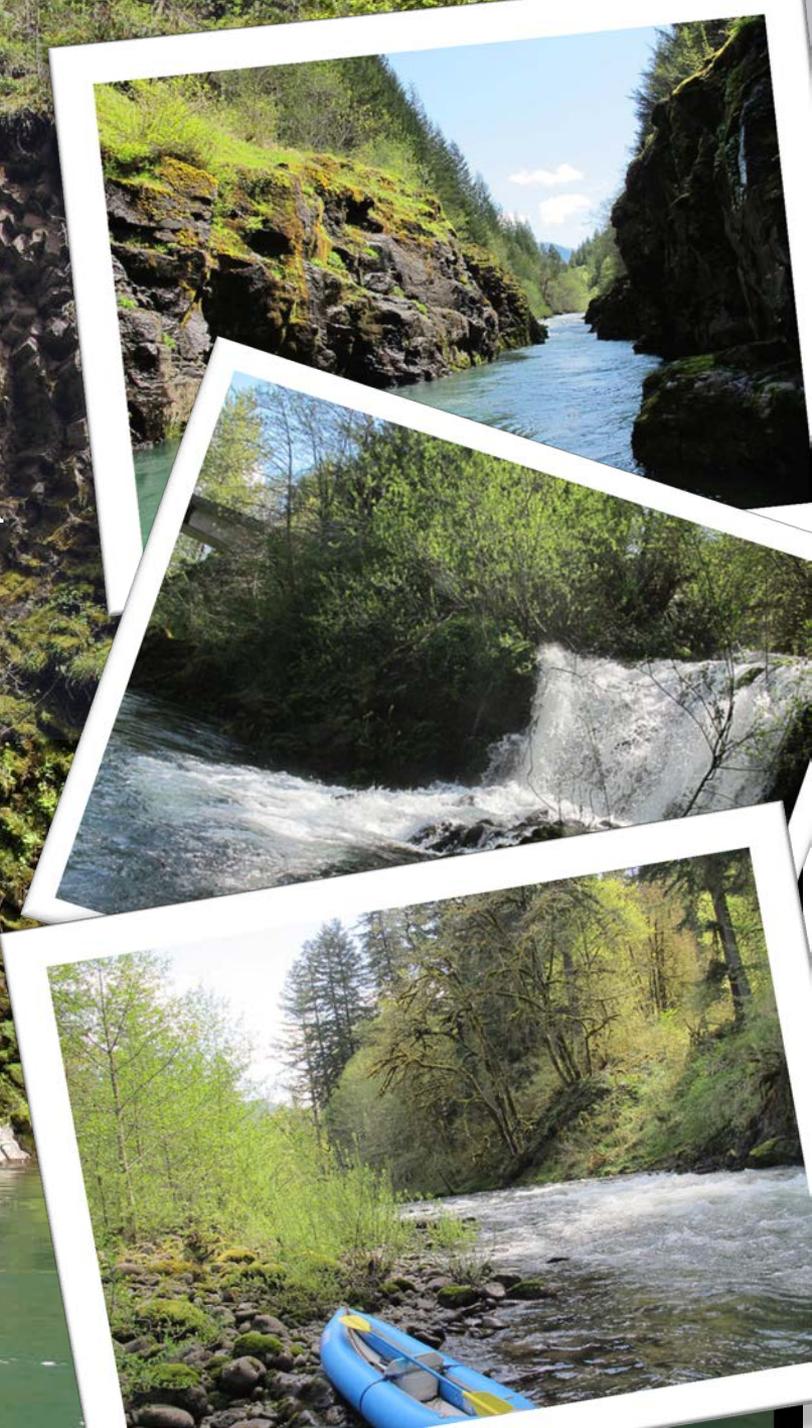
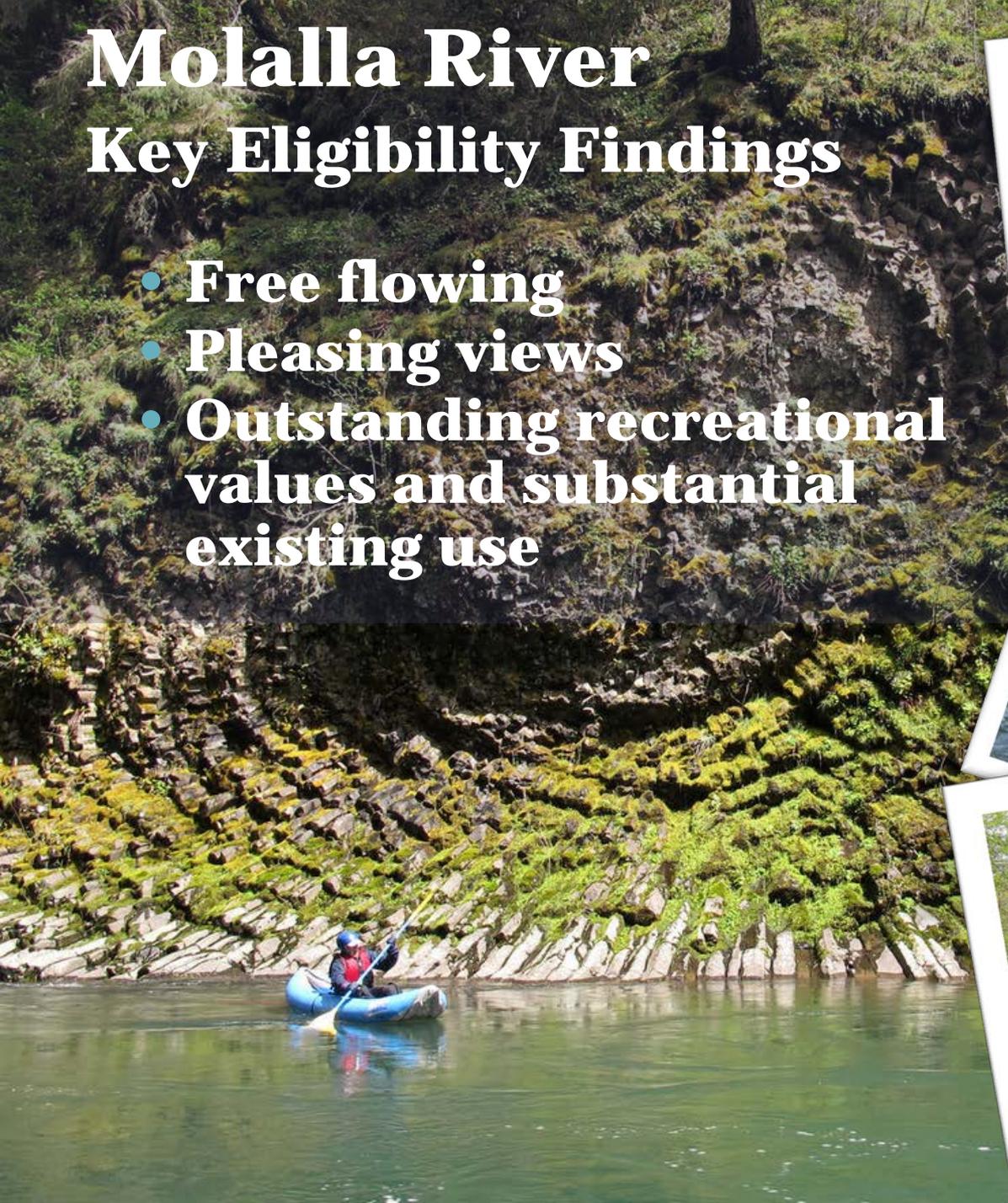
- Free flowing
- Pleasing views
- Outstanding recreational values and substantial existing use



