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Recommended Rivers for Wild and Scenic Designation

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Senator Wyden,

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting Oregon's rivers and streams and your leadership in passing legislation to designate waterways in the state under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We appreciate the opportunity to nominate additional rivers and streams that we believe are deserving, and in need of additional protections, so that future generations may enjoy these spectacular resources. Free-flowing rivers are a defining attribute of our state's quality of life and support a robust outdoor recreation economy.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with approximately 50,000 supporters, 6,000 dues-paying members, and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. Our vision is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates. Our organization manages the National Whitewater Inventory, a comprehensive database including sections of rivers and streams that are enjoyed by whitewater paddlers—in Oregon this includes over 200 rivers and streams, representing more than 300 river and stream segments that are valued by the whitewater paddling community.

In Oregon, we believe that there are still a number of free-flowing rivers and segments of rivers and streams that possess outstandingly remarkable values—specifically those tied to outdoor recreation—that are currently not protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In this letter, we nominate rivers that have a particularly important value to our organization and our members and supporters.

In addition to our nomination of these rivers and streams, we believe any future Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation should include the strongest possible protections. Specifically, the legislation should specify that lateral boundaries of the river corridor along rivers proposed for designation should include an average of 640 acres per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river. To protect rivers from mining, Federal land within the boundaries of the river segments in future Wild and Scenic legislation should be withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or

disposal under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

Nominations Summary

In order of importance to our organization and the need for protection from threats such as natural resource extraction, development, and public access threats, these are the streams and segments of streams that we believe are deserving and qualify for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

1. Illinois River Tributaries:

- a. **Briggs Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with the Illinois River
- b. **Indigo Creek:** Confluence of West Fork Indigo Creek and East Fork Indigo Creek to Confluence with the Illinois River
- c. **Lawson Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with the Illinois River
- d. **Silver Creek:** Headwaters to the Public-Private Land Boundary
 - i. **South Fork Silver Creek:** Western edge of the BLM Boundary to Confluence to Silver Creek
 - ii. **North Fork Silver Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Silver Creek

2. South Kalmiopsis Streams

- a. **West Fork Illinois River:** Headwaters to East Boundary, S34, T40S, R9W, WM, and West Boundary S17, T40S, R8W, WM to Northern Boundary SE/14, NE1/4, S17, T40S, R8W, WM
 - i. **Rough and Ready Creek :** Headwaters to Confluence with West Fork Illinois River
- b. **Josephine Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with the Illinois River
 - i. **Canyon Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Josephine Creek
- c. **Baldface Creek :** Headwaters to Confluence with North Fork Smith

3. Southern Oregon Coast Range Streams

- a. **Pistol River:** Headwaters to Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Boundary
- b. **South Fork Chetco River:** Headwaters to Confluence with Chetco River
- c. **Hunter Creek:** Headwaters to West boundary E1/2, NW1/4, S14, T37 S, R 14W
- d. **South Fork Coquille River:** Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Boundary OMFC to Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Boundary
- e. **Diamond Creek:** Headwaters to OR-CA Border
 - i. **North Fork Diamond Creek:** Headwaters to OR-CA Border

4. White River

- a. **White River Falls:** River Mile 2.2 to River Mile 1.6

5. Oregon Coast Range Streams

- a. **North Fork Siletz River:** West Boundary E1/2, SW1/4, S19, T7S, R8W, WM to South Boundary S32, T7S, R8W, WM
 - i. **Warnicke Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with North Fork Siletz River

6. South Umpqua River and Tributaries

- a. **South Umpqua River:** Confluence of Black Rock Fork and Castle Rock Fork to Confluence with Elk Creek
 - i. **The Castle Rock Fork:** Headwaters to Confluence with South Umpqua River
 - ii. **The Black Rock Fork:** Headwaters to Confluence with South Umpqua River
 - iii. **Jackson Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with South Umpqua River

7. North Umpqua Tributaries

- a. **Fish Creek:** Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Boundary to Confluence with North Umpqua River
- b. **Copeland Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with North Umpqua River
- c. **Calf Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with North Umpqua River
- d. **Steamboat Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with North Umpqua River
- e. **Canton Creek** - Headwaters to Confluence with North Umpqua River

8. Little River and Tributaries

- a. **Little River:** Headwaters to National Forest Boundary
 - i. **Cavitt Creek:** Headwaters to National Forest Boundary
 - ii. **Black Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Little River
 - iii. **Clover Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Little River

