

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 19, 2014

Agenda Item:	10a	Action
Topic:	2014 State Scenic Waterways Study	
Presented by:	Laurel Hillmann, Ocean Shores Coordinator Steve Kay, Grants and Community Programs Manager	

Background:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for administering the State Scenic Waterways Program, which is designed to protect the existing scenic, natural, and recreation values of 20 designated waterways throughout the State. OPRD is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been designated since 1988.

In September 2013, the Governor directed OPRD to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD and a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study.

The pilot study resulted in the development of three individual Scenic Waterway qualification reports. New State Scenic Waterway designations are permitted under ORS 390.855, which allows for the Governor to designate the waterways based on study and a recommendation by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and concurrence in that recommendation by the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

As concluded by the attached reports, both the Chetco and Molalla River study areas meet the required Scenic Waterway eligibility criteria and have significant public support for designation into the program. The attached report concludes that the Grande Ronde River study area does not meet all the eligibility criteria and has significant public opposition to the potential Scenic Waterway designation.

The success of each new State Scenic Waterway is dependent on balancing the waterway protection with the development rights of area property and business owners. It is also critical that OPRD and local proponents develop a strong partnership in environmental stewardship efforts and promotion of recreation opportunities along the waterway. Other OPRD heritage and recreation designation programs, such as State Scenic Bikeways, require strong, organized local proponents before earning an official designation. As OPRD staff studied the candidate streams and listened to public feedback, they realized the same approach is extremely advisable for scenic waterways.

Staff propose, therefore, that the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission only recommend the Governor designate a new state scenic waterway, and request concurrence in that recommendation from the Water Resources Commission, if three conditions are met:

1. The waterway physically qualifies, as described in statute.
2. Feedback from general public, direct stakeholders, and any affected county government supports designation, as described in statute.
3. An organized group, including local proponents, requests designation and present at least a basic management plan drafted in cooperation with OPRD staff or one of its advisory committees.

Of the three waterway candidates studied by OPRD staff in 2014, the Chetco and Molalla meet the first two conditions, as documented in the qualification reports prepared for Commission review and provided under separate cover. However, staff will ask the Commission to delay making a recommendation about their designation as state scenic waterways until such time as the third condition is met. In order to fulfill the third condition, OPRD staff will work with an advisory committee consisting of direct stakeholders and local Scenic Waterway proponents to develop a sound management plan outline, as is OPRD practice for other types of designations. During that time OPRD will work with staff of the Water Resources Department to support that agency's review of the proposals and development of recommendations to the Water Resources Commission to allow for timely concurrence with any future Parks Commission recommendation.

Prior Action by Commission: None

Action Requested: Receive Qualification reports, provide them to the Governor and Water Resources Commission [Department?], and direct OPRD staff to return with proponent-supported management plans by December 31, 2015 as a precondition for recommending the stretches of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers specified in the qualification reports for scenic waterway designation.

Attachment: Chetco, Molalla, and Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Suitability Reports

Prepared by: Steve Kay



**State Scenic Waterway
Report:**

Molalla River

October 27, 2014

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
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Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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- A Community Meeting Transcription**
- B Submitted Written Comments**
- C Online Survey Report**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for administering the State Scenic Waterways Program, which is designed to protect the existing scenic, natural, and recreation values of 20 designated waterways throughout the State. OPRD is directed by statute (ORS 390.855) to periodically study new waterways for potential inclusion in the program, though no new waterways have been designated since 1988.

In September 2013, the Governor directed OPRD to analyze at least three waterways for potential designation every two years. An initial screening of all Oregon waterways by OPRD resulted in a list of approximately 80 river segments which have the potential to meet the State's waterway designation criteria. Based on a broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders, OPRD's capacity to complete the waterway assessments, and to provide geographical distribution throughout the State, sections of the Molalla, Chetco, and Grande Ronde Rivers were included in the 2013-15 pilot study.

This Oregon Scenic Waterway study, conducted by OPRD, serves as the statutorily required first step in the process to possibly designate a new Oregon Scenic Waterway. That process, established by ORS 390.855, allows for the Governor to designate new scenic waterways following study and approval of the OPRD Commission and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This study document constitutes the first step - a report to OPRD Commission. This study, covering approximately 13.2 miles on the Molalla River, was done to accomplish two objectives:

1. Determine if the river segments meet the qualifications for designation as an Oregon Scenic Waterway (ORS 390.855); and
2. If the qualifications are met, outline, in *general*, what type of management designation would be appropriate for waterway, *if* it is found to be eligible, suitable, and ultimately designated.

Waterway Eligibility Findings

In 2014, OPRD evaluated the Molalla River during field visits using eligibility criteria established by State statutes (ORS 390.855). The river was rafted from a primitive put-in approximately 0.3 miles east of the Table Rock Fork confluence on Copper Creek to a primitive take-out managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approximately one mile north of the North Fork confluence during the optimal float season to assess the waterway's free-flowing nature, scenic characteristics, and recreational qualities. In addition to OPRD's on-river evaluation, other agencies, organizations, and members of the public also provided feedback on whether the waterway meets the required eligibility criteria. Public input was provided through submitted written comments, an online survey conducted by OPRD, and through discussions with agencies,

organizations, and community members. Based on OPRD's field visit and public input, the eligibility assessment resulted in the following findings:

- Based on the results of the study, the entire study area along the Molalla met the eligibility qualifications for an Oregon Scenic Waterway.
- All segments of the study area are completely free-flowing within primarily natural banks.
- The study area offers pleasing views of semi-primitive lands with a variety of geologic, plant and wildlife features visible from the river and present on the adjacent lands. The scenic quality as viewed from the river, as well as from the adjacent land, meets or exceeds the standard of "pleasing" with areas where the scenery is outstanding in nature. There are some cultural modifications (e.g., residential homes, the road) within the corridor; however, those that do exist are localized in nature such that their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general naturalness of the area.
- There is an abundance of wildlife on the forested slopes and the river supports important fish habitat.
- This study area offers camping and day-use, multiple Bureau of Land Management (BLM) camping and day-use areas adjacent to the river, recreational fishing and quality paddling during certain times of the year, with opportunities for boaters of a variety of skill levels.
- It appears that present recreation use is such that the river and its setting are able to maintain existing natural and recreational values, although the river is not without conflicts in a few more intensively used locations.

Public Input Findings

In addition to the evaluation of waterway eligibility, OPRD evaluated stakeholder and community input to gauge public support and understand issues and concerns associated with the potential Scenic Waterway designation. A webpage was established for the study to provide information on the waterway assessment process and to solicit feedback from the public. Community input was collected through a designated email address and through the development of an online survey for the waterway. A community meeting was hosted in Molalla on September 15, 2014 to review preliminary findings, answer questions, and obtain public comments. All property owners with the study area received an invitation letter to the meeting and it was advertised thru a news release and public notice in the local paper. Based on OPRD's analysis of public input, the following findings were identified:

- Public input received at the community meeting and through written comments indicates that there is strong support for designating the study area into the State Scenic Waterway Program;
- There was general consensus among community members that the waterway is free-flowing and meets the Program's exceptional scenic value criteria;

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff, organizations, and community members indicated that they observe significant recreational use of the Molalla River including fishing, dispersed camping, hiking, and floating on the waterway;
- BLM and the Molalla River Alliance identified that this reach of the Molalla River is similar to the reach being proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River;
- Molalla River Alliance indicated that the Molalla River is a prime example of a wild Cascadian stream and is home to the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the upper Willamette River system;
- BLM estimated that 50,000 annual visitors recreate on or near the Molalla River, participating in rafting, kayaking, hiking, picnicking, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and fishing activities.

Waterway Suitability Conclusions

Based on the OPRD’s eligibility findings and significant support for the potential designation, the Molalla River study area is a strong candidate for the Scenic Waterway’s program. Adequate seasonal water flows provide ample opportunities for floating and fishing along the waterway. Public access is provided at multiple locations along the waterway including Turner Creek Bridge, Hardy Cr. Trailhead, Cedar Grove Recreation Site, and Three Bears Recreation Site. Even during periods of low water flow, significant levels of camping, hiking, and fishing occur along the Molalla River. Although highly suitable for inclusion into the Scenic Waterways Program, the following issues should be addressed when considering designation of the Molalla River into the program:

- If the Molalla River study area is designated, OPRD should work closely with stakeholders to help them form a long-term proponent group for the waterway.
- The first project for the proponents, with assistance from OPRD, would be to develop a management plan for the Scenic Waterway. This is a required component of all designated waterways. OPRD would work closely with the BLM, Tribes, landowners, other agencies, the Molalla River Alliance and other interested parties in the management planning process if the river is designated.
- An important second project would be to develop a water trail guide to encourage environmental stewardship, promote outdoor recreation opportunities, reduce potential conflicts with private property owners, and promote safety when accessing the waterway.

STUDY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate a segment of the Molalla River in Clackamas County, Oregon, to determine if they qualify under the criteria of the Scenic Waterway Act for possible designation as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway; and to prepare information that would help inform a possible management plan for these river sections if they are selected as additions to the Scenic Waterway System.

Study Location and Area

The Molalla River has its headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in the lower west slopes of Oregon's Cascade Range in rural Clackamas County, eventually flowing after around 51 miles into the Willamette River near Canby, Oregon. OPRD is studying one ~13.2 mile upper river segment, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork and ending at Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon (Figure 1). The study area ranges from a high elevation at around 1196 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to a low at the Glen Avon Bridge at 528 feet above MSL, with a drop of about 51 feet/mile. Other major rivers in the general vicinity include the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, portions of which are both designated as both Federal Wild and Scenic and State Scenic Waterways. The study area on the Molalla River is shown below in red, in Figure 1, along with nearby State Scenic Waterways, shown in blue.

