



USDA Forest Service  
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

## Wild and Scenic River Inventory and Evaluation Process

*Last Updated April 5, 2005*

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that in all federal planning processes (such as Forest Plan Revision), consideration is given to potential wild, scenic, and recreational river areas.

The Forest Service Manual requires that the forest planning process address all rivers designated by congress for study, or identified as a potential wild and scenic river, wholly or partially on national forest lands. Each river should be inventoried and evaluated during Forest Plan revision to determine whether it meets the eligibility criteria as specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Process will 1) identify streams eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, as well as 2) the tentative classification for each stream.

The revised forest plans will provide management direction for protection of the outstandingly remarkable values of eligible stream corridors until a suitability analysis is completed. This is followed by a determination made by the Forest Supervisor whether or not to recommend streams for designation.

### How the Team Will Accomplish the Eligibility and Classification

**Step 1 Screening** – A comprehensive internal screening process identified potentially eligible streams on the Blue Mountains national forests. Resource specialists familiar with the streams and with the criteria for wild and scenic rivers systematically reviewed streams in their area.

If a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it was listed in the preliminarily eligible inventory. Outstandingly Remarkable Values are characteristics of a river that are unique, rare and/or exemplary within the region or nation.

**Step 2 Public Review** – The Forest Service will seek input on the preliminarily eligible inventory list and tentative classification during Round Three of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Collaborative Community workshops.

**Step 3 Documentation** – In the Revised Forest Plans, the Forest Supervisors will identify eligible rivers and river segments and provide protection of the free-flowing nature and the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for those streams until further suitability determination studies can be completed.

### ***Please stay involved – our success is dependent on your thoughtful participation!***

Round Three of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Collaborative Community Workshops will introduce our inventory and evaluation process, discuss some important contributions and constraints of wild and scenic rivers on the Blue Mountains national forests, and explain how the public can comment on the process. We will also provide an informal opportunity for people to review updated river information.

For Answers to Questions beyond your wildest dreams...  
Visit the Interagency Wild and Scenic rivers Website at:  
[www.nps.gov/rivers/publications.html](http://www.nps.gov/rivers/publications.html)



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**Wild and Scenic Rivers**  
**Summaries of Designated and Study Rivers**

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In 1988, forty rivers in Oregon were added to the Wild and Scenic River System with the passage of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Act specified that a comprehensive management plan be prepared for each river included in the Act. In addition, two rivers in Oregon and Idaho were included in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Act of December 31, 1975, to be managed in accordance with the provisions of the (amended) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

<b>DESIGNATED WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS</b>			
<b>River Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>		<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>
	<b>USFS</b>	<b>BLM</b>	
Eagle Creek	4.0 wild 6.0 scenic 17.0 recreation		Scenery, Recreation, Geology/Paleontology, Fisheries, Historic Cultural Resources
Grand Ronde River	17.4 wild 1.5 recreation	9.0 wild 15.9 recreation	Scenic, Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife
Imnaha River	15.0 wild 4.0 scenic 58.0 recreation		Scenery, Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife, Historic/Prehistoric, Vegetation/Botanical, and Traditional Values/Lifestyle Adaptation
John Day River		147.5 recreation	Scenery, Fisheries, Historic/Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Paleontologic
John Day River, North Fork	27.8 wild 10.5 scenic 15.8 recreation		Scenery, Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife, Historic Resources
John Day River, South Fork		47.0 recreation	Scenery, fisheries, wildlife, recreation
Joseph Creek	8.6 wild		Scenery, Recreation, Geologic, Fish and Water Quality, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources
Lostine River	5.0 wild 11.0 recreation		Scenery, Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife, Vegetation/Botany
Malheur River	7.0 scenic 6.7 recreation		Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation, Scenery
Malheur River North Fork	25.5 scenic		Scenery, Geology
Minam River	39.0 wild		Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fisheries, And Wildlife
North Powder River	6.0 scenic		Scenery, Recreation
Rapid River	26.8 wild		
Snake River	32.5 wild 34.4 scenic		Scenery, Recreation, Historic/Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Botanical, Wildlife, Geology
Wenaha River	18.7 wild 2.7 scenic 0.2 recreation		Fisheries, Geology, Scenery

### **Umatilla National Forest Study Rivers**

In 1992, the Umatilla National Forest resolved an appeal to the Forest Plan by Oregon Rivers Council and American Rivers, Inc. As a result of the settlement agreement, the forest committed to study the eligibility of 14 streams to determine whether these rivers meet the minimum requirements for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The resource reports were found in a draft format called a "Working Paper".