9. Williamson River

- a. **Mainstem:** West Boundary W1/2, S12, T33S, R7E, WM to Confluence with Spring Creek

10. Breitenbush River and Tributaries

- a. **Breitenbush River:** Headwaters to Detroit Reservoir Pool
 - i. **French Creek:** Headwaters to Detroit Reservoir Pool

11. Middle Santiam River

- a. **Middle Santiam:** Southern boundary of S12, T13S, R5E, WM to Middle Santiam Wilderness boundary
 - i. **Quartzville Creek:** Headwaters to Willamette NF boundary

12. South Santiam River

- a. **Mainstem:** Confluence of Latiwi Creek and Sevenmile Creek to National Forest Boundary in S34, T13S, R3E WM

13. Upper Rogue River Tributaries

- a. **Middle Fork Rogue:** Sky Lakes Wilderness Boundary to National Forest Boundary
- b. **South Fork Rogue:** Sky Lakes Wilderness Boundary to South Fork Reservoir Pool

14. Clackamas River Tributaries

- a. **North Fork Clackamas:** Headwaters to North Fork Reservoir Pool
- b. **Oak Grove Fork:** Warm Springs Reservation Boundary to Confluence with Clackamas River
- c. **South Fork Clackamas:** Headwaters to Confluence with East Fork Clackamas River

15. McKenzie River Tributaries

- a. **Blue River:** Confluence of Mann Creek and Wolf Creek to Blue River Reservoir

16. John Day River Tributaries

- a. **North Fork John Day:** Confluence with Camas Creek to South Boundary NW1/4, S20, T8S, R28E, WM

17. Klamath River and Tributaries

- a. **Mainstem:** Keno Dam to Iron Gate
 - i. **Jenny Creek:** Headwaters to Iron Gate Reservoir Pool/Klamath River

18. Little North Santiam and Tributaries

- a. **Mainstem:** Headwaters to National Forest Boundary
 - i. **Battle Axe Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Opal Creek
 - ii. **Gold Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Little North Santiam River
 - iii. **Opal Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Little North Santiam River
 - iv. **Henline Creek:** Headwaters to Confluence with Little North Santiam River

Nominations in Detail

As an organization that represents the interests of whitewater paddlers, we strongly attest that the rivers that we have nominated each have outstandingly remarkable values of recreation. As any future legislation that includes these rivers moves through Congress, we ask that recreation, and specifically whitewater paddling, be identified in report language or other documentation in the Congressional record. Our goal is to ensure that recreation, particularly whitewater paddling, be accounted for and accommodated in any comprehensive river management plan for each river identified in this document.

Outlined below are the specific streams that we have identified for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We also strongly advocate, even if not listed in this document, that to the extent possible, all headwater tributary streams of the streams we propose for nomination be protected, since headwater streams are critical to the overall health of the watershed, to fish species, habitat, and to the overall recreational experience.¹

1. Illinois River Tributaries

Located in southwest Oregon, the Illinois Wild and Scenic River flows from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest boundary to its confluence with the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, a distance of 50.4 miles. The river offers incredible recreation opportunities, including rapids that provide plenty of excitement for intermediate whitewater paddlers. While a portion of the Illinois itself is protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, many of its major tributaries are not—and face threats largely related to mining and development activities. While we believe that all the major tributaries to the Illinois River should be protected, we have identified a few as having particular value to whitewater paddlers: [Briggs Creek](#), Indigo Creek, [Lawson Creek](#), Silver Creek, [North Fork Silver Creek](#), and South Fork Silver Creek.

ORVs:

Briggs Creek: Fish, Water, Recreation, Hydrologic

Indigo Creek: Fish, Recreation

Lawson Creek: Fish, Water Quality, Recreation

Silver Creek: Recreation, Fish, Water Quality

South Fork Silver Creek: Fish, Water Quality, Recreation, Ecology

North Fork Silver Creek: Fish, Water Quality, Recreation, Ecology

2. South Kalmiopsis Streams

Though several of these streams are tributaries to the Illinois, because of their unique qualities and eligibility as Wild and Scenic rivers, they are separated into the [South Kalmiopsis](#) streams. The South Kalmiopsis is an unprotected roadless area south of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Oregon, and it contains five incredible rivers eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation: Baldface Creek, Rough and Ready Creek, [Josephine Creek](#), [Canyon Creek](#), and the West Fork of the Illinois River.

