



# Molalla River Alliance

[www.molallariveralliance.org](http://www.molallariveralliance.org) | PO Box 727, Molalla, OR 97038

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## House Passes Bill to Include Molalla in National Wild and Scenic River System

The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly today in favor of the Natural Resources Management Act, conferring Wild and Scenic River status on the Molalla River and preserving thousands of acres of natural areas across America.

“This is a landmark bipartisan success, bringing Democrats and Republicans together on the side of conserving our nation’s natural treasures permanently,” said John Atkins, president of the Molalla River Alliance. “The Molalla River is a deserving candidate for inclusion in our country’s Wild and Scenic River System.”

The House voted 363 yes to 62 no in passing the public lands bill. With President Trump’s signature, it will conclude an 11-year campaign by the Molalla River Alliance, championed by Rep. Kurt Schrader and Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, to protect a 21-mile stretch of the upper Molalla River under the care of the Bureau of Land Management. Previously, the Senate voted 92-8 to pass the bill.

“These congressional leaders deserve our lasting thanks for their persistent efforts over many years to achieve this victory,” Atkins said.

The Natural Resources Management Act incorporates dozens of individual conservation bills sponsored by Democrats and Republicans from nearly every state. It also permanently extends the Land and Water Conservation Act, passed by Congress in 1965, which provide funds and matching grants to federal, state and local governments to acquire land and water resources for permanent protection.

The bill now goes to President Trump for his signature.

The public lands bill approved by the House and earlier by the Senate includes the Oregon Wildlands Act sponsored by Sen. Wyden and Merkley. It:

- Adds 250 miles of salmon and steelhead spawning tributaries of the Rogue River, along with other Oregon rivers, to the National Wild and Scenic River System--protecting them from future development, logging or mining on a permanent basis.

- Creates a 30,000-acre Devil's Staircase Wilderness in the Oregon Coast Range.
- Provides permanent protection for the Chetco River, a haven for endangered salmon, in southern Oregon.
- Creates a Wild Steelhead Special Management area on the North Umpqua River in honor of Oregon conservationists Frank and Jeanne Moore.
- Strengthens efforts by the BLM to protect Crooked River Ranch from catastrophic wildfire by releasing nearby acreage designated as a wilderness study area for active management.

The Molalla River Alliance is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization working to preserve the water quality of the Molalla, sustain its wildlife, fish and plants, and promote a safe and healthy environment that offers recreational opportunities for all.

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