# Molalla River

## Key Eligibility Findings

- Free flowing
- Pleasing views
- Outstanding recreational values and substantial existing use



# Grande Ronde River

## Key Eligibility Findings

- Free flowing
- Pleasing views
- Limited water-based recreational values and dispersed existing uses



# Common Questions/Concerns

- **Designation could/would/may:**
  - Prohibit some *existing* development?
  - Add permits, costs, time, and unnecessary regulations?
  - Prohibit the removal of trees?
  - Regulate recreation/public access?
  - Encourage Trespassing?
  - Interfere with existing Federal management plans?



# Typical Support Statements

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- We want to protect river's scenic beauty and nature
- Designation would protect fish habitat, drinking water, and encourage low impact use
- Protect from over development
- Protect fish & fishing on the river
- Protect river for the future
- Help promote responsible use



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
<b>Total Written Comments:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>205</b>

**Online survey (Aug-October): 33 respondents , 94% in favor**

## **Community Meeting**

- **Press release and public notice in the Molalla Pioneer newspaper**
- **Invitations sent to 49 surrounding private property owners; 19 personal phone calls to private property owners.**
- **8 members of the public in attendance.**
- **General support for the designation**
- **Suggestions about minor study area modifications to match the (potential) Federal W&S boundaries**

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

**Online survey (Aug-October): 47 respondents , 67% in favor**

## **Community Meeting**

- **Press release and public notice in the Curry Coastal Pilot newspaper**
- **Invitations sent to 76 surrounding private property owners**
- **~70 members of the public in attendance.**
- **General support for the designation**

