

# National Wild and Scenic River

## RESOURCE ASSESSMENT CRESCENT CREEK



August, 2015  
**National Wild and Scenic River  
CRESCENT CREEK  
RESOURCE ASSESSMENT**

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## **I. SUMMARY**

As a result of the 1988 Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a portion of Crescent Creek was designated as a Wild and Scenic River. Under this Act, the Forest Service is mandated to prepare a management plan to provide direction for resource management and to protect or enhance those river related values determined to be significant to the river environs. As a precursor to the management plan, this document, the Resource Assessment is prepared to: support the Congressionally designated outstandingly remarkable resource values and identify and determine the significance of resource values not addressed in the legislative history. The Resource Assessment will serve as the foundation for the river management planning process. It will also provide the basis for interim management within the river corridor by identifying those resource values requiring protection.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

In 1968, Congress passed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to establish a process for protection of outstanding free-flowing rivers. Crescent Creek was added to the National system with the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988. The rivers by definition, must be free-flowing and have at least one outstandingly remarkable value to be considered as a Wild and Scenic River. Geology was identified in the Congressional record as the outstandingly remarkable value of Crescent Creek. This value and all other river related values will be protected through the management plan.

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Forest Service is mandated to prepare a comprehensive management plan for the protection of those river related values identified as outstandingly remarkable. The total planning process for the management plan includes:

- 1) Development of the Resource Assessment for determination of outstandingly remarkable values,
- 2) Determination of the issues related to the river and its uses,
- 3) Translation of the issues into management objectives,
- 4) Formulation of alternatives to reflect those management objectives derived from the issues.
- 5) And an identified preferred alternative fully developed as the management plan for the river.

This plan must include management goals and provisions for monitoring the effectiveness of the plan in meeting resource objectives identified in the plan. All phases of the above planning process will be accomplished in compliance with the regulations identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). One essential element of NEPA is the involvement of the public throughout the planning process to reach a sound management plan.

## **III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT**

This Resource Assessment serves as the foundation for the completion of the management plan. The Resource Assessment supports which river related values are outstandingly remarkable and contribute substantially to the river setting or the functioning of the river ecosystem.

The Resource Assessment process provides a standardized approach for the evaluation of the river values utilizing criteria developed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Policy Group in cooperation with the Interagency Task Force (BLM, Forest Service and State Parks). The Resource Assessment will guide interim management, provide a basis for development of the river management plan and aid in the determination of the Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary.

The Deschutes National Forest assembled an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) to evaluate the potential outstanding remarkable values of Crescent Creek. (For a listing of those on the Interdisciplinary Team see Appendix C.) The IDT considered unique values and the degree of rareness at a regional or national level. Values must be river related in that they owe their existence or contribute to the functioning of the river system and its immediate environs. The team used standardized criteria against which river values are compared for determining outstandingly remarkable values. The IDT felt that the geographic region described in the 1989 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Oregon, within which Crescent Creek was located, did not represent river related environmental features that were typically found in Crescent Creek. The region contained rivers located west of the Cascades and environmental features varied significantly from those found in Crescent Creek. The IDT felt it was necessary to compare Crescent Creek with other rivers which displayed the same evolutionary processes, environmental features and climates as Crescent Creek. It was decided that Crescent Creek would be compared with rivers located in the region to the north which includes the Deschutes River of which Crescent Creek is a tributary. (See Appendix A for the location of the regions described in SCORP.) The list of resource values considered for evaluation include: Fisheries, Scenic Vegetation, Hydrologic, Wildlife, Geologic, Cultural Resources, and Recreation.

#### **IV. CRESCENT CREEK DESCRIPTION**

On October 28, 1988, the United States Congress designated 10 continuous miles of Crescent Creek as a Wild and Scenic River under the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The creek is located on the Crescent Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The State of Oregon did not designate any portion of Crescent Creek as a State Scenic Waterway in 1988 when several other rivers within Oregon were designated under a separate state legislative process.