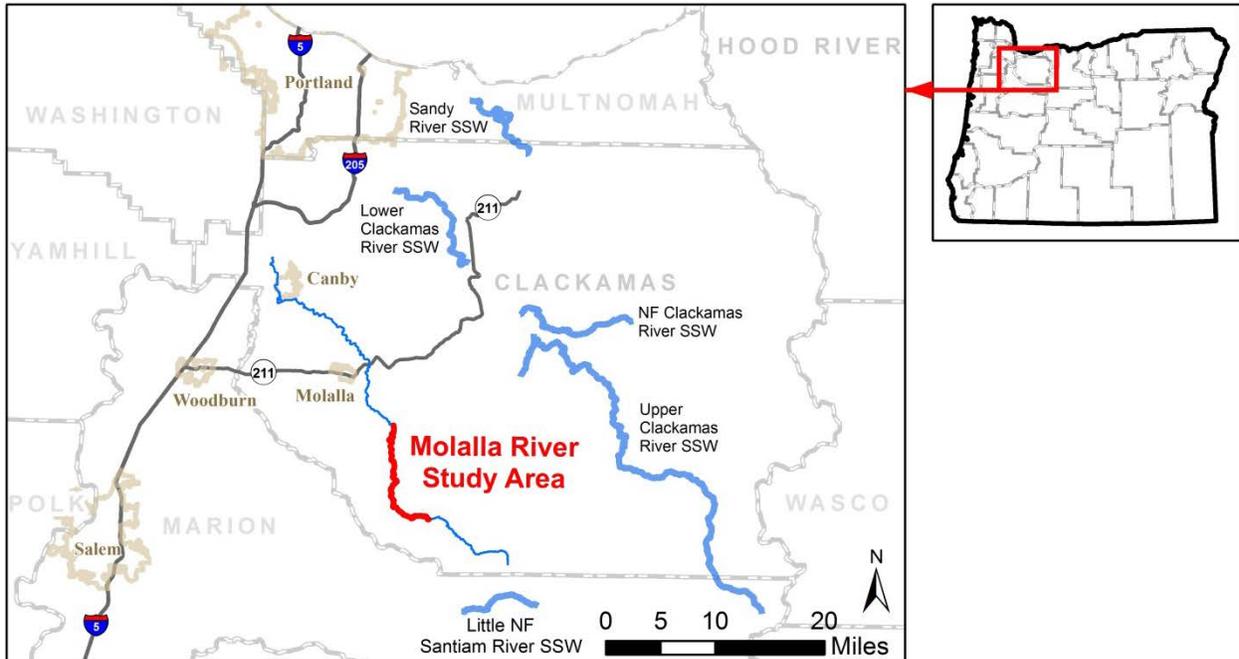


Figure 1. Location of the Molalla River Study Area in Clackamas Co., Northwest Oregon.

The Molalla River Study Area referred to in this report is defined as follows: The Molalla River and all lands within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of each bank, beginning at the confluence of the Table Rock Fork downstream approximately 13.2 miles to the Glen Avon Bridge, near the city of Molalla, Oregon.

While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients,

the lower thirteen mile study area is less steep as it flows through a series of pools riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). In some sections, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations, including a dramatic basalt rosette. The steep hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Copper Creek, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek. The North Fork of the Molalla enters the main-stem just below the study area. The upper study section is primarily composed of federal public lands, with some private industrial timberlands, while the lower portion is primarily private lands with a mix of rural residential development and forestry being the dominant land use types on private lands (see: Management Setting).

The free-flowing river provides drinking water for the residents of Canby and Molalla, is home to native fish runs including wild salmon and steelhead trout, and attracts a variety of recreational users. Only a day-trip away from the Portland and Salem Metropolitan areas, the Molalla offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, swimming/wading, kayaking, rafting, picnicking, scenic enjoyment and adjacent trail-use for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Fishing for salmon and steelhead is at its peak once the rains start along with whitewater kayaking, which extends through the spring. In the summer, swimming, fishing, camping, sightseeing and picnicking are the major attractions (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

The clear water, forested setting, and interesting geological features provide interest in the landscape and enhance the recreational experience of floating the river or enjoying its banks (see: Recreation). Thousands of visitors are drawn to the river for the geology and other scenic and recreational qualities of the river corridor. An approximately 15.1 mile portion of the upper river (and a section of the Table Rock Fork) has been proposed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River and there are several bills pending in Congress.

An evaluation of the various natural, scenic and recreational features of the study area was done. This information gathered following research, interviews and on-site observations was compared with the scenic waterway qualifications (i.e. free flowing; pleasing to look at, primitive, rural-pastoral; large enough to sustain recreation use without harming the recreational and natural resources).

Administration of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Program, established by a vote of the people in 1969, is administered under the authority of the State Parks Commission through the State Parks and Recreation Department (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). The scenic waterway program seeks to preserve, protect and enhance scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and cultural values possessed by each individual scenic waterway. The Scenic Waterways Act was created to strike a balance between protecting the natural resources, scenic value, and recreational uses of Oregon's rivers by designating them. The state program currently includes approximately 1,150 miles on 20 waterways (Figure 2).

The Commission's rules specifically outline the manner in which the Scenic Waterways Act is to be carried out. The Act and the Commission's rules generally require proposed changes of land use within ¼ mile on each side of the river to be evaluated for their potential to impair the natural scene. Property owners wanting to build roads, houses, develop mines, cut timber or do similar activities must notify the Commission in advance. Within one year of notification, the Commission must decide if the proposal will impair the scenic beauty of the river. The Commission relies on its rules for each designated scenic waterway to make the determination. Other local and state agencies must comply with the Act; and the Commission is instructed to study other rivers for possible inclusion in the scenic waterways system.

Filling in the river, removing soil and gravel from the river or changing the riverbank in any way, regardless of the amount of soil or rock involved, requires special prior approval of the State Land Board and the Director of the Division State Lands. The Director of the Oregon Department of Water Resources is required to insure that new water rights issued within the scenic waterway will be used only for human consumption, livestock, fish, wildlife and recreation unless adequate flows can be assured to protect fish, wildlife and recreation. Dams, impoundments, reservoirs and some mining activities are prohibited within the scenic waterway corridor including tributary streams within the ¼ mile boundary. The complete Oregon Scenic Waterways Act and Administrative Rules are available on the OPRD website at: www.oregon.gov/OPRD/RULES/Pages/waterways.aspx

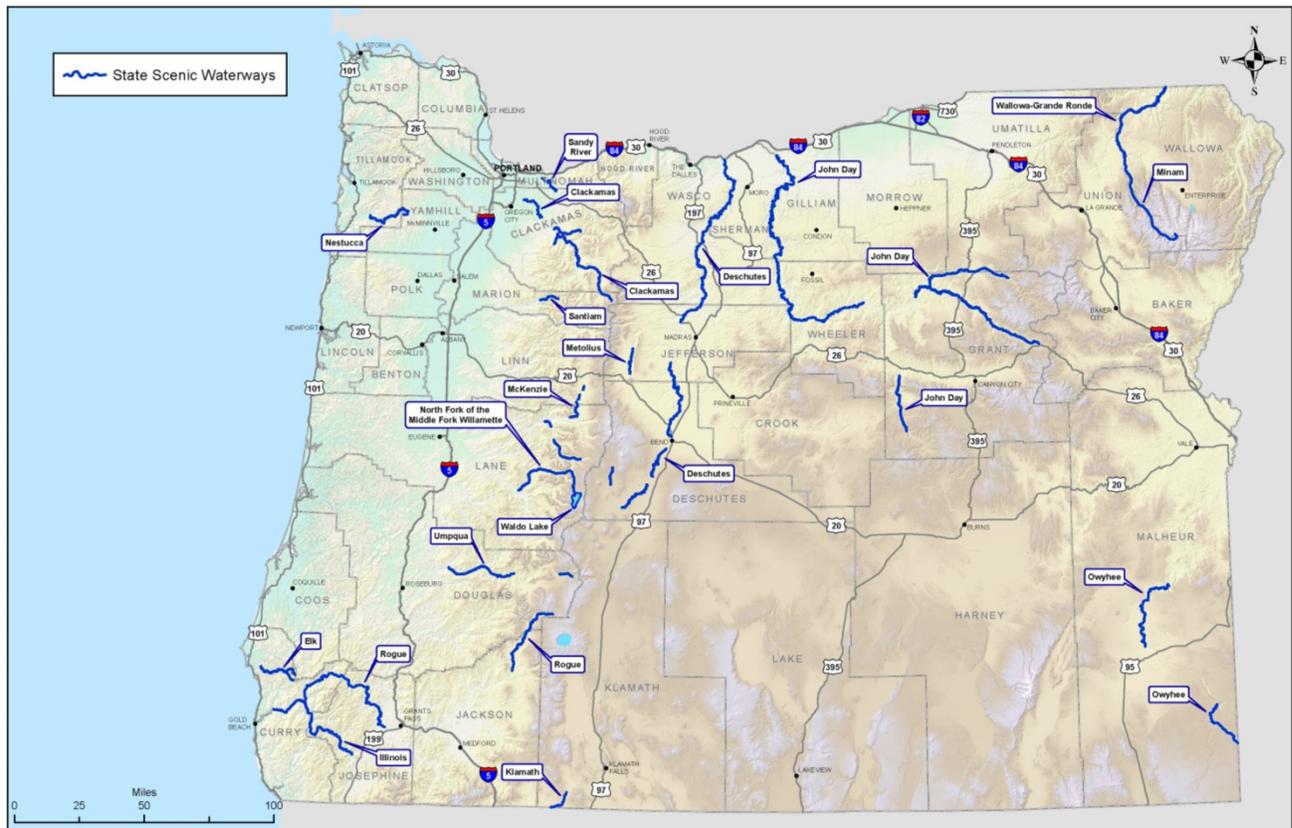


Figure 2. Oregon's Existing State Scenic Waterways System

Designation Process for New Scenic Waterways

The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act (ORS 390.855 to 390.865) establishes procedures by which new scenic waterways may be designated (Figure 3). The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is directed to periodically study rivers or segments of rivers and their related adjacent land that may meet scenic waterway qualifications. With concurrence of the State Water Resources Commission, the Oregon State Parks Commission may recommend to the Governor designation of additional scenic waterways. Favorable recommendation is necessary before the Governor may designate a scenic waterway. The Governor may or may not choose to designate the candidate scenic waterway. Scenic Waterway designation by the Governor becomes effective the day following final adjournment of the next or current regular session of the Oregon Legislature. The Legislature could (by joint resolution) act to void all, or part of, the Governor’s designation. Scenic waterways may also be designated by popular vote through ballot measures, and the legislative assembly may also propose additional scenic waterways directly through the usual legislative process.

ORS 390.855 establishes the three criteria for qualification which must be considered in the Commission’s study and report. Before a river can be designated a State Scenic Waterway it must be found to meet these qualifications, usually in an exceptional manner:

1. The river or segment of river is relatively free-flowing and the scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral or these conditions are restorable.
2. The river or segment of river and its setting possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality.
3. The river or segment of river and its setting are large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource quality or the recreation experience.

