

OREGON STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS

Oregon is famous for its iconic rivers and we have a duty to protect them. State Scenic Waterway designations extend safeguards to some of Oregon's most beloved and threatened rivers. From the Rogue to the Grande Ronde, our waterways are threatened by logging, development, and a new push for dams. Currently less than 2% of Oregon's rivers are designated as State Scenic Waterways.

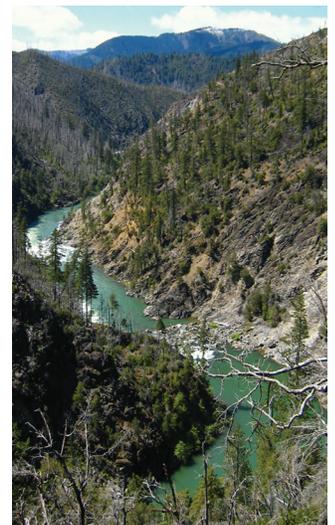


State Scenic Waterway designation protects the natural free-flowing qualities of rivers. It allows for responsible use and development of neighboring lands while encouraging current and future use of waterways and their outstanding scenic, ecological and recreational resources.

In response to dam construction and increasing population pressures on Oregon's prized streams and rivers, in 1970 Oregon voters passed the Oregon State and Scenic Waterways System by a two to one margin. The system originally contained six rivers but has grown through additional initiatives to include 19 rivers and Waldo Lake. These protected waterways represent only 0.34% of Oregon waterways.

STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS ARE MANAGED TO:

- Maintain free-flowing waters in their natural state.
- Protect water quality and quantity for recreation, fish and wildlife uses.
- Protect private property rights and property values.
- Preserve scenic and aesthetic qualities from the river perspective.





These cherished rivers provide clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat. We have a responsibility to protect our rivers for future generations to enjoy and experience as we do today.

State Scenic Waterways:

- Protect designated waterways and private property from commercial placer mining and suction dredge mining.
- Protect designated waterways and private property from the construction of dams and reservoirs ensuring the free-flowing character of the river for both landowners and the public.
- Protect private property rights and private property values by doing the following within a 1/4 mile buffer zone along the river's edge:
 - Encourage responsible development (in coordination with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department).
 - Promoting the preservation of the scenic river qualities for the health and aesthetics of the river.
 - Keeping private property and trespassing laws in place for land owners.
- Establish responsible allocations for new water rights usage so as to ensure the natural free-flowing state of the waterway.
- Define the highest and best uses of the waters within the Scenic Waterways are for recreation, fish and wildlife.

State Scenic Waterways Do NOT ~

- **It does not take away private property rights.** Land owners are able to make any legal change to streamside lands after a cooperative consultation with Oregon Parks and Recreation.
- **It does not** restrict the existing water rights along scenic waterways. Existing water rights are grandfathered in.
- **It does not** require the removal or relocation of existing structures, roads, or private property uses.
- **It does not** allow the public the use of private property without landowners consent (consistent with standard private property rights).
- **It does not** designate waterways as “Wild and Scenic”. Wild and Scenic rivers are a federal designation.
- **It does not** limit use of the scenic waterway for one specific group or activity.