¹ Colvin, S.A.R., S.M.P. Sullivan, P.D. Shirey, R.W. Colvin, K.O. Winemiller, R.M. Hughes, K.D. Fausch, D.M. Infante, J.D. Olden, K.R. Bestgen, R.J. Danehy, L. Eby. 2019. Headwater Streams and Wetlands are Critical for Sustaining Fish, Fisheries, and Ecosystem Services. American Fisheries Society. <<https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/fsh.10229>>

ORVs:

Baldface Creek: Fish, Water Quality, Recreation

Rough and Ready Creek: Botanic/Ecologic, Scenic, Water, Geologic/Hydrologic, Recreation

Josephine Creek: Water, Botanical/Ecologic, Hydrologic/Geologic, Historic, Scenic, Recreation

Canyon Creek: Recreation, Ecological/Biological

West Fork of the Illinois River: Ecological/Biological Diversity, Scenic, Recreational

3. Southern Oregon Coast Range Streams

The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California is a world-renowned hub of biological diversity.² The mountains and rivers that define this region are some of the most spectacular in America. Straddling the Oregon-California border, the Klamath-Siskiyou is one of the wildest places left on the U.S. West Coast—boasting a large concentration of intact watersheds and roadless wildlands. The river systems in the region support wild populations of salmon and steelhead, ancient sturgeon, and numerous other aquatic species. The fish, whitewater paddling, scenery, and the solitude attract people from around the world to enjoy an experience increasingly hard to find anywhere.

Oregon's Coast Range is known for its dramatic scenery. It is also extremely diverse, with habitats ranging from open sandy dunes to lush forests and from tidepools to headwater streams. The Coast Range ecoregion includes the entire reach of the Oregon coastline and extends east through coastal forests to the border of the Willamette Valley and Klamath Mountains ecoregions. At 1,059 square miles, the Coquille watershed is the third-largest river system to originate in Oregon's Coast Range. The approximately 63-mile South Fork supports diverse habitat types, is a productive salmon and steelhead spawning stream, and is home to wild cutthroat and rainbow trout. Hunter Creek and the Pistol River are free flowing native salmon and steelhead strongholds. At their headwaters is a botanically unique area of serpentine terrain in a near-coastal environment. The area is home to the Hunter Creek Bog and North Fork Hunter Creek Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM) and Red Flat Botanical Area (Forest Service).

ORVs:

South Fork Chetco: Fish, Recreation, Water Quality

Hunter Creek: Scenic, Recreation, Fish, Botanical

Pistol River: Recreation, Fish, Water Quality

South Fork Coquille: Fish, Recreation, Scenic, Ecological/Biological Diversity

North Fork Diamond Creek: Water Quality, Fish, Recreation

4. White River, White River Falls

The headwaters of the White River are fed by an active glacier on the southeastern slopes of Mount Hood in Oregon. The river flows 53 miles through forest, agricultural and desert lands, and is a major tributary of the Deschutes River. The river is well known for White River Falls, where the river plunges over a 90-foot basalt shelf. The lower tier at White River Falls is known to paddlers as [Celestial Falls](#). At the time the White River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1988, redevelopment of an old

² <<https://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/na0516>>

hydropower project was being considered on a 0.6 mile segment that included the falls and this segment was not included in the original designation. The project was ultimately abandoned and the water right for hydropower was cancelled in 1993;³ in 1994 the Oregon Water Resources Control Board filed for and approved an instream scenic water right at White River Falls on behalf of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.⁴ In the 1993 management plan for the river, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management recommended that White River Falls be included in the Wild and Scenic River System. While the scenic water right, along with changing energy markets, has effectively closed the door on new hydropower development, Wild and Scenic designation would complete protection for the entire length of the White River.

ORVs:

White River Falls: Scenic, Recreation, Fish, Historical, Cultural

5. Oregon Coast Range Streams

In its brief five miles before it flows into the main Siletz River in northeastern Oregon, the [North Fork](#) boasts rapids that attract whitewater kayakers from near and far. Its watershed contains the 51-acre Valley of the Giants, a BLM-designated outstanding natural area with ancient Douglas fir and western hemlock trees, many more than 400 years old and over 200 feet tall. The North Fork is home to spring chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and the only known native run of summer steelhead on the northern Oregon coast. [Warnicke Creek](#) is an important tributary to the North Fork Siletz, and has a high value to hikers, anglers, and paddlers.