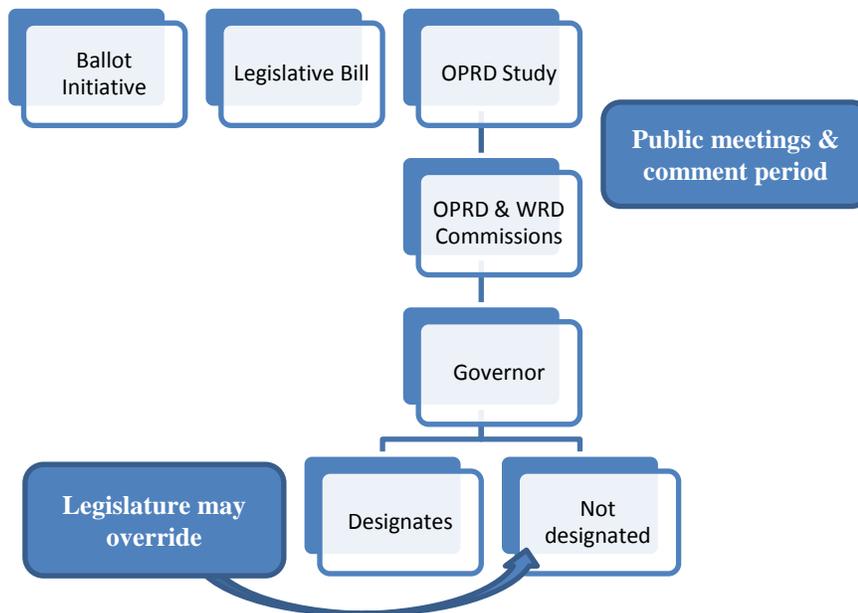


Figure 3. Oregon’s State Scenic Waterway designation options

Identification of Scenic Waterway Study Areas

Initial coarse level screening of Oregon's waterways indicated that this section of the Molalla River may meet the criteria necessary to be considered as a state scenic waterway. The Molalla River has been listed by the National Park Service (NPS) in the National River Inventory (NRI), a "listing of free-flowing river segments...that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance" since 1993 (National Park Service, 1993). The Molalla is listed in the inventory as having outstanding scenery, recreation and geology and is the longest free-flowing (e.g., no dams) tributary of the Willamette.

The river was also listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was found to have "outstanding recreational resources (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). A similar section has been nominated as a recreational river area under the Federal Wild and Scenic River program. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified by the BLM are recreation, scenery and geology (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The ORVs identified by the BLM are consistent with the qualities of Oregon's State Scenic Waterway system. The river is known for its unique geology and outstanding year-round recreational resources. The Molalla is on various lists of the best intermediate whitewater rivers in the state (Palmer T. , 2014).

Establishing New Scenic Waterway Management Plans

If the river segments studied in this report were designation as part of the Oregon Scenic Waterway System, the law requires OPRD to administer the area in order to protect and enhance the value which caused the scenic waterway to be included in the system. Management would be based on the "special attributes of each area" and give primary emphasis to protecting the scenic, fish and wildlife and recreational features. The aim of the program is to maintain the scenic "status quo" condition of the area without "turning back the clock" on land developments. If directed to do so by designation, OPRD would classify the rivers, or segments of the river according to the level of existing development, into one or more of six possible classifications. Once the classifications are set then specific guidelines for development are established as state rules. The classifications have been established by the Commission and are in use on other scenic waterways. The classifications and their general management direction are described as follows:

1. **Natural River Areas** are generally inaccessible except by trail or river with primitive or minimally developed shorelands. Preservation of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this classification.
2. **Accessible Natural River Areas** is reserved for relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by road or railroad. Management emphasis is to preserve the primitive qualities of the area.
3. **Scenic River Areas** may be accessible by roads but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. Management seeks to preserve the undeveloped nature of the area.

4. **Natural Scenic View Areas** are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character while the opposite bank is accessible and developed. Preservation of the natural primitive qualities are sought after by management.
5. **Recreational River Areas** are readily accessible by road or railroad with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks. Management is aimed at allowing development consistent with what is present while protecting the view and other natural features.
6. **River Community Areas** are highly developed areas of commercial or residential uses in natural settings. Allowing development with an eye toward maintaining the natural setting is the aim of management.

The rules established for each classified river segment generally allow continuation of the use of existing structures or improvements. In fact, though some improvements would require notification/review/approval by the Commission, many others do not. For example, on some other scenic waterways, notification and approval is not needed for construction of new fences; maintenance of farm buildings, fences or outbuildings; laying of irrigation lines; crop rotation; removal of danger trees; construction of grain storage facilities under certain conditions; maintenance of existing residences and outbuildings; minor residential remodeling; construction of garages adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in home site landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road-building, construction of some new structures, placement of mobile homes, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities requiring approval. River classification and the rules or guidelines that follow determine exactly how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

If designation on the Molalla River takes place, then further work will be done to specifically outline the details of how the river would be managed. Involvement of tribes, relevant state and federal agencies, landowners, recreation users, local officials and other interested parties would be essential. Public hearings must be held and the OPRD and Water Resources Commission must approve the final management plan. The following is the “best guess” of the appropriate classifications and management direction that could be applied to each river segment.

The study suggests two possible management classifications for the study area. The classifications—consistent with those found on similar stretches of designated scenic waterways—include a Scenic River Area and Recreational River Area. Management strategies for these areas are aimed at generally maintaining the scenic “status quo”, while allowing new developments that are unobtrusive, well-designed, compatible with the natural surroundings, and, in some cases, screened from view from the river by topography or vegetation.

A Scenic River Area may have nearby development, but for the most part is undeveloped and natural appearing. The dominant human influences in a Scenic River Area are agriculture and grazing. Roads may be nearby, but are lightly traveled and not easily seen from the waterway. A

Scenic River Area is managed to protect the scenic quality created by the combination of agricultural and natural features. Agriculture and recreation activities compatible with existing land uses are allowed.

A Recreational River Area contains mixed agricultural, residential and commercial development along the shore and adjacent lands. A Recreational River Area is often rural or pastoral in character and easily accessible from local roads. A Recreational River Area is managed to protect the view from the river, allow development consistent with existing land uses and provide for a wide range of recreational activities within the scenic waterway.

A combination of these designations would be generally consistent with existing federal management of these areas, which are managed as a recreational river (from the southern boundary line of T. 7 S., R. 4 E., sec. 19, downstream to the edge of the Bureau of Land Management boundary in T. 6 S., R. 3 E., sec. 7) as part of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. Although the river has not yet been designated by Congress as a Federal Wild and Scenic River, the BLM manages the river since it has been found to be both eligible and suitable for designation.

The Federal government defines "recreational river areas" are "those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines."

In general, development is allowed if it does not interfere with the natural scene from the river. On scenic waterways where the natural landscape is dominant, this means that development other than that requires screening. On other rivers where development is visible and dominant, development may be visible if it meets certain requirements for screening, density or use.

WATERWAY ELIGIBILITY FINDINGS

The approximately 13.2 long study area includes the Molalla River from confluence of the Table Rock Fork downstream to Glen Avon Bridge. An evaluation for the study area was done to determine how well it met the scenic waterway qualifications. The criteria (ORS 390.855) were broken down into specific scenic, natural and recreational factors.

The evaluation (see: Waterway Characteristics and River Segment Eligibility for Scenic Waterway Designation) uses a combination of tools to help determine how well, if at all, the segment is eligible for scenic waterway consideration (e.g., free-flowing nature of the waterway; scenic quality, as viewed from the river; and natural and recreational resources, including the ability of the waterway and its setting to sustain recreational use).

Decisions made during the evaluation of each segment were based on research of natural resource and recreational data available for the study area. Maps, aerial photographs, eye-level photography and video, on-site investigations (including floating the river, where feasible) and interviews with experienced users and recreation and natural resource managers including residents, local government officials and state and federal agency personnel.

Waterway Characteristics

Cultural Resources

Ethnographic Context

Archaeological research confirms human presence in the Willamette Valley by about 11,000 years ago. The importance of camas as a staple food is attested by the abundance of camas processing ovens, particularly after c.7000 BP. By 3500 years ago there is evidence for systematic burning in the valley, presumably to enhance the productivity of economic plants, especially edible seeds, nuts, and roots. This activity is accompanied by the notable accumulation of midden deposits, and formation of the "Kalapuya mounds" common throughout the valley. These features are thought to indicate a relatively sedentary lifeway, marking the initial development of the pattern of permanent villages documented in the ethnographic record (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Kalapuya Ahantchuyuk maintained settlements on the Molalla River. The Ahantchuyuk represented one of at least 13 distinct Kalapuya dialect groups who occupied the Willamette Valley at the time of contact. This linguistic diversity in the valley suggests that relatively stable resident Native communities occupied their valleys for a long period of time. Although the region experienced waves of fatal epidemics, those of the 1830s were particularly disruptive for Native lifeways and social organization, leading to relocations and re-combinations of formerly independent communities (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Kalapuya spent the drier portion of the year, from about March through October, in family camps situated in close proximity to seasonally available food sources. Family groups reassembled at permanent village sites during the winter months. Multifamily winter houses were built, and may have been rectangular, and made of bark, planks, or both, partitioned inside for each resident

family. Plant resources are emphasized as being the staple of the Kalapuyan diet. Chief among these was camas (*Camassia sp.*), a bulb of the lily family that commonly occurs in wet meadows. From June through as late as October, large quantities of camas bulbs were harvested by women using digging sticks, and baked in stone-lined pit ovens. Other important plant resources include seeds of tarweed and grasses, hazel nuts, and various types of berries. Intentional burning in the valley by the Indians kept the grasslands open and free of dense undergrowth, promoted the growth of valuable food plants, made easier the harvesting of seed plants, and provided open grazing for deer and elk which were subsequently hunted (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Molalla resided in the Western and High Cascades, along the upper stretches of river systems draining both sides of the range between Mt. Hood and Mt. McLoughlin. Winter villages were typically at the lower elevations, and include settlements on the Molalla River and on Abiqua Creek, a Pudding River tributary. However winter villages extended from “their legendary birthplace near Mount Hood to present day Oregon City and just east of Salem to the foot of Mount Jefferson (Johnson, 1999)”. Game, primarily deer and elk, constituted the single most important Molalla resource. Fish and vegetables were also important, as were huckleberries from highland zones. Molalla used speak and basket fishing to catch fish, including salmon and steelhead, herding the fish into the baskets (Johnson, 1999). Like their Kalapuya neighbors, fire was regularly used to maintain upland meadows, to directly promote the range of food plants, or to maintain upland browse for game (Connolly T. , 2003). The area near the Table Rock and Dickie Prairie is known as a culturally important area (both for tribal use and as a travel corridor) to members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde as somewhere where tribal members and their ancestors lived and as a gathering area, notably for beargrass.

The BLM found that prehistoric cultural resources in the corridor “support a finding of an outstandingly remarkable value” because of the large number of sites of regional importance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Historic Context

The earliest Euro Americans in the region were fur trappers, who frequented the Willamette Valley in the decades following the Lewis and Clark expedition. Thomas McKay came to the mouth of the Columbia in 1811 with the Pacific Fur Company, participated in establishing the American post at Fort Astoria, and subsequently worked as a trapper, guide, and interpreter for the Hudson's Bay Company. By the 1820s, some trappers began to settle on small farms in the northern Willamette Valley, especially in the area between the Willamette and Pudding rivers that came to be known as French Prairie due to the predominance of French-Canadians (Connolly T. , 2003).

The Barlow claim was reportedly purchased from Thomas McKay in 1848. Samuel Barlow and his family traversed the Oregon Trail in 1845, reaching The Dalles in September. There he learned that a boat to ferry them down the Columbia was not immediately available, and was likely beyond his means, so he and a few others, decided to attempt an overland route around the south slope of Mt. Hood. This overland route to the Willamette Valley, known as the Barlow Road, was reportedly the most difficult section of the entire Oregon Trail, but carried an estimated 75% of the early immigrants to the Willamette Valley. In 1854 Samuel Barlow deeded his 640 acre claim to his son

William, who established the Barlow town site on the family claim (Connolly T. , 2003).