In early 2005 these Working Papers were reviewed by natural resource specialists who know the areas well to determine changes to the resources or to the potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values or to the potential classification of these streams.

<b>STUDY RIVERS ON THE UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST</b>				
<b>Study River Name</b>	<b>Segment Description</b>	<b>Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Potential Classification</b>	<b>Comments Based on 2005 Review</b>
Tucannon River	Forest boundary to headwaters	Recreation, Fisheries, Ecological/Vegetation, Wildlife	Wild, Scenic, & Recreation in 4 segments – 22 miles	No changes to findings based on 2005 review.
Clear Creek	Granite Creek to headwaters	Fish		Not Free-Flowing. Does not meet minimum eligibility.
North & South Fork Desolation Creek; incl. mainstem Desolation Cr.	NF and SFs Desolation Creek with mainstem	Fisheries, Recreation, Hydrological, Wildlife, Botanical/Ecological,	Wild, Scenic, & Recreation In 4 segments – 37.0 miles (appx)	No changes to findings based on 2005 review
Granite Creek	NFJD to Forest Boundary	Fish	Recreation – 9.8 miles	Determined to be free-flowing. Changes to findings based on 2005 review.
South Fork Cable Creek	Cable Creek to headwaters	None		Free-flowing but otherwise not eligible.
North Fork Meacham Creek	Meacham Creek to headwaters	None		Free-flowing but otherwise not eligible. No changes to findings based on 2005 review
South Fork Walla Walla	Forest Boundary to headwaters	Fisheries	Scenic – 15.7 miles	Change based on 2005 review
Lookingglass Creek	Highway 204 culvert outlet to Grande Ronde River	Fisheries, Hydrologic, Ecologic/Vegetation	Wild & Recreation – 15.8 miles	No changes to findings based on 2005 review.
North & South Forks Umatilla & Shimmiehorn Creek	NF and SF from confluence to headwaters, inc. Shimmiehorn Ck	None		Free-flowing but otherwise not eligible. No changes to findings based on 2005 review.
North and South Forks Wenaha	Mainstem Wenaha to headwaters	Scenery, Fisheries, Ecological/Vegetation, Historic		No changes to findings based on 2005 review.
Mill Creek		Municipal Watershed MOU City of Walla Walla 1918		No changes to findings based on 2005 review.

### **Wallowa-Whitman Study Rivers**

In 1992, the Wallowa Whitman National Forest resolved an appeal to the Forest Plan by Oregon Rivers Council and American Rivers, Inc. As a result of the settlement agreement, the forest committed to study the eligibility of 11 streams to determine whether these rivers meet the minimum eligibility requirements for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In early 2005, interdisciplinary teams made up of natural resource specialists who know the areas well, reviewed the resource evaluation reports to determine changed conditions that may result in a change to the Outstandingly Remarkable Values or to the potential classification of these streams.

<b>STUDY RIVERS ON THE WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST</b>						
<b>River Name</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Wild Miles</b>	<b>Scenic Miles</b>	<b>Rec Miles</b>	<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>Current status</b>
Big Sheep Creek	Recreation, Fisheries, Cultural (historic) resources	9.5		38.5	48.0	Values and classification remain
Dutch Flat/van Patten Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Ecology, Hydrology	9.1			9.1	Values and classification remain
East Eagle Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Geologic/Paleontological, Fisheries, Cultural (historic)	9.0	2.0	4.5	15.5	Values and classification remain
Five Points Creek	Scenery, Fisheries, Wildlife	12.0			12.0	Values and classification remain
Granite Creek	Scenery, Fisheries, Wildlife Vegetation/ecological,	12.5			12.5	Values and classification remain
Killamacue Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Ecology	4.3			4.3	Values and classification remain
NF Catherine Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife	10.5		2.5	13.0	Values and classification remain
Rock Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Geology	7.6	7.0		14.6	Values and classification remain
Sheep Creek	Scenery, Vegetation, Ecological, Fisheries, Wildlife, Cultural (pre-historic)	15.6			15.6	Values and classification remain
Swamp Creek	Fisheries, Wildlife, Cultural (historic)	8.0		9.5	17.5	Values and classification remain
Upper Grande Ronde	Recreation, Fisheries, Wildlife, Cultural (historic)	11.0		19.0	30.0	Values and classification remain

**Malheur National Forest Study Rivers**

In February 1995, Forest Supervisor Mark Boche directed the District Rangers on the Malheur National Forest to evaluate rivers and streams on their units for eligibility for wild and scenic river status. In May 1995, the findings were summarized by the recreation staff officer. This table lists the preliminary findings.