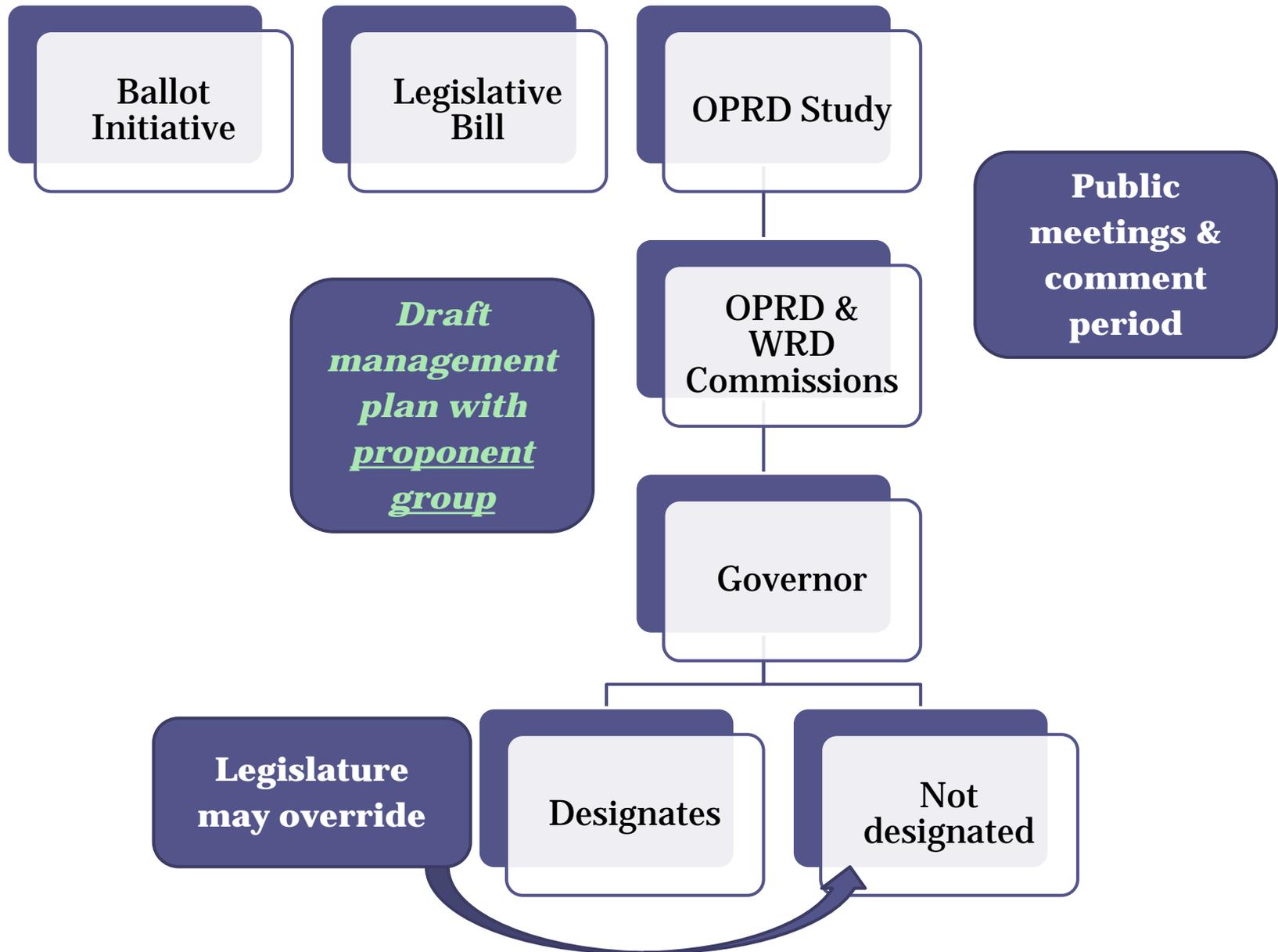
<b>Written Comment Type</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>Individual Emails and Letters</b>	9	4
<b>Community Meeting Comment Forms</b>	18	1
<b>Email Campaign</b>	0	164
<b>Total Written Comments:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>169</b>

**Online survey (Aug-October): 140 respondents , 34% opposed statewide, 48% opposed of Union County respondents**

## **Community Meeting**

- **News release and public notice in the La Grande Observer newspaper**
- **Invitations sent to 54 surrounding private property owners**
- **~55 members of the public in attendance.**
- **General opposition for the designation**

# Designation Process



# Recommendations

- Adopt three Scenic Waterway Reports and forward them to the Governor
- Based on evaluation of eligibility criteria and public input, drop the Grande Ronde River from program consideration.



# Recommendations

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- **Recommend that the Governor designate the Chetco and Molalla Rivers if three conditions are met by December 31, 2015 . . .**

1. **The waterway physically qualifies, as described in statute.**

(Chetco and Molalla River Reports indicate that this condition has been met.)



# Recommendations

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2. Feedback from general public, direct stakeholders, and any affected county government supports designation.

(Chetco and Molalla River Reports indicate that this condition has been partially met. County Commissions are *considering* adopting resolutions in support.)



# Recommendations

3. An organized group, including local proponents, requests designation and presents at least a basic management plan drafted in cooperation with OPRD staff or one of its advisory committees.

(This condition has not been met. Staff could assist an advisory committee consisting of direct stakeholders and local proponents in development of the management plan.)



# Questions?



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*