In the early 1850s the current Indian Affairs Superintendent began to secure treaties with the Molalla, initially hoping to relocate tribes east of the Cascades (Johnson, 1999). The treaty of the Molalla, notable as the last western Oregon treaty, was written in 1855. An 1856 letter written by Joel Palmer includes some information about the area covered by the treaty that was eventually ratified by the Federal Government in 1859 (Palmer J. , 1856).

“the tract includes the western slope of the Cascade Mountains, and is drained by the waters of the North and South forks of the Umpqua River, Calapooias Creek, and the North Fork of Rogue River. It is very Mountainous, but contains it is said, good tracts of table land, and an occasional open prairie on the margin of the streams. The intrinsic value of this tract is by no means great, so far as know. It borders however a country destined to contain a dense population, and must ultimately be the source from which timber will be obtained for use of the settlement. So long as...these Indians reside there, collisions between them and our citizens could scarcely fail to occur”

In 1955, a federal register showed that 141 descendants of the Molalla were enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. In 1957 an executive order created the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation and the tribe remained a confederated tribe (of which there were ancestors of the Molalla) until the reservation was terminated and most of the lands were sold. Tribal members worked to reorganize and in 1983 the tribe was restored, along with a portion of the original reservation.

Bee Ranch, located near the start of the study area was originally a bee apiary in the late 1800's, whose owner, Henry Russell also built a cabin and bar of timbers floated down the Table Rock Fork (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). In the 1920's and 1930's the property was used for grazing cattle and at one point for both a fire guard station and camp for transient workers building trails in the area (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Natural features

Landscape

The Molalla River rises from the slopes of Table Rock, Soosap Peak and Goat Mountain in Oregon's western Cascades (Farnell, 1979). While the upper wilderness section of the Molalla River is characterized as having steep gradients, the lower thirteen mile study area is less steep as it flows through a series of pools riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The study area is a “transition zone into the Western or Ancestral Cascade” from the Willamette Valley (Alfsen, ND). Through much of its course, the Molalla River is currently cutting through the Willamette Valley and the channel is lower in elevation than the valley itself (Alfsen, ND). As the river runs below the study area, the character changes as the river widens up as it flows through semi-forested and agriculture lands in the valley before it enters the Willamette River near Canby.

In some sections, namely Horse Creek Canyon, and the area near the columnar basalt rosette, the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations. Various landslide (aka mass wasting) events into the river canyon have created the sequence of rapids known as the “Three Bears Run” popular with non-motorized recreational boaters (Alfsen, ND). The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Copper Creek, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek.



Basalt rosette on the Molalla River

The BLM found that while some of the features of the geology are unique but not outstandingly remarkable in regional significance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Water features

The Molalla River drains the lower west slopes of the Cascades in northwestern Oregon. The river flows in a generally west and north direction, and is tributary to the Willamette River. The Molalla is the longest free-flowing (e.g., no dams) tributary of the Willamette. From the headwaters of the river in the Table Rock Wilderness (~4800 ft) to where the river empties into the Willamette River near Canby (~70 ft), the river drops an average of about 90 feet/mile.

Precipitation in the area decreases from an average of approximately 100 inches near the upper reaches to around 40 inches closer to the mouth with the majority falling in the late fall and early winter in the form of rain, although there is some snow in the upper reaches (Bureau of Land

Management, 1993). Snow pack plays only a minor role in the storage of water in the watershed; however spring snow melt plays a role in peak flows, often peaking during rain on snow events (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The study area is snow-free for most of the year, allowing for year-round access and recreation (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Over the course of the upper river, the elevation drop brings the stream gradient to around 1.2%, with the gradient decreasing to an even milder drop of about .25% in the lower river, below the study area (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Major tributaries in the study area include the Table Rock Fork of the Molalla, Horse Creek, Bear Creek, Pine Creek, and Trout Creek. The North Fork of the Molalla enters the main-stem just below the study area.

The river is free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, or significant modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. Exceptions include modifications made for the roads, bridges, historic and current logging practices, and a few residential homes. The river is also naturally flowing (i.e., without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the in the Table Rock Wilderness Area in Oregon's Cascade Range to the Willamette River. The river has somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow various seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, rain on snow and to some degree, seasonal snow-melt.

A currently operable water gauge is located on the Molalla, however, it quite far from the study area, near Canby at river mile (RM) six where the discharge is about twice the flow higher up on the river, near Wilhoit (RM 32.5). The Oregon Water Resource Department no longer operates the Wilhoit gauge; however, its 58 year period of record is quite substantial (1935-1993). Average flows at that gauge were approximately 548 cfs, with a high of 24,300 cfs and a low of 18 cfs (Farnell, 1979). The quantity of water, as demonstrated in Figure 4 varies substantially over the year, with the late fall through early spring months having the highest flows, and late summer and early fall having the lowest. Below is a hydrograph of expected monthly streamflow near the downstream end of the study area (i.e., the area above the North Fork of the Molalla). These values represent modeled natural streamflow (50% exceedance flow) minus estimated consumptive use. For a detailed description of the methodology used to develop these values, please refer to the report titled [Determining Water Availability in Oregon](#) (OWRD Open File Report SW 02-002).

Historical information indicates that there were many sawmills in the Molalla valley, and at least three used the Molalla and associated tributaries for transporting logs, up to round River Mile 32 (there was a mill located near Shotgun Cr.) in the early 1900's, however, much of this type of activity occurred below the North Fork or on Milk Creek which was used as a natural flume for many years, starting in the late 1800's (Farnell, 1979). Based on his research, Farnell (1979) found that there were grounds to determine the Molalla navigable from its mouth to river mile 26.5, just downstream of the study area. However, DSL has not since conducted an official navigability study for the Molalla pursuant to ORS 274.400-274.412.

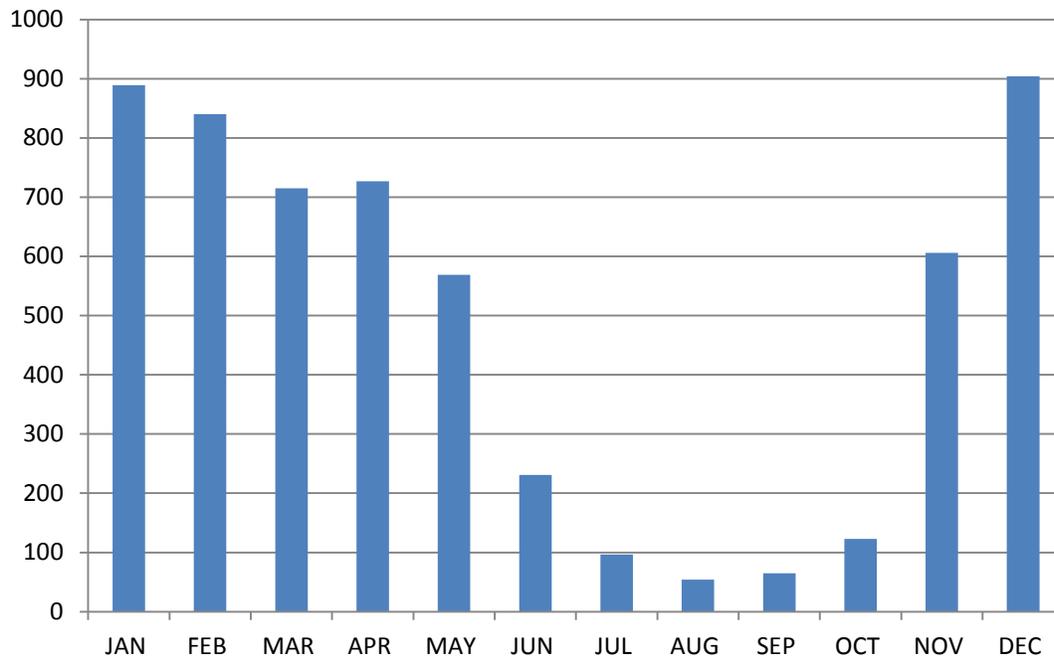


Figure 4. Water Availability Calculation. Monthly Stream-flow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) on the Molalla River, above the North Fork. Annual volume at 50% exceedance in Acre-Feet. Source: Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

The BLM found that while water quality is important for other outstanding resource values, namely recreation, the character of the Molalla’s hydrology is not unique enough to be outstandingly remarkable in regional significance (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The Molalla River is the source of water for the cities of Molalla (est. pop. ~8,000) and Canby, Oregon (est. population ~16,000). The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has found that the Molalla-Pudding has exceeded water quality standards for summer stream temperatures. To improve stream temperatures, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were established in 2008 that target recovery or maintenance of effective shade. The BLM is the designated agency responsible for monitoring water quality in the area (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Designated beneficial uses for the Molalla River include public and private domestic water supply, irrigation, livestock watering, fish and aquatic life, wildlife and hunting, fishing, boating, recreation, aesthetic quality, hydro-power, and commercial navigation and transportation (Department of Environmental Quality, 2005).

Ecoregion

The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support a variety of riparian and upland vegetation characteristic of the botanically interesting and diverse West Cascades Ecoregion. The ecoregions in the vicinity of the study area, shown in red, are shown in Figure 6, below.

The *West Cascades Ecoregion* is further described in the Oregon Natural Areas Plan (ORBIC, 2010) as

“...This mountainous, heavily forested ecoregion is bounded on the west by the farms and woodlands of the Willamette Valley or the drier forests and valleys of the Klamath Mountains. To the east, it spills over the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the drier pine forests of the East Cascades.

The crest of the Cascade Range is dominated by a series of volcanic peaks. In Oregon, Mount Hood is the highest at 11,240 feet, but a dozen others top 8,000 feet. The western slopes of the range feature long ridges with steep sides and wide, glaciated valleys. Most of the rivers draining the northern two-thirds of the ecoregion flow into the Willamette Valley and then to the Columbia River system; the southern third drains to the Pacific Ocean through the Umpqua and Rogue River systems. The climate varies with elevation and, to a lesser extent, latitude. Higher elevations receive heavy winter snows...

The ecoregion is almost entirely forested. Douglas-fir-western hemlock forests dominate large areas up to elevations of about 3,300 feet. However, most of the previously-harvested forests of the lowlands and lower slopes now support mixed conifer-deciduous forests, with young Douglas fir and western hemlock forests found in a mosaic with hardwood species such as bigleaf maple and red alder.”