The 10 mile stretch of Crescent Creek from the dam at the outlet of Crescent Lake to the west section line of Section 13, Township 24 South and Range 7 East was designated. Within the Federally designated portion, there are approximately 4.0 miles of creek flowing through private land. All other lands within the river corridor are administered by the Deschutes National Forest. The interim boundary of the river corridor is considered to be 1/4 mile on either side of the river and contains approximately 3200 acres. Final boundaries of the river corridor will be determined through the river management planning process. For descriptive and evaluative purposes, the IDT felt Crescent Creek should be segmented into 2 zones. (See Map in Appendix B). These two segment zones are follows:

Zone A: That portion of Crescent Creek from the dam at the Crescent Lake outlet to the Highway 58 crossing of the creek and legally described as the Southwest Quarter Section 11, Township 24 South and Range 6 East.

Zone B: That portion of Crescent Creek from the Highway 58 crossing to the end of the Wild and Scenic designation at the west section line of Section 13, Township 24 South and Range 7 East.

#### **V. FORMAT FOR DESCRIPTION OF RIVER VALUES**

The following format will be used to discuss each Resource:

##### ***RESOURCE NAME***

Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable

The description given is the criteria for which the particular resource would be determined to be Outstandingly Remarkable. These criteria were developed by the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Policy Group, facilitated by R-6 USDA Forest Service, and have been agreed upon for use in all Wild and Scenic River planning in the State of Oregon

## EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

A description of the Resource as it exists today by Zone if appropriate, on Crescent Creek

### *FINDING*

This finding is the result of the known data and determination by the Interdisciplinary Team with consultation with other specialists.

## **VI. SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF VALUES**

### **FISHERIES**

#### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat or Native Cultural use or a combination of these river-related conditions. Consideration shall be given for potential as well as existing values.

#### Habitat

The river provides or has the potential to provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal, or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

#### Populations

The river is internationally, nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

## EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION – FISHERIES

During the preparation of this resource assessment in the summer of 1990, data was being collected on the fisheries habitat and populations along the length of the designated portion of Crescent Creek. The data will not be analyzed before completion of this Resource Assessment but the data will be utilized in the final determination of the value of the fisheries resource and in the preparation of the river management plan.

#### Habitat

Zone A: The upper portion of Crescent Creek from the dam at Crescent Lake to the Highway 58 crossing contains suitable fishery habitat. Riparian vegetation; willows, alders and other species, have been maintained by the private land owners in the subdivisions along the creek and provide cover for fish. On the small portions of private land that are not developed for housing, elk use has impacted the riparian vegetation and stream bank stability. The elk use primarily occurs in the spring during calving season and it is on the migratory route between traditional wintering and summering grounds. There is a reduction in streamside riparian vegetation and some bank displacement is occurring. Historically, private land in this area has been used for cattle grazing.

Some logs exist within the stream creating hiding areas and deeper pools for resting. Some standing snags are along the river corridor and will provide future instream logs though the majority have been removed by the landowners for safety purposes. The flow of Crescent Creek is regulated by the Tumulo Irrigation District for agricultural uses downstream. The flow regimes do not follow normal, naturally occurring flow rates and fish populations are affected by these abnormal flows. The flows are significantly less than normal in the winter and early spring and increase throughout the summer until September when the need for irrigation is reduced. It is not known what effect these abnormal flow regimes have on the spawning habitat and resting pools.

Zone B: The lower portion of Crescent Creek is significantly different from the upper portion. Riparian vegetation; willows, birch and rose species, are larger and overhang a larger portion of the stream. There is much downed woody material within the stream channel creating pools for resting and hiding. Snags exist along the stream corridor for future recruitment of woody material into the stream. The streambanks are in good condition with overhanging banks creating quality cover. The flow regimes within this zone are affected by the release of water at the dam by the Tumulo Irrigation District. They are moderated by the contribution of water from Big Marsh Creek, a tributary of Crescent Creek. The creek has a higher gradient within this portion as it is channeled through the canyon between Odell Butte and Royce Mountain. The channel is relatively straight and large boulders are found in the channel.

#### Populations

Zone A: From the Crescent Lake dam downstream to its confluence with Big Marsh Creek, the fish populations of Crescent Creek can vary greatly depending on the regulations, snow pack and temperatures. This situation is due to the erratic and at times essentially non-existent flow from Crescent Lake. Tumulo Irrigation District holds water rights and controls the flow out of the lake to meet the agricultural needs of downstream water users.

Zone B: Below where it joins with Big Marsh Creek, Crescent Creek supports good populations of rainbow trout, brown trout and whitefish common to streams in the region. Rainbow are the dominant trout species between Highway 58 and Highway 61. Brown trout become the dominant species below Highway 61. No known populations of federally or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered or sensitive species exist in Crescent Creek.

