



File Code: 1900

Date: September 24, 2018

Dear Interested Public,

In 2009, nine rivers on the Mt. Hood National Forest were designated by Congress as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (123 Stat. 991, P.L. 111-11) because of their unique cultural and natural characteristics. In total, 81 miles of rivers were designated and include the Collawash River, Eagle Creek, East Fork Hood River, Fifteenmile Creek, Fish Creek, Middle Fork Hood River, South Fork Clackamas River, South Fork Roaring River, and Zigzag River. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires a Comprehensive River Management Plan for designated rivers, which outlines management direction to protect the special values of these rivers for present and future generations. Currently, we are gathering information about each river and would like public input on the first step of developing a Comprehensive River Management Plan.

Overview of Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Rivers designated by the Wild and Scenic River Act possess outstandingly remarkable values that may include one or more of the following: scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared to other rivers in the region or nation. It must also be river-related or river-dependent.

During the winter and spring of 2018, an interdisciplinary team reviewed the conditions of the nine designated rivers and made an initial determination of river values. The following summarizes the outstandingly remarkable values identified through the evaluation process to date. More information about how these values were determined and background on the resource conditions can be found in the River Values Report. This report, along with maps of the river segments, can be found on the project's webpage¹.

Collawash River

Fisheries and botany are outstandingly remarkable values of this river. The river is home to a full suite of native species; Endangered Species Act-listed fish and their critical habitat are present as well. In addition, quality habitat for cold water corydalis, a rare aquatic plant, exists within the river. Geology/hydrology is another outstandingly remarkable value for the portion of this river, which includes a deep, large earthflow that is very active and easily viewed as you visit the river corridor.

Eagle Creek

Recreation and botany are the outstandingly remarkable values for Eagle Creek. Local equestrian communities have a special interest in the area and it is very popular with these communities. Equestrian trail use along the river is a unique characteristic, especially as an easy trail. Equestrian trails of this caliber are limited within the region of comparison; as such, people are willing to travel long distances for this experience. In addition, quality habitat for cold water