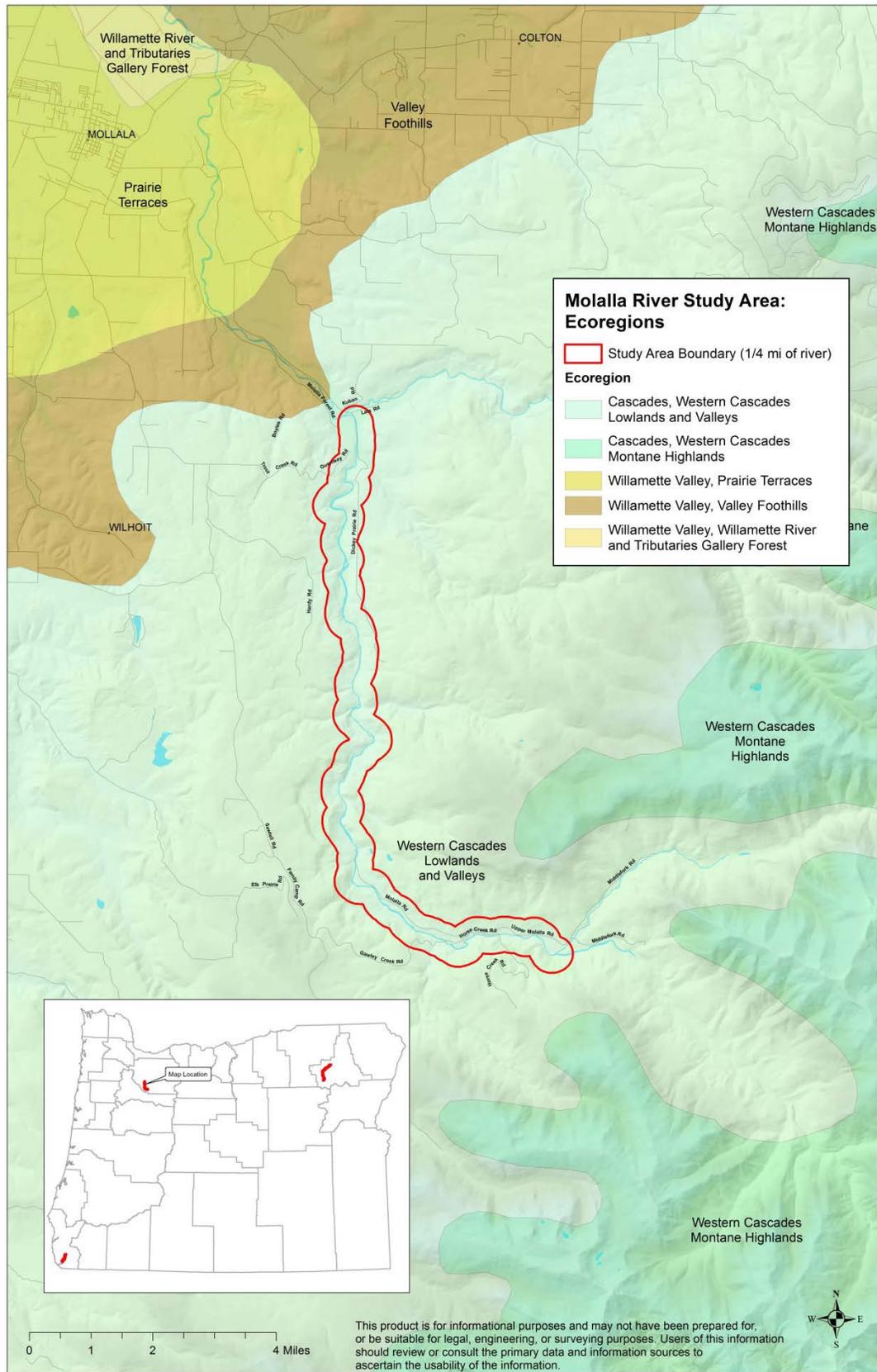


Figure 5. Ecoregions surrounding the Molalla study area

Vegetation

The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion.

Riparian vegetation of gravel bars and wet toe-slopes with soil is typically characterized by alder, douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, salmonberry, ninebark, ferns, bryophytes, and Scouler's corydalis. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest. Riparian vegetation associated with wet cliff walls is characterized by abundant hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages.



Vegetation along the banks of the Molalla River

Upland vegetation is primarily mesic coniferous forest dominated by douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, and red alder. Some steep and rocky peaks and ridges are home to Oregon white oak woodland and grassy wildflower meadows. Scotch broom and blackberry are sporadically abundant in upland areas. Much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, but some impressive late-seral forest is present. While much of the study area's uplands have been impacted by logging, unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas", many adjacent to the river (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).

Disturbed roadside fillslopes and cutbanks are visible from the river in many locations. The upper reaches of the river segment assessed are generally in better condition with respect to native vegetation than are the lower reaches. Lower reaches contain much more evident human modification and settlement.

At-Risk Plant Species

There is habitat for a few at-risk, but unlisted plant species including *Actaea elata* and *Corydalis aqua-gelidae* shown below in Table 1. The habitats present in the study area also support a number of listed wildlife species, described below in the fish and wildlife section.

Table 1. At-risk plant species in the vicinity of the study area¹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
<i>Actaea elata var. elata</i>	Tall bugbane		C	4
<i>Corydalis aqua-gelidae</i>	Cold-water corydalis	SOC	C	1

¹ Source: ORNHIC

C-Species of Concern; SOC-Species of Concern

State heritage rankings 1-4; 1=extremely rare to 4=concern.

Fish and Wildlife

The study area provides a diversity of upland and aquatic habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. Mammals of note include elk, black-tailed deer, river otter, and beaver. Notable breeding birds include northern spotted owl, osprey, golden eagles, harlequin ducks, and many neotropical migrants. Other wildlife include squirrels, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, cougars, bears, rough skinned newts, Pacific tree frogs, pacific giant salamanders, garter snakes, song birds, wood ducks, grouse, pileated woodpeckers, dippers, great blue herons, osprey, and mergansers. Wildlife values of local significance found to be interesting and unique include the presence of a golden eagle nest site and harlequin duck nesting area (Bureau of Land Management, 1993).



Northern red-legged frog, a sensitive species documented in the study area (image source: ODFW)

Aquatic species include a number of native and non-native fish species. The BLM's watershed analysis (1999) notes that native populations of fish in the river include winter steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarki clarki*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrocheilus*), longnose dace (*Rhinichthys*

cataractae), redbside shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*) and northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*). A list of at risk species is presented below. Non-native species include resident rainbow trout and stray hatchery summer steelhead trout (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). A list and discussion of at risk species is presented below.

At-risk Fish and Wildlife Species

At-risk wildlife species are those experiencing population declines or are otherwise at risk. They include federal endangered, threatened, candidate species and species of concern; state endangered, threatened, and candidate species; state critical and vulnerable species, and species with a state Heritage rank of S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability), and S3 (rare, uncommon, or threatened). The study area contains suitable habitat for a number of at-risk species and a number of state and federally listed species are known to exist in the area, including several salmonids (Table 2) and the Oregon slender salamander (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), which is a species of concern (ORNHIC, 2010). None of these species were found during the course of the present study, although specific animal surveys were not conducted.

This list shown below in Table 2 was developed by compiling documented species occurrences in databases maintained by ORNHIC, USFS, eBird, ODF, and ODFW, as well as potential habitat within the study area buffer determined from the Oregon GAPS vegetation project. Five species listed under the Federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area (Table 2).

Table 2. At-risk animal species occurrences in the vicinity of the study area¹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Occurrence	Federal Listing	State Listing	State Rank
<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	Western toad	Potential		SV CS	S4
<i>Aneides ferreus</i>	Clouded salamander	Potential		SV CS	S3S4
<i>Batrachoseps wright</i>	Oregon slender salamander	Present	SOC	SV	S3
<i>Rana aurora</i>	Northern red-legged frog	Present	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	Oregon spotted frog	Potential	FT	SC	S2
<i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i>	Cascade torrent salamander	Potential		SV	S3
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	Present			S3
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common nighthawk	Potential		SC	S5B
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV CS	S2S3B
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated woodpecker	Present		SV	S4
<i>Empidonax trailli bresteri</i>	Little willow flycatcher	Present	SOC	SV	S3B
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon	Vicinity		SV	S2B
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Harlequin duck	Present	SOC		S2B,S3N
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis's woodpecker	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B,S2?N
<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	Mountain quail	Vicinity	SOC	SV	S3S4
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed pigeon	Present	SOC	CS	S3B
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked grebe	Potential		SC	S1B,S4N
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple martin	Vicinity	SOC	SC	S2B

<i>Sialia Mexicana</i>	Western bluebird	Vicinity		SV	S4B,S4N
<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	Northern spotted owl	Vicinity	FT	ST	S3
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead, winter run Upper Willamette River ESU	Present	FT	SV	S2
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Chinook salmon, spring run Upper Willamette River ESU	Present	FT	SC	S2
<i>Bliabates oregonius</i>	Salamander slug	Present			SH
<i>Calliophrys johnsoni</i>	Johnson's hairstreak	Potential			S2S3
<i>Hemphillia malonei</i>	Malone jumping slug	Present			S3
<i>Megomphix hemphilli</i>	Oregon megonmphix	Present			S3
<i>Arborimus longicaudus</i>	Red tree vole	Vicinity	SOC	SV CS	S3
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	Potential	SOC	SC CS	S2
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired bat	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3S4
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared myotis	Potential	SOC		S4
<i>Myotis Volans</i>	Long-legged myotis	Potential	SOC	SV CS	S3
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	Potential	SOC		S3
<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Western gray squirrel	Potential		SV	S4
<i>Actinemys marmorata marmorata</i>	Western Pond Turtle	Potential	SOC	SC CS	S2

¹ FE: Federally endangered; FT: Federally threatened; FC: Federal candidate for listing; SOC: Federal Species of Concern; ST: State threatened; SC: State critical; SV: State vulnerable; CS: Conservation Strategy; S1: Critically imperiled in the state; S2: Imperiled in the state; S3: Rare, uncommon, or threatened in the state; S4: Apparently secure; S5: Widespread; B: Breeding; H: Historical occurrence; N: Non-breeding

The Molalla River is a natal stream for Upper Willamette River Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) chinook and Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of winter steelhead. Both species are unique in that their run timing coincides with high spring water flows that allow them passage over Willamette Falls, and from there to disperse to multiple sub-basins including the Molalla. Once past the falls, adults disperse through the waterways and “hold” in deep pools until spawning (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011).



Salmon seen from the banks of the Molalla R. (image courtesy of Mark Schmidt)

Chinook in the study area are severely depressed, and are at high risk of extinction, whereas steelhead are at low risk of extinction (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011) and the late-run fish are entirely native stock (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). About 20% of the Willamette Basin winter steelhead are produced in the Molalla watershed (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). Restoration actions that would benefit both anadromous salmonids species include increasing physical habitat structure especially via large wood presence, reducing fine sediments, improved access to wade-able streams, improving water quality through vegetative shading and reducing agricultural run-off, and restoring suitable spawning areas. For more information on chinook and steelhead, see the Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011).

