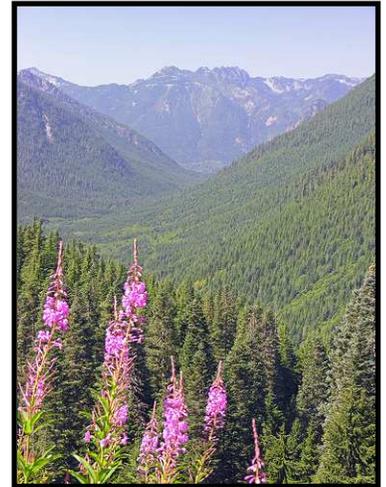


The Pratt River

The Case for Wild & Scenic River Designation

Recommended for Protection

- In 1990, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) recommended the Pratt River to Congress for Wild and Scenic designation, noting its outstanding, regionally-significant recreation, fisheries, wildlife, geological and ecological values and “very high public support” for designation. The Pratt River recommendation was based on the following criteria:
 - Ecological: dynamic flood plain river unconstrained by roads and dominated by native vegetation.
 - Geological: textbook example of an alluvial floodplain river flowing through glacial sediments, illustrating the rich geologic history of the valley.
 - Wildlife: area is used by resident cutthroat trout, deer, elk, mountain goats, marten, black bear, beaver and others
 - Recreation: unique backcountry kayaking and hiking opportunities 40 miles from Seattle



- The USFS' evaluation of the entire Pratt River as eligible for 'Wild' classification from its headwaters to its mouth is extremely rare given its proximity to a large urban center.
- Designation as a Wild and Scenic River would permanently protect the Pratt River's free-flowing character, water quality and outstanding recreation, fisheries, wildlife, geological and ecological values.



Benefits of Wild & Scenic Designation

- Protects the river's free-flowing character, water quality and outstanding values
- Promotes river-friendly land use practices
- Protects important fish and wildlife habitat
- Protects existing, compatible uses of the river corridor
- Enhances the local community's civic awareness and pride by having a nationally-recognized wild river in their backyard



What Designation Will Do

- Prohibit dams and other water projects that impair the free-flow of a river or its outstanding values. In the past, there have been hydropower proposals for the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and its tributaries, including the Pratt River.
- Establish a protected corridor extending ¼ mile from the high-water mark on both sides of the river.
- Require the managing federal agency to work with other stakeholders to ensure that the river's 'outstandingly remarkable values' are protected, including ensuring enough in-stream flow to protect those values.
- Develop a cooperative river management plan within three years of designation.

What designation Will *Not* Do

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act carries no authority to affect the zoning of private lands. There are no private landowners or in-holdings in the Pratt River corridor and the entire valley is in federal ownership.