#### *FINDING*

The fisheries resource of Crescent Creek is considered not to be outstandingly remarkable. Crescent Creek is not known nationally or regionally as a main attraction for anglers. Other streams of the region, such as the Metolius River and the Deschutes River, provide far better quality and quantity fishing opportunities.

Additional data is presently being gathered and analyzed but cannot be finalized before the completion of the Resource Assessment. Preliminary data indicates the resource value for fisheries is not outstandingly remarkable. However, if the survey reveals new information that could affect the valuation of the fisheries resource, it will be reevaluated. This information will be utilized in the final determination of resource values and in the development of the river management plan.

## SCENIC/VEGETATION

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

### EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION – SCENIC VEGETATIVE

Zone A: This portion of Crescent Creek flows through approximately one mile of Forest Service managed land and several miles of privately owned land. On the developed private lands, summer and year-round homes, docks and bridges and grazing related structures predominate the visual landscape. Along the majority of the length within the housing developments, the natural character of the river environment has been maintained and the natural riparian vegetation has been preserved by the private landowners. Incidental trash removal and general cleanup activities are part of the landowners maintenance of the river corridor. Small structures, such as sunning decks, are not intrusive on the developed landscape and do not detract from the overall quality of the developed recreational view. The landowners are preserving large standing trees around their homes, lending additional vegetation diversity. to the river corridor. The stream develops small loop meanders in this low gradient section. There are no unique or exemplary visual features within this zone.

In the area of outside the subdivision, the river corridor has a more natural appearance with some grazing related structures.

Zone B: Within Zone B, Crescent Creek flows through lands administered solely by the Forest Service. Just past Highway 58, the stream enters a canyon created by the ancient flows of Crescent Creek downcutting through the soil between Odell Butte and Royce Mountain. The channel is relatively straight and large boulders are present along a one mile stretch of the stream creating long views of the cascading stream. Riparian vegetation is limited in this segment by the steepness of the canyon walls and narrowness of the stream corridor.

A variety of conifers, Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine and some true firs, are visible from the stream. Large old growth ponderosa pines in excess of 24 inches in diameter exhibiting the characteristic yellow-bellied appearance are found scattered throughout the zone and add to the pristine quality of this segment. Several large rock outcrops found in the lower sections of the zone add variety to the overall visual landscape. As the creek exits the canyon, the valley floor widens and there is an increase in willows and rose species, which have grown to large sizes. Evidence of human activities and forest management are not seen from the stream corridor adding to the pristine quality of this zone.

Habitat types and ecoclasses are comparable to those found in other riparian related areas on the Crescent Ranger District. Intensive surveys of sensitive, threatened or endangered plant species have not been conducted and are not known to exist within the river corridor although some habitat does exist.

Outside the Wild and Scenic designation: Farther downstream from the section of the stream designated as Wild and Scenic, is an area of scenic and geologic interest that was originally included within the proposed Wild and Scenic-designation for Crescent Creek. This area of



scenic and geologic interest is the diversion of Crescent Creek approximately 4000 years ago by a lava flow released by volcanic activities. The relatively recent lava flow is clearly evident from the creek and the original streambed can still be observed downstream from the lava flow. Presently, a spring occupies the old streambed where it exits from under the lava flow. This unique feature, though referred to in the Congressional legislation, was not included in the final designation for Wild and Scenic and was not used in the determination of the scenic vegetative values.

#### *FINDING*

The scenic vegetative resource of Crescent Creek is considered to be outstandingly remarkable in Zone B. Scenic and vegetative diversity is unique with the steepness and narrowness of the canyon and the presence of old growth ponderosa pines. The diversity of tree species in the corridor and the presence of large outcrops and instream boulders add to the visual attraction of the area. The lack of seen human intrusion creates a feeling of pristine wilderness close to a major county highway.

## **HYDROLOGY**

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable

A description of the attributes for which a river would be rated outstandingly remarkable for the hydrologic resource has not been written, as have descriptions for other resource values. The interdisciplinary team considered source type, water quantity, and water quality as attributes which should be used to determine the significance of the hydrologic resource.

### EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION- HYDROLOGY

Zone A: Crescent Creek is the outflow from Crescent Lake. It is a slow moving stream with an average gradient drop of less than 45 feet per mile. It is regulated by the Tumalo Irrigation District for irrigation purposes. Temperatures are influenced by the regulated flows and average 42 degrees F for the summer months. Low flows are common during the months of October through April when the lake is recharged for summer irrigation withdrawal. High flows are usually moderate (averaging 146 CFS) during the months of June through September. Flows for irrigation purposes may exceed 230-CFS during specific times during June through September. There is talk of potentially allowing more water in Crescent Creek during the winter months to promote Oregon spotted frog habitat.

The sudden flush of water intensifies bank erosion creating siltation and sometimes destruction of private landowners' small docks or other structures. A more gradual release of water for irrigation purposes would reduce turbidity and sedimentation. The soils in the area are generally porous and absorb rainfall therefore the creek experiences very little fluctuation in the flow levels from rainfall.

The activity at and around the boat ramp located directly above the dam may influence the water quality of Crescent Creek. The location of docking and fueling facilities directly above the dam may increase the risk of the accidental release of minor impurities into the creek.

Zone B: This portion of Crescent Creek is below the confluence with Big Marsh Creek. The naturally occurring flow regimes of Big Marsh Creek moderate the effects of the controlled flows from Crescent Creek and the creek experiences fewer fluctuations. The tannic acid from the organic matter decomposition occurring in Big Marsh colors

the water a tea color downstream though the clarity of the water is maintained.

## *FINDING*

The hydrologic value of Crescent Creek is considered not to be outstandingly remarkable. The regulation of stream flows by the Tumalo Irrigation District directly affects the hydrologic resource and impacts the natural character of the stream especially in the upper portion. The naturally occurring flows of Big Marsh Creek moderate the regulated flows below the confluence with Crescent Creek and the hydrologic resource may not be impacted as significantly as in Zone A.

## **WILDLIFE**

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable

Wildlife values shall be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or Native American cultural use, or a combination of these conditions.

### Populations

The river or the area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or population of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could in itself lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

### Habitat

The river or the area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

## EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION – WILDLIFE

### Populations

Zone A: Wildlife populations are limited in the subdivisions to those which are capable of adapting to human development. The riparian vegetation remains in good condition in these developed areas though lesser furbearers normally found in the area are not present because of the development.

Outside the subdivision, a small herd of elk utilize the river corridor for calving and as a travel route between traditional wintering and summering areas. Historically during this period cattle grazing is usually not occurring. The calving area is considered to be comparable to other riparian areas within the region and is not regionally significant. Cattle grazing may also promote regrowth of grasses and may actually increase the palatable forage available for deer and elk. An increase in the rodent population may benefit hawks in the area by providing a larger prey base.

Zone B: The river corridor in this section has been determined to be primitive and the riparian vegetation is in good condition to support lesser furbearers and other riparian dependent animals. Use of the area by big game species is probable but may serve

only as a travel corridor due to the narrowness of the riparian zone and the steepness of the canyon.

#### Habitat

Zone A: The riparian vegetation within the housing subdivisions has been maintained by the private landowners and is in good condition. It provides habitat for those species with the capability to tolerate human presence and developments. Over the years cattle grazing has occurred on portions of the creek on private land.

Zone B: The riparian corridor is extremely narrow in this section of Crescent Creek in the canyon. It is expected that the corridor is too narrow to provide quality habitat. Because the area is not readily accessible due to the topography, human disturbance is minimal providing an area of refuge for local wildlife populations.

#### *FINDING*

The wildlife resource of Crescent Creek is considered not to be outstandingly remarkable. The lack of diversity of species in the Crescent Creek corridor precludes the creek from outstandingly remarkable status. The use of the creek by big game animals is comparable to other streams in the region and may even be less and it is not expected to be used as a wintering area.

## **GEOLOGIC**

#### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable

The river or the area within the river corridor contains an example(s) of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stages of development, represent a "textbook" example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic structures).

#### EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION- GEOLOGIC

Zone A: Today, Crescent Creek originates at Crescent Lake, but in glacial times Crescent Creek was a much larger and active river which drained a melting glacier at the site of Crescent Lake.

Crescent Lake formed behind moraines left by glaciers. These are hummocky hills of sand, gravel, and boulders left at the front and sides of the glaciers which last existed about 13,000 years ago. Below the moraines, great fields of sand and gravel were spread by the ancestral Crescent Creek.