Recreation

The Molalla was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having “outstanding recreational resources”, particularly for canoeing/kayaking, salmon and steelhead fishing and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including rafting, trout fishing, and “other recreation” which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). Boating, coupled with fishing and other activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Molalla River.

The BLM notes that recreation on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the river-related resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Key recreational uses that were found to be exceptional include fishing, day-hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, and swimming/wading. Other recreational uses noted include biking and nature study (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). The BLM found that the “presence of year-round angling opportunities is important (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)”. Recent estimates of annual visitation in the corridor are around 50,000 visitors per year, with much of the use occurring between May and the end of September (Bureau of Land Management, 2010).

Access

The study area is accessed by travelling east on Highway 211 following signs to Feyrer County Park to S. Feyrer Park Rd and onto Dickey Prairie Road. Once over the Glen Avon Bridge, primary access is along the S. Molalla Forest Road once it begins to run along BLM property, about 1.5 miles after the bridge. All recreation sites are accessed from this road. There is a parallel road on the other bank, but it does not provide recreational access. Major trailheads along this road with parking and restrooms are Hardy Creek Trailhead and Turner Creek Bridge. Others include Amanda’s Trailhead, Americorp’s Trailhead, Sandquist’s Trailhead, and Annie’s Cabin Trailhead. Paddlers typically put in for the “3 Bears Run” near Turner Bridge or higher up on the river for a longer run. Some kayakers will also put in higher up on the river (above the study area), both on the Table Rock Fork and for the challenging Copper Creek rapids known as Lightning Lonnie (Class IV) and Dungeon, located near Dungeon Cr. (Keller, 1998).

River access is mostly undeveloped, with the exception of pedestrian trails down to the river. There are no designated paddling access points, however, the BLM has it in their plans to develop a system of put-in and take-out locations to facilitate boating and improve safety. Potential sites for improvements (e.g, signing, pedestrian ramps for kayaks and rafts) include Turner Bridge, located within the study area.

Focal points

Most of the recreation focal points are minimally developed and dispersed locations within Molalla River Recreation Area, operated by the Salem BLM District. The BLM maintains several new seasonal campgrounds on the river banks in the study area including Three Bears Recreation Site and Cedar Grove, all access from the S. Molalla Forest Road. BLM previously had dispersed campground along the corridor but are discontinuing that now that there are dedicated campgrounds. The use-season for the first-come-first served campgrounds is mid-May to mid-September. Three Bears is located at the about four miles south of Glen Avon Bridge, approximately 10 miles SE of Molalla, Oregon. Activities include picnicking, swimming, scenic enjoyment, floating and other forms of non-motorized water sports, along with tent camping. Facilities include restrooms, fire-rings, picnic tables, potable water, restrooms and river access. Cedar Grove, a group-camp operated by special recreation permit, is located at milepost 6 on the Molalla Forest Road. Facilities include water, restrooms and 11 tent camping sites with fire rings and picnic tables. Groups of up to 40 people may stay at the group-camp with advance reservations through the Salem BLM District office. Trailheads (some with parking: P and restrooms: R) include: Amanda’s Trailhead, Americorp’s Trailhead (P), Sandquist’s Trailhead, Hardy Creek Trailhead (P, R), Annie’s Cabin Trailhead (P), and Turner Creek Bridge (P, R).

Important recreational features within the study area are presented in Table 3, including access points and key locations for various types of water-dependent and water-based recreation along the Molalla River.

Table 3. Important recreational features within the study area

Key feature	River Access	Fishing	Boating/ floating	Major Rapids	Swimming/ wading	Camping	Other water-based recreation
Table Rock Fk	U		X		X		X
Horse Cr. Canyon			X	X	X		X
Turner Cr. Br.	U	X	X		X		X
Papa Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Mamma Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Baby Bear R.		X	X	X	X		X
Annie’s	D	X	X		X		X

Trailhead						
Cedar G. Rec Site	D	X	X	X	D	X
Hardy Cr. Trailhead						
3 Bears Rec Site	D	X	X	X	D	X

X-present; U-Undeveloped; M-Maintained (e.g., some facilities); Di-Dispersed; D-Developed facilities in the vicinity of these key features/areas on the Molalla River.

Types of use

Annually, thousands visit the Molalla River Recreation Corridor for year-round recreation including hiking, kayaking and white water rafting, touring and mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, nature watching, or to simply enjoy the sounds of the river (Table 4). There are more than 30 miles of non-motorized trails which access numerous waterfalls and vistas.

The Molalla is well known as a recreational river for visitors from the surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland and Salem. However, it is also beloved by locals from Molalla and surrounding communities in Clackamas County for its swimming holes, scenery, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. The Molalla has two seasons of peak (and different) use. In fall and winter months, the primary uses include fishing for steelhead, primarily from the banks, along with whitewater enthusiasts and other day-uses like hiking. In the spring, while there is still enough water in the river, whitewater boating continues. The summer recreation season starts and use shifts to bank-based activities such as camping (in the past dispersed, shifting to developed campsites), wading, hiking, along with swimming, fishing and recreational boating (including inner tubes and similar inflatables) and sightseeing.

A summer recreation user study conducted for the BLM (White & Virden, 2007) found the most popular activities to be swimming (68%), picnicking (56%), camping (50%), trail-hiking (40%), and fishing (40%). Other popular activities include sightseeing, wildlife viewing/birding, horseback riding, photography and nature study. A small number of visitors were engaged in recreational mining, mostly hand-panning for gold. The majority of visitors surveyed are day-visitors, spending about five hours on-site with slightly fewer visitors (slightly under half) staying overnight (White & Virden, 2007). Most visitors noted that the Molalla River was the primary destination for their trip (79%) and that they travelled there in a group (93%). The majority of survey respondents noted that viewing the scenic beauty is very important to them along with recreation in the corridor (White & Virden, 2007). Respondents from the survey noted they come to the Molalla for:

- Natural qualities and features, viewing the scenery and nature;
- Opportunity for solitude/experiencing tranquility; and
- Unique recreation opportunities and opportunities to socialize

Table 4. Recreation use seasons within the Molalla River study area

Recreation Use	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fishing												
Camping												
Paddling												
Nature viewing												
Hiking, sightseeing etc..												
Swimming/wading												

Non-motorized boaters can float for much of the year on a variety of craft, including inflatable and hard-shell kayaks, canoes and rafts during the spring and on other types of flotation devices (e.g., inner-tubes) during the summer months. One commercial guide has been issued a permit from the BLM to run a limited number of small guided trips on the river in the study area. Experienced whitewater kayakers, canoeists and some on rafts paddle the river during higher water months (typically Nov-May, depending on rains), when the challenging Class 3-4 (and higher depending on flows) rapids of the Molalla River “3 Bears Run” surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Mama, Papa, Baby-Bear, Porridge Bowl, and Goldilocks rapids are a draw.



Kayaker on the Molalla River

Flows of around 2400 cfs are noted to be ideal for floating the rapids, however a range (as measured at the Canby gauge) of between 800-3000 cfs is provided to paddling enthusiasts (Keller, 1998). The river is most often run when the river is a Class 3-4 intermediate run but some “big-water” expert whitewater enthusiasts will float the river during higher water (e.g., 6500) when it becomes a more advanced run (Giordano, pers. communication, 2014).

During the study visit, the river was running around 2200 cfs, as measured at the Canby gauge (Figure 6). At these levels, one portage around one of the major rapids was necessary (for safety) but it provided an enjoyable and exciting rafting and kayak trip, with more opportunities to evaluate the area than would be afforded during higher water.

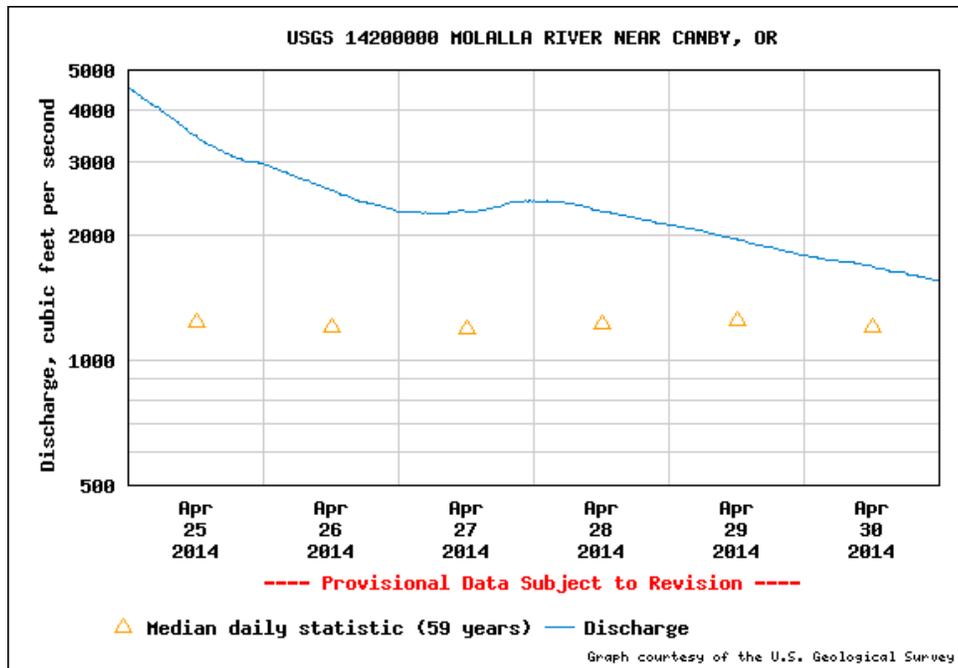


Figure 6. Water levels before, during, and after the study visit (April 28, 2014)

The river is no longer stocked (since the late 1990's), being managed instead for wild steelhead. The steelhead typically make their way in from the Willamette sometime between Sept-November. Fishing is open year-round for adipose fin clipped chinook salmon and steelhead (i.e., not wild) up to the Turner Creek Bridge. The season for non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead is from July 1-Aug 31. The river (up to Turner Cr. Br.) is also open for coho salmon all year. Bait is not allowed, except from May 15-July 15th, "in order to provide opportunities for spring chinook harvest while minimizing impacts to native winter steelhead and juvenile salmonids (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014)." The river is popular for catch-and-release fishing for wild winter steelhead, and the good numbers offer an "opportunity to catch this majestic fish in relative solitude. Limited numbers of naturally produced and stray summer steelhead may be present in the system in many of the same areas where winter steelhead are typically found (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014)." Although numbers are down, some fishermen still consider the Molalla "one of the best winter steelhead streams in Oregon", although much of this use occurs below the study area (Schuhmann, 2012)" where both bank and drift-boat fishing is popular. There is also some catch-and-release fishing for trout and bass, although much of this is on the lower river. ODFW encourages the use of single barbless hooks on the river and fishing allowances are all below the Turner Cr. Bridge (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2014).

The BLM's recreation user study (White & Virden, 2007) helps capture some of the major users and perceived conflicts on the river. The majority of survey respondents were very satisfied with their visit to the Molalla River. However, some issues were identified from the survey and BLM and BLM planning efforts including impacts on the upland areas due to a lack of managed camping and day-use sites. BLM's management focus in the area has been to develop and delineate use areas to manage the recreational use and reduce impacts to the areas. This has resulted in the

development of (2) new campgrounds and the closure of many pull-offs and user created river access trails.

Scenic resources

The view from the river and adjacent lands ranges from pleasing to outstanding along the entire study reach. The thirteen mile study area is less steep than the upper wilderness section of the river as it flows through a series of pools, riffles, and rapids (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Due to the geology and dense vegetation along the river, in many places the view as seen from the river is limited to a few hundred feet. However, in a few areas hillsides and more distant landscapes (e.g. mountains in the Table Rock Wilderness) are visible. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. In some sections, namely through a few narrow gorges, including Horse Creek Rapid, and an area of basalt canyon walls that surround the area known as the Molalla basalt rosette, or “eye of the Molalla”, where the river narrows as it crosses through rock outcrops with interesting rock formations.

The river is completely free-flowing within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads. The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural setting of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as “Bee Ranch” located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.



Bee Ranch property and structures seen from the river

The BLM notes that scenery on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas, setting it apart from other rivers (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Water clarity, interesting geology and hydrology combine to the overall visual quality of the river corridor.

Notable scenic features include (Bureau of Land Management, 1993):

- clear water with cascade and pool characteristics
- numerous vertical and near vertical cliffs descending to the river
- constricted canyon
- large moss covered boulders and diverse streamside vegetation
- proximity to major metropolitan areas (e.g., Portland)

During the study visit to the river, staff filled out field inventory datasheets to help document scenic quality and determine if the views were “pleasing” as required by statute. The methodology is based on those used by federal land management agencies (e.g., BLM, USDA-FS) to conduct scenic resource inventories and includes a description of various landscape elements, including landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and cultural modifications. Along the study area, three locations were chosen that help characterize the river-scape and they are described below in Table 5-Table 7. The region of comparison for determining scarcity is the state of Oregon, particularly other riverscape views.

Table 5. Scenic resource inventory of the view below the confluence of the Table Rock Fork

The view as seen from the riverbank is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view in remote-feeling, forested setting.



Landform	Molalla River in a wide canyon with steep (almost vertical in some places) slopes on one side and a bench with a braided high-flow channel on the other with large boulders, cobbles and downed trees.
Vegetation	Mature, partially old-growth forest with mixed deciduous (e.g. hemlock) and conifer (e.g., Douglas fir) trees. Seepy banks with mossy vegetation and fallen trees create visual interest.
Water	Clear water with class 2-3 smaller rapids, with pools and drops, braided high-flow channel. Small waterfall on the steep slope on opposite side of river.
Color	Variety of greens, bright to dark in the vegetation, Green tinted water with white rapids, blue sky, rust orange on the opposite banks, and brown cliffs. Grey rocks, some covered with mossy bright greens. Bleached brown logs.
Adjacent scenery	Riverbank, distant mountains visible.
Scarcity	Common, pleasing riverscape view typical of the Cascade foothills
Cultural modification	Small bridge, some evidence of past logging practices, doesn't detract from view.

Table 6. Scenic resource inventory of the view within Horse Creek Canyon, just downstream of Horse Creek bridge and waterfalls.

The view as seen from within Horse Creek Canyon is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river canyon view with interesting geology, in remote-feeling setting.



Landform	Deep incised basaltic canyon with clear waters of the Molalla River running through a (sometimes) quite narrow corridor. Steep, constricted canyon slopes with a forested setting.
Vegetation	Seepy sparsely vegetated, moss covered basalt walls, with some saxifrages, ocean spray, service berry, herbaceous meadow visible on top of cliff along with shrub zone and Douglas fir forest. Typical vegetation of W. Oregon. <i>Epilobium</i> flowering provides seasonal colorful accents.
Water	Clear water with whitewater, which is turbulent in areas, particularly within narrow chutes between large rocks. Some deeper clear pools and eddies, sieves, reversals and chutes.
Color	Bright to dark greens, grey basalt, milky green water, white rapids, blue sky with white clouds.
Adjacent scenery	Forested slopes (some young plantation forest) with views of Table Rock Wilderness and snow topped peaks.
Scarcity	The gorge-like narrow canyon is distinctive and interesting.
Cultural modification	None, some signs of historical logging (in the vegetation).

Table 7. Scenic resource inventory of the view from the riverbank below Goldilocks Rapids.

The view as seen from the riverbank is of high scenic quality; it is a pleasing river-scape view with interesting water features and landform in a forested, remote-feeling setting.



Landform	Molalla River with steep basalt canyon walls on one side of the river, a large rock juts out of the river, mossy covered riverbank on the other side, with a small sandy beach.
Vegetation	Conifer forest with cedar and deciduous forest riparian zone. Salmonberry, aster, monkey flower. Some willow, hazelnut, vine maple, nine bark, salmonberry, piggyback plant. Ferns, moss covered rock on the banks with monkey flower and <i>Montia</i> , <i>Claytonia</i> , and swordfern. 220+ yrs old in older areas.
Water	Rapids, milky opaque color to water, small waterfall, just below Goldilocks rapids.
Color	Mostly green (variety of bright to dark), brown in banks and tree bark, dark grey basalt, milky green water, white on water.
Adjacent scenery	Mixed deciduous, thick forested setting, road is hidden from view at this point.
Scarcity	The setting does not parallel the road, fairly common view, interesting rock formations.
Cultural modification	None

It is possible to obtain views *from* the river itself throughout the whole study area by floating the river, when water levels allow. Roads follow the river in some parts; however, some of it cannot be viewed from a vehicle or from the side of the road, but there are frequently trails down to the river.

More photos that capture the scenery of the Molalla River study area are available on the OPRD Flickr page at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/orstateparks/sets/72157646949323231/>.

Management Setting

Land ownership

The majority of the study area (~80%) is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and includes lands within the BLM’s Salem District, headquartered in Salem, Oregon. Much of the BLM’s current riverfront ownership resulted in a 1992 land exchange between BLM and Weyerhaeuser (Bureau of Land Management, 2010). The BLM has staff or volunteers patrol the area and will be having hosts at the new campgrounds, additionally as funding allows the Molalla Police Department patrols the area, particularly during the peak-use season. Private lands, which make up approximately 16.5% of the study area, include private industrial forest lands (e.g., Weyerhaeuser Company) along with a mix of other smaller timber holdings and non-timber lands such as rural residential, primarily near the end of the study area. Table 8 shows the break-down between public and private land ownership as does Figure 7 which shows the same thing spatially on a map.

Table 8. Approximate land-ownership within the Molalla River study area

Ownership type		Approximate percentage
	state	>1%
	federal	80%
	Total:	80%
Private	private	10%
	industrial timber	6.5%
	Total:	16.5%
Other*		2%

*Other includes gaps, water, roads and other things not attributed to a specific owner in the tax lot data.

The Oregon Department of State Lands, although it has not conducted an official navigability study pursuant to ORS 274.400-274.412, does have information from the “Farnell” Reports” including historical information relevant to the potential navigability of the Molalla River (Department of State Lands). The Molalla may be navigable (although not officially) from its mouth to river mile 26.5, just downstream of the study area (Farnell, 1979).

Land use

The majority of land-use in the study area is forestry and recreation, with some rural residential. Most of the private property in the area is zoned for “Exclusive Farm Use.” Much of the forestry is industrial timber, most of which is owned by Weyerhaeuser but there are also some smaller woodland lots used for timber and agriculture. The unincorporated communities of Glen Avon and Dickie Prairie lie mostly out of the study area beyond the Glen Avon Bridge, but a few homes along the banks of the Molalla are in the study area. A few of these homes are visible from the river; however, most of them are screened at least partially with vegetation. The only property on the upper section of the study area with a visible structure as seen from the river is the one known as “Bee Ranch”, other properties lower down include the Molalla Retreat and a few other residential

structures. The river in this study segment is crossed by several bridges and has a road paralleling it for much of the study area. However, the road is not visible from the river for much of the study area.

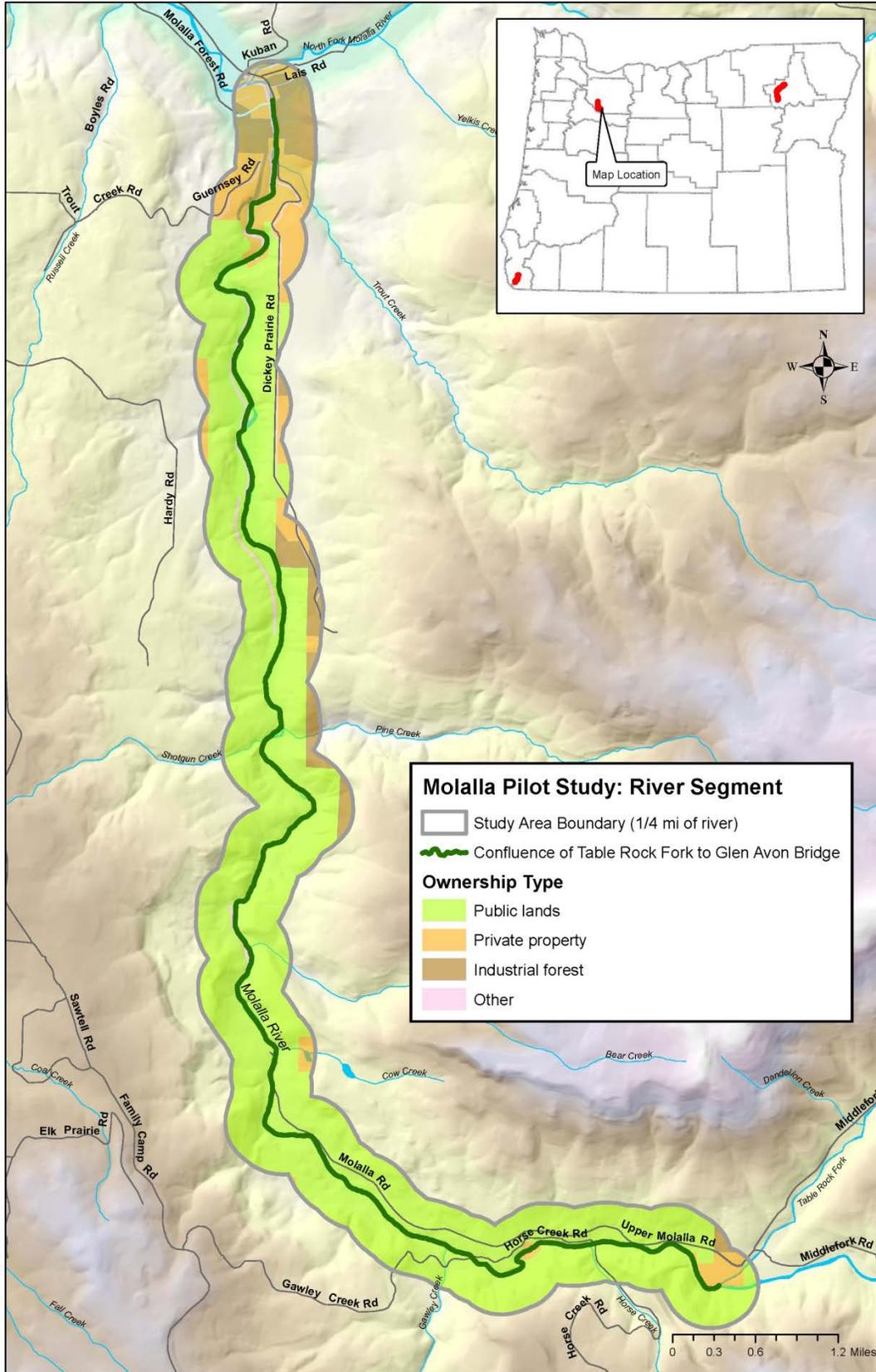


Figure 7. Approximate land ownership types within study area

Application of Waterway Eligibility Criteria

The entire study area **meets** the criteria (ORS 390.855) for eligibility as a state scenic waterway.

