

A7 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

GOAL

MANAGE CLASSIFIED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS TO APPROPRIATE STANDARDS AS WILD, SCENIC, OR RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS, AS DEFINED BY THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT, PUBLIC LAW 90-542, OCTOBER 2, 1968 (U.S. LAWS, STATUTES, ETC. 1968), AND EXPANDED BY THE OMNIBUS OREGON WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT OF 1988 (PUBLIC LAWS 100-557).

DESCRIPTION

The following river segments were designated by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 and are managed under this management area:

1. Grande Ronde River: Approximately 17.4 river miles and a one-quarter mile corridor¹ on each side. Total area amounts to 5,200 acres of National Forest System lands, 485 acres in private ownership, and 25 acres of BLM.

Entire Segment Designation - Wild

2. North Fork John Day River: Approximately 38.7 river miles and a one-quarter mile corridor¹ on each side. Total area amounts to 10,514 acres of National Forest System lands, 712 acres in private ownership and 77 acres of state lands.

Segment 1 Trail Creek to Big Creek. Designation – Wild

Segment 2 Big Creek to Texas Bar Creek. Designation – Scenic

Segment 3 Texas Bar Creek to Umatilla National Forest Boundary.
Designation - Recreational

3. Wenaha River: Approximately 18.7 river miles and a one-quarter mile corridor¹ on each side. Total area amounts to 5,484 acres of National Forest System lands and 158 acres in private ownership.

Entire Segment South Fork-North Fork junction to the Forest Boundary,
Designation - Wild

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Each component of the Wild and Scenic River System will be administered to protect and enhance the values for which the rivers were classified and to provide public use and enjoyment of those values. Emphasis will be given to protecting the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated. Anadromous fisheries, wildlife, aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific and other features will be protected. Approved management plans will establish detailed corridor boundary and specify management activities, land acquisition, easements, and other information necessary to protect each segment of the rivers.

WILD RIVERS

Wild rivers or sections of rivers will be free of impoundments and continue to be accessible by trail and/or water, and inaccessible by road. The viewing area and shorelines will be essentially natural appearing. Signs of human activity, including structure or evidence of resource use, will be kept to a minimum or will be inconspicuous. Sectors within the wilderness will be managed as Wilderness. The opportunity to interact with a natural environment, with challenges and minimal sights and sounds of other people will be available. There will generally be no use of

¹ NOTE: The one-quarter mile corridor on each side of the river is an interim boundary. The final boundary will be established upon approval of the management plan for each river.

motorized vehicles. Where a need to regulate use exists, indirect methods will predominate. Outfitters will provide services to people to help them enjoy and interpret the environment.

SCENIC RIVERS

Scenic rivers or sections of rivers will be free of impoundments; shorelines and viewing areas will be largely natural appearing. Some recreation structures, evidence of timber harvest roads, and other evidence of human activity may be present, but will not detract from the near natural appearance and scenic qualities of the immediate environment. A variety of water related recreation opportunities will be available. The rivers will be accessed in places by road. Motorized use on a few trails within the corridor will occur. There will be very few restrictions on recreation use. Frequency of contact with others will be moderate. Ongoing activities such as timber harvest, fish habitat improvement, mining, and others may be permitted if scenic and recreation values are met or enhanced and adverse effects avoided.

RECREATIONAL RIVERS

The recreational sections will be free of impoundments and be readily accessible from roads. Some major public use facilities such as developed campgrounds, administrative buildings, bridges, private residences, and commercial businesses will remain within the corridor. Considerable development and timber harvest may have occurred and be evident near the river, but the area shall be managed to protect recreation and scenic values. A range of recreational opportunities will be available in settings in which interactions are relatively high and visitors are likely to share their recreational experience with other individuals or groups.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

GENERAL

For each designated Wild and Scenic River, development and management plans will be prepared and completed within 3 full fiscal years of designation.

The formal boundary of the designated rivers will be established concurrently with the development and management plans. The management area boundary will conform to the established Wild and Scenic River boundary.

Upon completion and approval of Wild and Scenic Rivers management plans, the Forest Plan will be amended to incorporate them.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF STUDY RIVERS

Management direction for each designated river corridors identified in the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and other rivers identified for study will provide protection in the following ways

1. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, the free flowing characteristics of the identified river cannot be modified.
2. Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river area must be protected and, to the extent practicable, enhanced.
3. Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified to the degree that classification (or eligibility) would be affected (i.e., classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational).