At the same time glaciers occupied the site of Crescent Lake, glaciers occupied Big Marsh canyon to the south. The large, ancient rivers from these two glaciers spread large fans of sand and gravel over the land which Crescent Creek and Big Marsh Creek now flow through.

Zone B: After the confluence of Crescent Creek and Big Marsh Creek, the ancient river flowed between Odell Butte and Royce Mountain where it cut a deep canyon. Below the canyon, and outside the current designation of Wild and Scenic, the river spread a nearly flat sheet of sand and fine gravel over several square miles of land. In this area, meanders developed following retreat of the glaciers.

Outside the Wild and Scenic designation: About 4000 years ago, the Black Rock lava flow erupted onto the northern part of the flat plain of sand and gravel. The lava blocked a short segment of the river channel forcing the river to flow around the south end of the lava flow. The original streambed is still visible and a spring presently flows from this area from under the lava flow.

*The river channel in the area of the lava flow, though originally in the suggested portion for inclusion in the wild and scenic river status and referenced, is not presently and will not be used in the consideration of outstandingly remarkable values as it falls outside the designated boundary.*

#### FINDING

The geologic values of Crescent Creek are considered outstanding and remarkable because the geologic condition of the area is dramatic and of considerable educational value. Crescent Creek exemplifies a geomorphological area to enjoy and study the ancient glacial processes and landforms. Other streams in the region, such as Odell Creek, display similar geologic features as Crescent Creek. For this reason, Crescent Creek represents outstanding and remarkable values for the region, worth preserving because of its outstanding geologic values for the enjoyment and scientific study of the considerable variety of glacial and erosional processes and landforms for present and future generations.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Criteria for Outstanding Remarkable

#### Prehistoric

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Historic

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. An historic site or feature is designated when the age is 50 years old or older. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or are eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.  
Traditional Use, Cultural

The river or area within the river corridor contains regionally unique location(s) of importance to Indian tribes (religious activities, fishing, hunting, and gathering). Locations may have unusual characteristics or exceptional cultural value being integral to continued pursuit of such activities. Locations may have been associated with treaty rights on ceded lands or activities unprotected by treaty on ceded lands or in traditional territories outside ceded lands.

### EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION - CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Prehistoric

#### Both Zones:

Approximately 41 percent of the FS lands within the Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River (WSR) boundary have been subject to an adequate level of cultural resource inventory surveys. This inventory yielded the presence of all or portions of 12 archaeological sites within the WSR boundary.

Four of the sites are from the precontact era, five are within the historic period, and three of the sites have evidence from both periods. Eleven of the 12 sites are evaluated relevant to their National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status. Nine of the sites are deemed eligible and two sites are considered not eligible. One site remains unevaluated due to a lack of information.

Test excavations at one of the sites (represented by just a small portion of this 36-acre site) revealed two prehistoric cultural components. The earlier components lies beneath an airfall deposit of volcanic tephra from the circa 7627 year old eruption of Mt. Mazama (now known as Crater Lake). Radiocarbon analysis places the known occupation at roughly 8000 years ago. The more recent cultural component is visible on undisturbed surfaces and represents occupations subsequent to the Mazama event, from about 5000 years ago to the time of contact between Euro-Americans and native peoples.

Analysis of these sites indicates they are typical with respect to others found in the region. The number of sites found, within the areas surveyed, is similar to other areas. At this time, no rock shelter or rock art sites are found within the area surveyed. Rock shelters and rock art of significant size and character are found at other sites within the Region along many streams (i.e., the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers and Whychus Creek).

The Klamath Trail is a route between the Klamath basin and the Columbia River (centered around Celilo Falls) used by the Warm Springs, the Paiute, and the Klamath Tribes. The exact location of this trail in relation to the river and its corridor is unknown.

#### Historic

##### Both Zones:

The first settlement of the Crescent Creek area began in the mid-1800s with the establishment of early wagon roads and several homesteads. The developments were in relation to settlement, sheep and cattle grazing, town sites for railroad and highway construction, sawmills, and other forest product manufacturing. Most of these developments were along the creek from the outlet at Crescent Lake to the lava flow north of the Crescent Cutoff Road. Portions of the creek within the designated area are in private ownership.