Free-flowing: The first criterion that must be met is that “the river or segment of river is relatively free-flowing.”

The Molalla River is completely free-flowing in nature in that it flows without impoundment, diversion, or major modification of the waterway along the entire study segment. The river is also naturally flowing (without dams or diversion) throughout the whole length of the river from the headwaters in the Table Rock Wilderness to the Willamette River (e.g., there are no upstream or downstream dams). Notably, it is the Willamette’s longest un-dammed tributary. The Molalla flows within natural banks, with the exception of minor cultural modifications made for the bridges and roads (e.g., some bank stabilization efforts including retaining walls). The river has generally regular and somewhat predictable flows, although as with almost all rivers in Oregon, flow varies seasonally but derives from naturally occurring phenomenon, including precipitation, and to some extent, seasonal snow-melt.

Scenery: The second criteria that must be met is that the “scene as viewed from the river and related adjacent land is pleasing, whether primitive or rural-pastoral, or these conditions are restorable.”

The scenery as seen from the riverbank and the river in the study area ranges from moderate, but pleasing to exceptional river-scape views with unique geology and clear water in a mostly remote-feeling (although it is close to the road in parts), forested setting. The BLM notes that scenery on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas, setting it apart from other rivers (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Water clarity, interesting geology and hydrology combine to create the overall visual quality of the river corridor.

The few developments that do exist are quite localized so their visibility does not detract noticeably from the general natural feeling of the area. A few bridges cross the river, and other developments along the river include some visible impacts from timber harvest and a few residential homes on private lands, although most of them are at least partially screened as viewed from the river. The only property with a visible structure as seen from the river (in the upper segment of the study area) is the one known as “Bee Ranch” located near the confluence of the Table Rock Fork (see photo, below). At the very end of the study area, a few more homes are visible from the river. In a few places where the road is close to the river, structures created for erosion control (e.g., retaining walls) are quite visible, albeit localized in nature. The remote feeling of the area combined with views of forested slopes and interesting geologic features combine to provide outstanding to generally pleasing views of the river and its surrounding scenery.

Recreation and natural resources: The final two criteria that must be met are that the river or segment of river and its setting must “possess natural and recreation values of outstanding quality”

and be “large enough to sustain substantial recreation use and to accommodate existing uses without undue impairment of the natural values of the resource or quality of the recreation experience.”

The Molalla was listed in a 1987 study of recreational use of Oregon Waterways in which it was listed as having “outstanding recreational resources”, particularly for canoeing/kayaking, salmon and steelhead fishing and to a lesser extent (substantial to moderate) other types of boating including rafting, trout fishing, and “other recreation” which included hiking, swimming, camping and nature viewing (Oregon Department of Transportation, 1987). Boating, coupled with fishing and other activities reflects the importance of water dependent recreation and other water related activities on the Molalla River. The BLM estimates that approximately 50,000 visitors are attracted to the Molalla River corridor from the local and surrounding metropolitan areas, including Portland, Canby, and Salem.

The BLM notes that recreation on the Molalla River is an “outstandingly remarkable value” due to the river-related resources of regional significance and proximity to major metropolitan areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993). Key recreational uses that were found to be exceptional include fishing, day-hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, and swimming/wading. Recreational opportunities include day-use pursuits (e.g., hiking, scenic enjoyment, picnicking) and camping at newly developed BLM campgrounds, along with seasonal recreational fishing opportunities. Fishing, as allowed by fishing regulations (e.g., below Turner Bridge), is primarily from those that hike-in or fish from the banks from one of the many pedestrian access points on public lands.

Recreational boating (e.g., kayaking, rafts and other float devices) is possible throughout this whole stretch during much of the year with multiple put in and take out spots on public lands. Boating is becoming increasingly popular in this section, with access possible via roads and floats possible for recreationists of a variety of skills levels, depending on the flow. During various water levels, kayaking the “3 Bears Run” is a regional favorite amongst intermediate to expert paddlers. Experienced whitewater kayakers, canoeists and some on rafts paddle the river during higher water months (typically Nov-May, depending on rains), when the challenging Class 3-4 (and higher depending on flows) rapids of the Molalla River “3 Bears Run” surrounded by unusual rock formations, including Mama, Papa, Baby-Bear, Porridge Bowl, and Goldilocks rapids are a draw.

Overall the recreation opportunities on this section of the river have the potential to be (and currently are) popular enough to attract visitors from beyond the local area, additionally they are relatively rare within the region with only a few rivers, like the nearby Clackamas, offer *somewhat* similar experiences. While several rivers in the region offer somewhat similar scenery, the diversity of recreation opportunities and year-round nature of recreation on this river is notable.

Natural resources of national and state importance exist in the study area as there are quite a few rare and listed species known to occur or that have the possibility of occurring because of habitat and proximity to known occurrences. Five species listed under the Federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts, and 31 federal and/or state sensitive species have the potential to occur or do occur in the study area. The steep and rocky hill slopes, canyon walls, and stream terraces of

the Molalla River support typical riparian and upland vegetation types characteristic of the West Cascades Ecoregion. The abundant patches of Scouler's corydalis are the most notable botanical point of interest in the riparian areas, which also provide visual interest especially in areas with wet cliff walls that have hanging bryophytes, ferns, and saxifrages. While much of the forest present on hillsides visible from the river has been logged in the past, some impressive late-seral forest is present and unique habitats include "rocky outcrops, cliffs, tallus slopes, wetlands, and riparian areas (Bureau of Land Management, 1993)."

It appears that the study area meets the criteria of possessing *outstanding* recreation values and that it is large enough to sustain the existing, substantial, levels of recreation use. The nature of the existing water-based uses and surrounding lands in the study segment indicates it meets the eligibility standards for recreation set in state statute. The importance of the river as important habitat for fish and wildlife should not be overlooked; the statue requires that both criteria be met.

PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS

On-going Scenic Waterways Program administration and promotion of waterways with statewide significance requires cooperation and collaboration between OPRD, stakeholders, property owners, and the local community. When determining whether the Molalla River would make a good addition to the program, OPRD reached out to members of the public to engage them in the assessment process and encouraged participation by offering multiple opportunities to provide input. The following methods were used to gather feedback on the study and to gauge public support for including the Molalla River into the Scenic Waterways Program.

Stakeholder Input

Early in the study process, OPRD engaged with property and business owners in the study area. Government agencies and organizations which may have an interest in the possible Scenic Waterway designation were also contacted. OPRD found that most property owners within the Molalla River study area were accepting of the possibility of new regulations associated with a Scenic Waterway designation. Most of the private property owners own commercial forests and are already associated with similar land use regulations administered by Clackamas County. Clackamas County has a river and streams overlay that restricts development and vegetation management within 50 to 200 feet, depending on the water way category. The Scenic Waterway study area falls within the 200 foot development restriction category.

OPRD reviewed preliminary study findings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a large land holder in the study area, to obtain feedback on the potential designation. BLM staff noted that many recreational activities occur along the Molalla River including camping, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, fishing, swimming, floating and paddling. BLM stated that they recently completed a new recreation management plan (2011) that is expected to increase recreational use of the Molalla River.

OPRD met with the Molalla River Alliance to discuss the Scenic Waterway study. They indicated that they are a non-profit organization that is focused on advancing habitat protection, salmon recovery, and family recreational opportunities on the Molalla River. They reiterated the recreational activities that BLM identified. They also communicated that the Molalla River is a prime example of a wild Cascadian stream and home to the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the upper Willamette River system.

Written Comments

OPRD developed a webpage to provide information regarding the Scenic Waterway assessment process and to solicit input on potential waterway designations. The project website and an email address for submitting written comments were advertised in a news release and through a public

notice in the local paper. At the publicized September 15, 2014 community meeting, comment forms were also distributed to members of the public. OPRD found that the majority of the submitted emails were generated through a national proponent campaign to express support for the designation of all three waterways. In addition, a postcard campaign was also conducted by a Molalla River proponent group to demonstrate support for the potential designation. An analysis of other individual emails, letters, and community meeting comment forms also show strong support for including the Molalla River in the State Scenic Waterways Program. All written comments that were received have been attached to this report as Appendix B. A summary of written comments in opposition and support of designating the Molalla River into the Scenic Waterways Program has been provided below in Table 9.

Table 9. Summary of the types of written comments received during the public comment period for the Molalla study area.

Written Comment Type	Opposed	Support
Individual Emails and Letters	2	7
Community Meeting Comment Forms	0	1
Email Campaign	0	164
Postcard Campaign	0	33
Total Written Comments:	2	205

Online Survey

From August 25th to October 15th, OPRD posted a link to an online survey for the Molalla River study area on the agency’s 2014 Scenic Waterways Assessment webpage. The survey resulted in feedback from 33 respondents. Surveyed participants were asked about what benefits or problems they associate with including the Molalla River into the Scenic Waterways Program. Through the survey, respondents could indicate support or opposition to one, two, or all three segments of the waterway being studied. Survey results indicated that 6% of survey respondents were opposed to designating one or more of the waterway segments, and 94% of the respondents were in favor of the designation. The complete results of the survey have been attached as Appendix C.

Community Meeting

In advance of the September 15, 2014 meeting, OPRD sent out a news release to all media outlets in NW Oregon and published a public notice in the Molalla Pioneer newspaper. In addition, a personal meeting invite was sent to 49 property owners within the study area along the Molalla River. An additional 19 adjacent landowners were called with a personal meeting invitation. The meeting was facilitated by OPRD staff and was attended by 8 members of the public. At the meeting, a short presentation was provided to describe the study process, preliminary eligibility findings, initial stakeholder feedback, and how the Scenic Waterways Program is managed by