



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16-04

DESIGNATING SEGMENTS OF THE CHETCO RIVER (CURRY COUNTY) AND MOLALLA RIVER (CLACKAMAS COUNTY) AS STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS AND DIRECTING SCENIC WATERWAY STUDIES TO USE A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Oregon is blessed with a diversity of river systems that richly contribute to our quality of life. Oregonians feel connected to our rivers and value their importance to our economies, communities, and ecosystems.

In 1970, the people of Oregon voted to establish the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. This law protects the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation; protects and enhances scenic, cultural and natural values along scenic waterways; and establishes a process and criteria for adding new rivers to the scenic waterway system. The state Scenic Waterways system now includes approximately 1,150 miles on 19 rivers and Waldo Lake. No new Scenic Waterway has been designated since 1988.

Stewardship of our rivers is ever more important as the population along our rivers increases and a changing climate results in low snowpack levels, high temperatures, and significantly low streamflows. These changes impact recreation, fish and wildlife, and community and economic health.

Pursuant to the provisions of ORS 390.805 to 390.025, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) undertook studies of the Chetco, Molalla and Grande Ronde rivers. OPRD consulted with the Oregon Water Resources Department and other state agencies, requested input from local governments, landowners and other interested parties, and conducted hearings in the counties in which those rivers are located.

At the conclusion of its process, OPRD identified segments of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers as meeting Scenic Waterways Act criteria and described those segments in the OPRD Scenic Waterway Qualification Reports (Scenic Waterway Reports) which were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in April 2015. OPRD received concurrence in its identifications from the Water Resources Commission in November 2015, and these identifications were submitted to me on December 28, 2015.

I wish to ensure that the outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, cultural, and outdoor recreational values of special Oregon rivers are conserved for Oregonians today and in the future through a collaborative process that includes tribal governments, local governments, state and federal agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, recreation organizations, agriculture interests, forestry interests, and businesses.



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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. Consistent with the recommendations of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, and with the concurrence of the Oregon Water Resources Commission, I hereby designate the segments of the Chetco River and Molalla River and related adjacent land described in the Scenic Waterway Reports as Oregon State Scenic Waterways subject to the provisions of ORS 390.805 to 390.925.
2. In undertaking future scenic waterway qualification studies including scenic waterway flows, OPRD and the Oregon Water Resources Department will utilize a collaborative process that includes tribal governments, local governments, landowners, and conservation, recreation, river use, agriculture, forestry, and business organizations, in addition to the statutorily required consultation with state agencies under ORS 390.855.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until it is otherwise modified, amended or terminated.

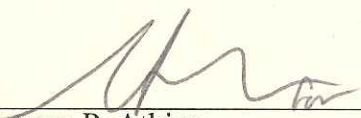
Done at Salem, Oregon, this 25 day of January, 2016.





Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



Jeanne P. Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE