

# STATE SCENIC WATERWAY PROGRAM



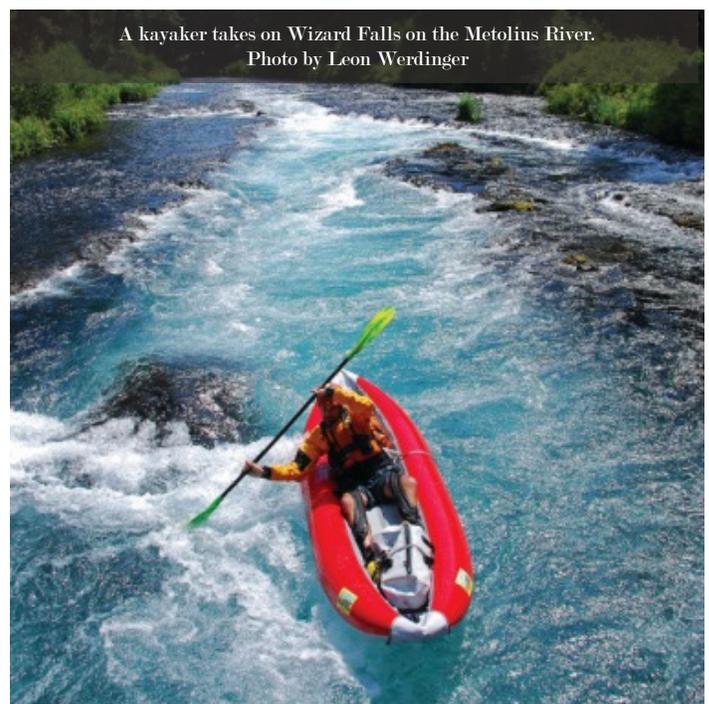
State Scenic Waterway designations help minimize or prevent destructive streamside logging, dams, devastating mining, and other inappropriate development, while enhancing fish and wildlife habitats. This designation ensures the public's right to enjoy waters through activities like hiking, fishing, kayaking, rafting, and camping. The State Scenic Waterway designation program protects water quality and salmon habitat, enables Oregon jobs, tourism, and significantly adds to property values, quality of life, and recreational experiences.

In 1970, in response to dam construction and increasing population pressures on Oregon's prized streams and rivers, Oregon voters passed the Oregon State and Scenic Waterways System by a two-to-one margin. Unfortunately, after several State Scenic Waterways protections were enacted in 1988, the program stalled.

Finally in 2016, the State Scenic Waterways program was re-ignited and both the Molalla and Chetco were the first rivers to be designated in 28 years. Currently, 22 sections of rivers and lakes are designated as State Scenic Waterways in Oregon. Unfortunately, that equates to less than 1% of Oregon's rivers and streams protected by state law.

## STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS

- Protect water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife.
- Ensure that free-flowing waters are maintained in their natural state.
- Prevent commercial placer mining and suction dredge mining.
- Safeguard waterways from dams, reservoirs, commercial placer mining, and suction dredge mining.
- Protect private property rights and property values.
- Preserve scenic and aesthetic qualities from the river perspective.



# THE NEXT DESIGNATIONS



Photos (left to right): South Umpqua by Priscilla Macy, Rainbow Trout with Sockeye salmon by Greg Syverson (USFWS), North Santiam River at Niagara County Park courtesy Wikimedia

## **SOUTH UMPQUA RIVER**

Castle Rock Fork to Tiller (~27 miles)

- Runs of wild steelhead, cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, Chinook and Coho salmon
- Spectacular waterfalls and geological formations
- Contributes high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities and easy public access to kayak and camp along the river

## **NEHALEM RIVER**

Spruce Run Campground to Nehalem Falls (~15 miles)

- Emerald pools, roaring waterfalls, and lush forests
- Spectacular fishing for steelhead, Coho, Chinook, cutthroat and rainbow trout
- Popular campgrounds and floating options through old-growth Sitka spruce and western hemlock

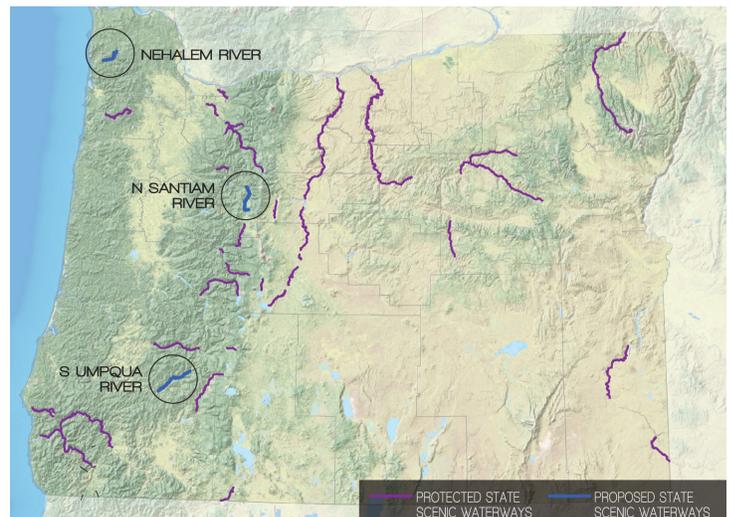
## **NORTH SANTIAM RIVER**

Wilderness boundary to Bruno Mountain Road (~20 miles)

- With headwaters in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, provides clean drinking water for Salem
- Abundant opportunities to camp, kayak, whitewater raft and more
- Stunning views of Mount Jefferson, framed by moss-covered trees and silver-green boulders

Today, we are working on the next three waterways for potential designation, including the South Umpqua, Nehalem, and North Santiam Rivers. These iconic rivers provide numerous ecological and recreational benefits, including old-growth forests, salmon runs, stunning trails, scenic waterfalls, and economic opportunities through outdoor recreation. As Oregonians, we have a duty to protect our waters from destructive practices.

If designated, the South Umpqua, Nehalem, and North Santiam would be protected and allow for responsible use and development of neighboring lands, while encouraging current and future use of waterways and their outstanding scenic, ecological, and recreational resources.



## **GET INVOLVED**

**JOIN** Oregon Wild and help protect the wildlands, wildlife, and waters that make our state special.

**CONTACT** Encourage the Governor to protect the South Umpqua, Nehalem, and North Santiam for recreation, fish, and wildlife.

- Governor Brown: (503) 378-4582

**VISIT** our website for more information.

## **CONTACT**

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