ORVs:

North Fork Siletz: Fish, Recreation, Scenery, Ecological/Biological Diversity

Warnicke Creek: Ecological/Biological Diversity, Recreation

6. South Umpqua and Tributaries:

The [South Umpqua](#) between Camp Comfort to S. Umpqua Falls and S. Umpqua Falls to Boulder Creek Campground (a.k.a. “[Three Falls Run](#)”) is a ~13 mile Class II to V run through scenic, forested areas, with mellow stretches in between fun slides and several several big, clean drops. The river has excellent water quality and supports native salmon runs, and with its free-flowing waters and exceptional scenic, natural, and recreational values, it deserves protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. There are several major tributaries to the South Umpqua that are enjoyed by paddlers, hikers, and anglers including: The Castle Rock Fork, The Black Rock Fork, and Jackson Creek.

ORVs:

South Umpqua River: Recreation, Scenic, Fish, Water quality/quantity, Cultural

Castle Rock Fork: Recreation, Scenic, Fish, Water quality/quantity, Cultural

Black Rock Fork: Recreation, Scenic

Jackson Creek: Recreation

³ Oregon Water Resources Director Order, December 20, 1994, In the Matter of Cancellation of Water Right permit 51175 in the name of Northern Wasco County People’s Utility District.

⁴ ORWD application number IS 79644. The water right was approved in 1996 and was assigned water right certificate # 73267.

7. North Umpqua Tributaries:

The North Umpqua drains a scenic and rugged area of the Cascade Range south of Eugene, and is one of Oregon's most easily accessible and beautiful rivers. Fly-fishing, whitewater boating, camping, and scenic driving are premier recreation activities. The clear water, large Douglas-fir stands and geologic formations add to the spectacular scenery. The river is known for a variety of resident and anadromous fish species, including summer and winter steelhead, fall and spring chinook salmon, coho salmon, and sea-run cutthroat trout. While sections of the North Umpqua are protected as Wild and Scenic, the major tributaries to it are not. We believe that several major tributaries deserve to be nominated for Wild and Scenic designation: [Fish Creek](#), [Copeland Creek](#), [Steamboat Creek](#) and [Canton Creek](#).

ORVs:

Fish Creek: Fish, Water Quality and Quantity, Recreation, Scenic

Copeland Creek: Water Quality and Quantity, Fish, Recreation

Steamboat Creek: Fish, Cultural; Scenery, History, Geology, Recreation

Canton Creek: Fish, Recreation

8. Little River and Tributaries

The Little River is a tributary of the North Umpqua River, about 30 miles (48 km) long, in southwestern Oregon. It drains part of the western side of the Cascade Range east of Roseburg, between the North and South Umpqua. As one of the largest tributaries of the North Umpqua River, Little River supports a diverse assemblage of fish species including five anadromous salmonids. Anadromous fish species known to be present in the watershed include spring chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Non-anadromous salmonid species known to inhabit the watershed include resident rainbow trout, resident cutthroat trout, brook trout, and kokanee salmon. Although the North Umpqua River produces fewer coho salmon than the South Umpqua River, the Little River provides a large proportion of the spawning and rearing habitat in the North Umpqua subbasin. Conversations with state fish biologists have indicated that Little River, specifically Cavitt Creek, is considered to be one of the primary producers of coho salmon in the North Umpqua River sub-basin.

Intermediate to advanced paddlers enjoy the mainstem Little River, which features lush scenery, boulder and bedrock rapids, and impressive canyon walls. Cavitt Creek and Emile Creek also offer paddlers some challenging whitewater with outstanding scenery. Due to the Little Rivers' importance in water quality, quantity, and fish, we advocate that, to the extent possible, most tributaries of the Little be protected. The major ones, with large proportions flowing through public lands are listed below:

ORVs:

[Little River:](#) Headwaters to National Forest Boundary

[Cavitt Creek:](#) Headwaters to National Forest Boundary

Black Creek: Headwaters to Confluence with Little River

Clover Creek: Headwaters to Confluence with Little River

9. Williamson River:

Southern Oregon's amazing network of rivers extends east of the Cascades, and Southern Oregon waterways are among the region's best assets. In Klamath County, several rivers are known for fishing and whitewater paddling, including the Klamath, Williamson, Sycan, and Sprague. Currently the [Williamson](#) is not protected as wild and scenic, though the Sycan and Sprague are. The Williamson River begins about 40 miles northeast of Klamath Falls and weaves nearly 100 miles through the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and Collier Memorial State Park before emptying into Upper Klamath Lake. It typically lures fly fisherman from around the country and world-class angling for rainbow trout that commonly measure 20 inches and longer. The upper section of the river that flows out of the Klamath Marsh features a unique whitewater segment with steep drops and waterfalls.

ORVs:

Williamson River: Fish, Geologic, Historic, Cultural, Recreation, Scenic

10. Breitenbush River and Tributaries

The [Breitenbush River](#) is a tributary of the North Santiam River, draining the rugged, forested area of the Cascade Range east of Salem. The Breitenbrish descends from several short forks in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness in the high Cascades of eastern Marion County. The stream features incredible scenery, crystal clear water, and numerous rapids. The Breitenbush is one of the classic intermediate runs in the Cascades and a great introductory run for paddlers learning to creek-boat. [French Creek](#) is a steeper tributary to the Breitenbrush, and is a run sought out by intermediate to expert whitewater paddlers.

ORVs:

Breitenbush River: Recreation, Scenic, Water Quality

French Creek: Recreation, Scenic, Water Quality

11. The Middle Santiam and Tributaries

The middle Santiam River from Sheep Creek Road to Green Peter Reservoir is a unique and remote overnight wilderness run with class III/IV whitewater and a couple harder rapids. Quartzville Creek is a popular area for a multitude of types of outdoor recreation including camping, fishing, swimming, and whitewater paddling. The corridor offers a variety of recreational opportunities, such as fishing, camping and boating for skilled whitewater paddlers. Quartzville Creek offers a "bucket list" experience for Class IV whitewater boaters during the fall, winter, and spring. The creek features old growth forest on the banks of the emerald river with dramatic rock outcroppings and views of the surrounding Cascade Range.

ORVs:

Middle Santiam River: Fish, Geologic, Scenic, Cultural, Recreation

Quartzville Creek: Scenic, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife, Historic

12. South Santiam River

The South Santiam Watershed is situated in the Central Cascades and flows into the Willamette Valley and drains approximately 1,040 square miles in area. With steep, mountainous terrain in the east and a

low floodplain to the west, the watershed is characterized by variation in elevation, ecoregions, and land use practices. The watershed supports three communities (Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Scio), and is located in Linn County, Oregon.

Paddlers enjoy visiting the [South Santiam](#) for its scenery, clear water, and a variety of unique rapids. The South Santiam riverbed is one of the oldest geologically in the Cascades, which provides both interesting scenery, and whitewater. The South Santiam's scenery, which is nothing short of breathtaking, is highlighted in a section of the South Santiam Gorge, which paddlers call "The Hobbit Gorge" that is known as one of the most scenic sections of river in this region.

ORVs:

South Santiam River: Historic, Cultural Scenic, Fish, Recreation

13. Upper Rogue Tributaries

The Rogue River, from headwaters to mouth, is well-known for its "wildness". It's a sought after whitewater rafting destination and a popular place to fish, hike, camp, and float. The upper reaches of the Rogue, which are less frequented, feature dramatic cliffs, clear, cool water, a diversity of plant life and animals. Paddlers enjoy the Mill Creek section on the North Fork Rogue River, which is a recreational release provided by PacifiCorp. Paddlers also enjoy the [Middle](#) and [South Forks](#) of the Rogue.

ORVs:

Middle Fork Rogue: Recreation, Scenery, Geologic

South Fork Rogue: Recreation, Scenic, Geologic

14. Clackamas River Tributaries

Located just outside of Portland, the Clackamas River corridor is a mecca for outdoor recreation. The Clackamas River is located to the west of the Cascade Range and to the south of the Columbia River Gorge in northern Oregon. Though portions of the mainstem Clackamas are protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and a section of the South Fork is protected, we advocate for the protection of the headwaters of the South Fork, as well as the protection of additional important tributaries to the mainstem Clackamas including the North Fork and the Oak Grove Fork.

ORVs:

[North Fork Clackamas](#): Fish, Recreation

[Oak Grove Fork](#): Fish, Recreation

[South Fork Clackamas](#): Fish, Recreation

15. McKenzie River Tributaries

Oregon's McKenzie River has long been recognized by whitewater enthusiasts and anglers alike for its outstanding recreational value. The river emerges high in the Cascade Range, and the clear, cold waters support multiple species of fish and wildlife as well as providing the sole source of drinking water for more than 200,000 people in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. The [Blue River](#), comes from its source at the confluence of Mann and Wolf creeks in the Cascade Range, then flows generally southwest to join the McKenzie near the community of Blue River. The Blue offers engaging

whitewater for intermediate and advanced boaters to enjoy, and is a Willamette Valley staple for those who live nearby.

ORVs:

Blue River: Recreation, Geologic, Fish

16. John Day River Tributaries

The [North Fork John Day River](#) has value to a lot of people, for a lot of reasons. A portion of the river is designated as a Wild and Scenic River for its outstandingly remarkable values of scenery, historic, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife. The segment below Camas Creek is also important, and worthy of protection under the Act. The section from Dale to Monument emerges from the Blue Mountains with the first half of the section flowing through Ponderosa pine forests and then transitioning to the desert terrain of eastern Oregon. Paddlers enjoy this section of the North Fork as a three-day trip.

ORVs:

North Fork John Day: Fish, Recreation, Scenic, Geologic

17. Klamath River and Tributaries

In 1981, 190 miles of the Klamath River from 3,600 feet below Iron Gate Dam to the Pacific Ocean was designated as a Wild and Scenic River at the request of California Governor Jerry Brown and by approval of Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus under Section 2a of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Upstream from Iron Gate, a series of dams owned and operated by PacifiCorp flood or dewater nearly two dozen of the river's first 43 miles. This reach, known as the Upper Klamath, begins at the town of Keno in southwestern Oregon, crosses the California border, and joins with the Lower Klamath at Iron Gate Dam. The Upper Klamath takes in all of the river's frothy passage through the Cascade Range, where deep canyons and high gradient hold tremendous whitewater potential. Currently, only one 11-mile section of the Upper Klamath enjoys Wild and Scenic protection, leaving 32 miles undesignated. Following removal of the Klamath Dams, the entire 43-mile Upper Klamath could be designated. We support legislation to designate the river as wild and scenic following dam removal and completion of decommissioning of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (FERC P-2082). When combined with the existing 190-mile Lower Klamath, designation of the upper river would create a contiguous 233-mile Wild and Scenic River stretching from Keno to the sea establishing the longest Wild and Scenic River in the conterminous United States.⁵

[Jenny Creek](#) is unique in that it seems out of place for this region. The creek holds a surprising amount of water in it, considering the climate and landscape that surrounds it. For paddlers, the creek is most appealing to the more adventurous, and has a number of rapids made by large boulders, and what stands out most on the creek is the distinct bedrock feature: [Jenny Creek Falls](#).

ORVs:

Klamath: Fisheries, Historic, North American Traditional Use, Prehistoric, Recreational, Scenic, Wildlife

Jenny Creek: Ecological/Biological Diversity, Recreation

⁵ Cross, Bill. Mar/Apr 2012. America's Longest Wild and Scenic River. American Whitewater Journal. pp 7-8.

18. Little North Fork Santiam and Tributaries

The Little North Fork Santiam drainage is highlighted by picturesque streams with spectacular water clarity, that meander through young and older Douglas-Fir forest. The area has an abundance of cascading waterfalls, deep emerald pools and a spectacular gorges with towering rock walls. Paddlers most often enjoy navigating the whitewater and gorges of the Little North Fork, but for those with a more advanced skill set and adventurous taste BattleAxe, Gold, Opal, and Henline Creek offer both incredible scenery and whitewater.

ORVs:

Little North Fork Santiam: Recreation, Geologic, Fish, Historic, Scenic

BattleAxe Creek: Recreation, Geologic, Historic, Scenic

Gold Creek: Recreation, Geologic, Fish, Historic, Scenic

Opal Creek: Recreation, Geologic, Historic, Scenic

Henline Creek: Recreation, Geologic, Scenic

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