Interdisciplinary teams made up of natural resource specialists who know the areas well reviewed the inventory methods and the preliminary eligibility information in early 2005 to determine changes to the resources or to the potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values or to the potential classification of these streams.

<b>STUDY RIVERS ON THE MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST</b>				
<b>Study River Name</b>	<b>Segment Description</b>	<b>Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Potential Classification</b>	<b>Comments Based on 2005 Review</b>
Big Boulder	Headwaters to confluence w/Middle Fork John Day	Fish habitat	Recreational – 7.3 miles	Change in segment length and classification
Big Creek (Blue Mtn. RD)	Headwaters to confluence w/Middle Fork John Day	Fish habitat	Recreational – 10.4 miles	Change in segment length and classification
Big Creek/ Lake Creek	Headwaters to Strawberry Wilderness Bdry;	none		Re-consideration determined does not meet minimum eligibility
Granite Boulder	...to confluence w/ MF John Day	Fish habitat	Recreational – 7.2 miles	Change in segment length and classification
Little Malheur River		none		Re-consideration determined does not meet minimum eligibility
Murderer's Creek	White Creek to Forest Boundary	Heritage, scenery, fish habitat	Recreational – 14.9 miles	Change in segment length and classification
Middle Fork John Day River	Near Austin to Forest Boundary	Fish diversity and habitat	Recreational – 32.0 miles	Change in segment length
South Fork Long Creek	Headwaters to Forest Boundary	Scenery	Recreational – 7.5 miles	Change in segment length and classification
Silver Creek	From jct Forest Roads 4175 and 4170 to north end of Silver Creek Roadless Area	Botany, recreation	Recreational – 3.8 miles	1992 Ochoco Forest Plan Amendment established "Silver Creek Recreation River Corridor"
Vinegar Creek	Headwaters to confluence w/MF John Day	Fish habitat	Recreational – 9.8 miles	Change in segment length and classification

In 2005, interdisciplinary teams on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests performed a comprehensive preliminary review of the streams on their administrative units. Each team considered the perennial streams on their ranger district for the Outstandingly Remarkable Values according to definitions and descriptions of these values in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and as outlined in the Forest Service Handbook. A stream may be considered potentially eligible if it has at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value and is determined to be free-flowing.

Seven streams on the Umatilla National Forest were determined to be both free-flowing and to have at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value:

<b>UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST</b>			
<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Stream Length</b>	<b>Possible Classification</b>
Bear Creek	Fish Habitat and Populations	4.6 miles	Wild
Sheep Creek	Scenery, Fish Habitat and Populations, Botanical	0.5 miles	Recreational
Butte Creek	Scenery, Fish Habitat and Populations	13.9 miles	Wild
North Fork Asotin Creek	Fish Habitat and populations	13.4 miles	Scenic
Hidaway Creek	Recreation	11.3 miles	Recreational
Beeman Creek	Fish Habitat, Water Quality	5.2 miles	Wild
Junkens Creek	Fish Habitat, Water Quality	7.6 miles	Scenic

Ten streams on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest were determined to be both free-flowing and to have at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value.

<b>WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST</b>			
<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Stream Length*</b>	<b>Possible Classification*</b>
Hurricane Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Plant Ecology, and Geology	11.7 miles	
West Fork Wallowa River	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology, Geology	11.6 miles	
East Fork Wallowa River	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology, Geology	6.4 miles	
Trout Creek	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries	11.2 miles	
Little Minam River	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries	16.1 miles	
North Minam River	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology,	8.3 miles	
Horse Creek	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology, Geology	17.1 miles	
Lightening Creek	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology, Geology	16.9 miles	
Cow Creek	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries, Plant Ecology, Geology	14.1 miles	
Deep Creek	Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Fisheries	14.5 miles	

\*Information not yet available.

Two streams on the Malheur National Forest were determined to be both free-flowing and to have at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value.

<b>MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST</b>			
<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Stream Length*</b>	<b>Possible Classification</b>
Camp Creek	Fish habitat	16.6 miles	Recreational
Butte Creek	Fish habitat	5.1 miles	Recreational and Scenic