The remains of the original homes and businesses are few and in poor condition. Most of the information has been published about the historic activities in the area.

#### Traditional Uses

##### Both Zones:

Data is currently being gathered to verify any traditional use by local tribes. At present, the known data is limited because there is little use of the area by the tribes. The Crescent Creek area is claimed by the Warm Springs Tribes and the Klamath Tribes as an area to which they have rights, i.e. subsistence, water, gathering, ceded lands. Subsistence hunting for elk, deer, and bear may occur within the area. The religious rights and uses of the area are unknown.

#### *FINDING*

The cultural resources of Crescent Creek are not considered outstandingly remarkable. Prehistoric sites have been found along Crescent Creek but the type of site and number of sites is not regionally unique or outstanding.

The historic development of these areas occurred similar to many other areas within the region; in fact, it was settled later than some other areas. No major attraction, such as gold or silver, was found to encourage development of these areas, as occurred in many others. The CCC camp facility at Odell Lake was like others within the region, but little evidence remains today. The historic resources of Crescent Creek are felt to be significant to the local area, but not outstanding within the region.

The traditional use values of these creeks and river were determined to be of significant value, but not outstanding within the region. Food gathering of greater significance occurs in areas on the Ochoco National Forest. Fishing activities of greater significance occur at sites such as Shearers Falls on the Lower Deschutes River. Religious use sites are found throughout the region and are similar to those found in the area. A final rating of the cultural value will be made upon completion of an overview with various tribal groups.

[Revised from Steece 1990 by Leslie Hickerson, 28 July 2015]

## RECREATION

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to sightseeing, wildlife observation, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating.

Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic region.

The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

### EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION – RECREATION

Zone A: Crescent Creek recreational opportunities for the public are limited by low/unpredictable flows and access limited by private land ownership. The developed recreation use which is occurring in this zone is predominately associated with the summer cabins and residences on private land. In the housing subdivisions, signs, streamside platforms/patios, and fences are common and present a developed recreational character while still maintaining some natural scenic river attributes.

Zone B: This section of Crescent Creek is relatively inaccessible except at Highway 58, the County road and from the Crescent Creek Campground. Crescent Creek campground is adjacent to the designated portion of Crescent Creek and is a moderately developed camp area. Picnic tables, fire rings and vault toilets are provided. Presently, no trail exists to provide access to the whole segment and the steep topography limits access except to those hikers of a more adventurous nature. Canoeing or floating the length of this zone is difficult to impossible due to the numerous large log jams that cannot be passed except by portaging. Some recreational fishing is occurring on either end of the zone in the more accessible portions.

### *FINDING*

The recreational values of Crescent Creek are considered not to be outstandingly remarkable. The quality and character of the area are not unique to the region and though people outside the region visit the area, the use is not significant and is associated with the use of the Crescent Lake facilities and housing subdivisions and not related only to the creek.

