

# **Appendix H**

## **Squaw Creek Wild and Scenic Evaluation**

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## Summary of Wild and Scenic River Study Report for Squaw Creek<sup>1</sup>

The report evaluated and determined the eligibility of the portion of the Squaw Creek that flows through lands administered by the National Grassland for possible classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

Squaw Creek was presented at a public hearing for inclusion in the Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill by several citizens.

The study does not officially designate Squaw Creek as a scenic or recreational river. That determination can only be accomplished by legislation by Congress. The report does find that Squaw Creek, on the National Grassland, meets the criteria for classification as either "recreational" or "scenic," but does not meet the criteria for "wild." This report recommends that the 7.5 mile segment at Lower Squaw Creek be recommended for designation as a "scenic river" in the Wild and Scenic River System.

The following chart outlines the status of the river miles inventoried:

### SQUAW CREEK - RIVER MILES AND OWNERSHIP WITHIN THE CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND

<u>River Mile</u>	<u>Geographic Point</u>	<u>Scenic River Study Miles</u>	<u>Length of Segment in Miles</u>	<u>Status/Ownership Within Segment</u>
0	Creek empties into Deschutes River	0	7.5	0.1 miles BLM 6.1 miles C.R.N.G. 1.3 miles Pvt.
7.5	Grassland boundary	7.5		

## Segment of the Squaw Creek Studied in this Report

The segment studied in this report is:

<u>River Mile</u>	<u>Location</u>
0.0	Confluence with the Deschutes River
to	
7.5	National Grassland Boundary

<sup>1</sup> complete report on file at the Forest Headquarters in Prineville, Oregon. This report covers the eligibility and suitability of Lower Squaw Creek for designation as a "scenic river."

## General Location and National Significance

The study segment begins at the confluence with the Deschutes River in Section 7 of T 13 S., R. 12 E. and ends at the Grassland boundary in Section 34 of T. 13 S., R. 11 E. Squaw Creek, in the Crooked River National Grassland, flows through a canyon that is both outstanding and remarkable. The canyon has regional significance. The canyon is in an Intermountain Sagebrush/sagebrush steppe ecosystem, according to Kuchler Vegetation Classification system. A portion of the creek corridor was included in the Deschutes Canyon - Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area. All of the creek corridor is included in the Squaw Creek Management Area, designated for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation and big game winter range in the Grassland Plan.

## Outstanding Remarkable Values

Squaw Creek has several outstanding remarkable values: an excellent fishery, spectacular canyon scenery, scenic geologic formations, large natural springs, exemplary natural riparian vegetation, important deer winter range and unique canyon semiprimitive recreational opportunities.

## Potential Classification for Squaw Creek, Confluence with the Deschutes River and the Crooked River National Grassland Boundary

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Wild</u>	<u>Scenic</u>	<u>Recreational</u>
Water Resources Development	Q	Q	Q
Shore Development:			
Presence of Structures	Q	Q	Q
Grazing Evidence	Q	Q	Q
Timber Harvesting Evidence	Q	Q	Q
Accessibility	X	Q	Q
Water Quality	Q	Q	Q

Q - Qualifies

X - Does not Qualify