## VII. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

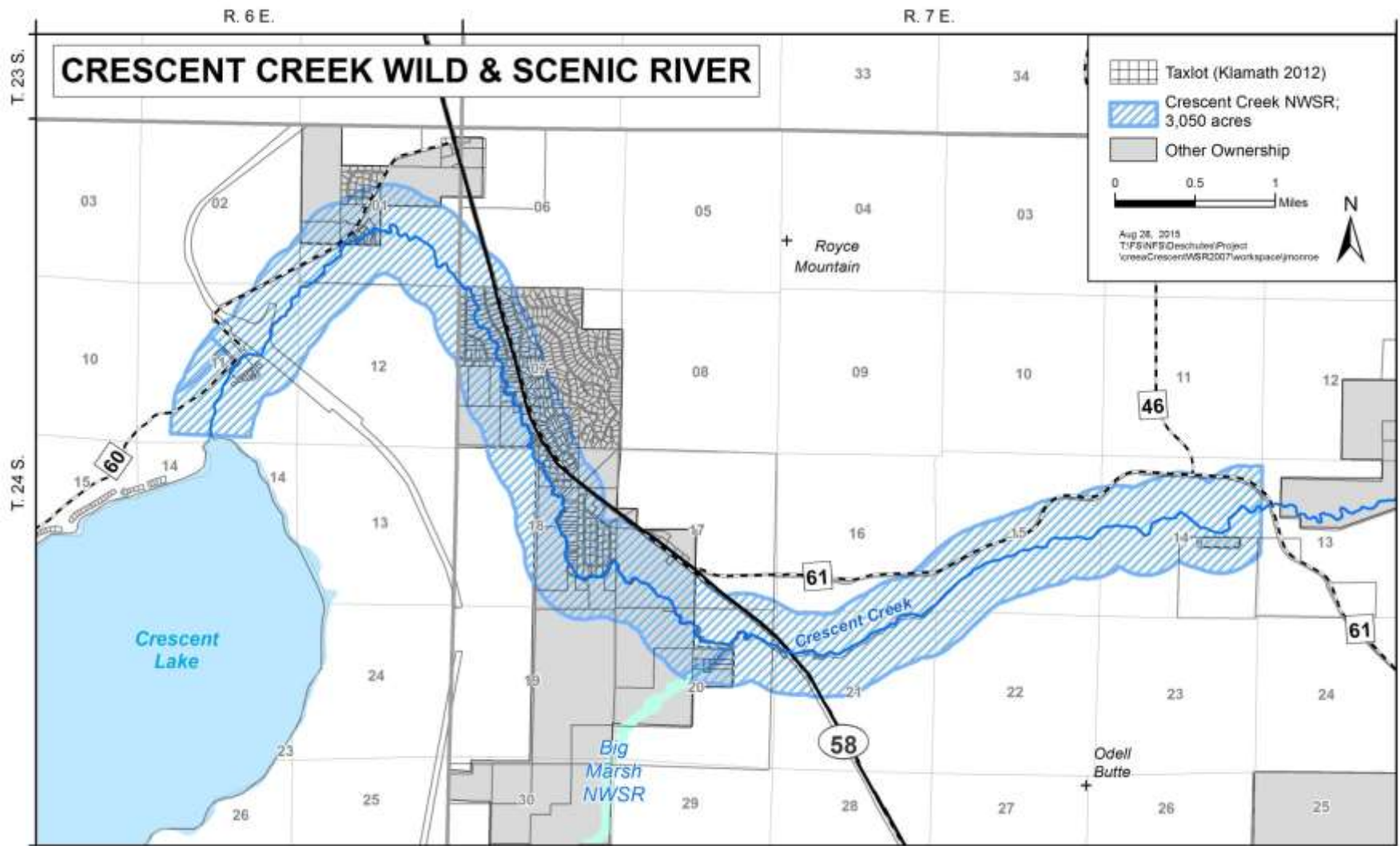
The findings of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for this Resource Assessment for Crescent

Creek are consistent with the findings identified within the Congressional Record. As stated under the geology category, the feature identified as outstandingly remarkable is included within the Wild and Scenic designated corridor.

The Scenic category was adjusted to include vegetation characteristics of the river corridor. It was identified as outstandingly remarkable because of the uniqueness of the narrow canyon and the presence of old growth ponderosa pines larger than 24 inches in diameter. The visual diversity within this canyon is not common to the area and creates a pristine feeling.

In most cases, existing private land uses are consistent with Wild and Scenic River goals. In the administration of Wild and Scenic Rivers, the federal agencies must make efforts to inform the public about where private lands are located, that private lands are not open to public use, that existing private land uses are legitimate, and that private land owner rights must be respected and protected. The local landowners are managing the land with wildlife species in mind and the continued use of the area by a variety of wildlife species attest to the landowners' management.

# APPENDIX A: Map of Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River





## APPENDIX B: Deschutes National Forest Interdisciplinary Team

### Current Interdisciplinary Team:

Team Leader:	Michelle King, Kyle Wright
Fisheries:	Paul Powers
Scenic/ Vegetative:	Robert Gentry/ Christina Veverka
Hydrology	Kyle Wright
Wildlife:	Carina Rosterolla
Geologic:	Bart Wills
Cultural Resources:	Leslie Hickerson
Recreation:	Robert Gentry

### Previous Interdisciplinary Team

Team Leader:	Carrie Sammons
Fisheries:	Tom Felando
Scenic/ Vegetative:	Jim Scott
Hydrology	Tom Felando
Wildlife:	Kathleen Woodlfe-Johnson
Geologic:	Larry Chitwood
Cultural Resources:	LeRoy Steece
Recreation:	Jim Scott

### Others Previously Consulted:

Norm Bohronc/ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Crescent Creek Landowners

Big Marsh Landowners