Protection may be modified or discontinued for rivers identified in the forest planning process for study in the following cases:

1. For the entire river or segment(s) of the river that are determined to be ineligible for the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

2. For the entire river, if determined to be unsuitable for the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, following the appropriate review process.
3. For unsuitable segment(s) of a river recommended for Wild and Scenic River designation after the Record of Decision is signed by the Secretary of Agriculture.
4. Following Congressional action for suitable segments of the river that are not included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

WILDERNESS

River sectors located within wilderness will be managed under wilderness or Wild and Scenic River principles and standards and guidelines, whichever is most restrictive.

RECREATION

River-oriented recreation opportunities may be provided, consistent with maintaining and protecting Wild and Scenic River values.

River area recreation will be managed according to the following interim standards:

Wild Classification:

1. Manage areas for Primitive, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (SPNM).
2. Access will be mostly for floating, walk-in, or horseback opportunities along wild segments.
3. No motorized use is permitted in the Grande Ronde, Wenaha, or the wild segment of the North Fork John Day rivers. Motorized watercraft will not be allowed on wild sections of the rivers.
4. Only rustic recreation facilities and settings may be permitted (development scale 1 or 2).

Scenic Classification:

1. Manage areas for Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (SPNM) to Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) settings.
2. A mix of access types will be available in scenic section including open roads, roads closed to motorized use, and walk-in or horseback opportunities in a few remote areas.
3. Motorized vehicle, including off-highway vehicle, use may be permitted.
4. Recreation developments are permitted but will not exceed development scale 3.

Recreation Classification:

1. Manage areas for Roaded to Rural settings.
2. Road access will be provided to most areas along the recreation sectors.
3. Maintain accessibility for motorized vehicles; OHV use may be permitted on designated trails.
4. All recreation development scales may be permitted.

Trail and related facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted in all classes.

Outfitter and guide services may be permitted under special use permit for all classifications.

VISUAL

Manage visual resources to meet standards for each classification as follows:

River Classification	Visual Quality Objective
Wild	Preservation is the normal
Scenic	Retention may be used for some limited recreation facilities
Recreation	Retention foreground Partial Retention middleground Partial Retention foreground Modification middleground

(See Glossary for description of terms.)

Activities within corridors may only repeat form, line, color, and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes should be of such size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern that they are not visually evident in the foreground distance zone and are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape in the middleground distance zone.

Principles of visual management will be applied so that positive attributes of a managed forest can be enjoyed while negative visual aspects of activities will be minimized.

Landscapes containing negative visual elements will be rehabilitated. Landscapes may be enhanced by opening views to distant peaks, unique rock forms, unusual vegetation, or other features of interest.

River corridor viewshed management direction will be established as part of the river management plans. In the interim, direction will be guided by Forest visual quality mapping, associated visual quality standards, and direction in these standards and guidelines.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Wildlife and fish habitat improvement, development, and maintenance projects are permitted, provided Wild and Scenic Rivers objectives are met.

Dead and down tree habitat will be managed to provide or maintain 80 percent of the potential population level for all primary cavity excavators.

RANGE

The existing domestic livestock grazing level and management intensity (prior to designation of rivers) is permitted consistent with recreation, visual, and other management objectives.

Development and maintenance of range improvements are permitted. Range utilization standards, management practices, and improvements will be designed and managed to meet wild and scenic and riparian objectives.

TIMBER

In the Wild sections, timber will be managed on a nonscheduled basis to meet Wild and Scenic River goals. Cutting of trees is only permitted where needed to meet primitive recreation, environmental or other Wild and Scenic River objectives.

In the Scenic and Recreation sections, timber harvest is permitted on a scheduled basis. Standard silvicultural practices and intensities consistent with meeting Scenic and Recreation river objectives are permitted.

Uneven-aged management is the preferred and most commonly used silvicultural system; even-aged management techniques may also be used to meet objectives. Scheduling of treatments, timber harvest, logging systems, debris disposal, reforestation, and stand improvement practices will be designed and implemented to accomplish river management objectives.

1. Where timber management is scheduled, manage the river corridors for an overall mix of size classes of trees. The following mix of age classes should be achieved as the overall long-term objective of the viewshed.

Percent	Foreground Age Classes	
	Retention	Partial Retention
20	0-50	0-36
20	51 -1 00	73-1 08
20	101-150	37-72
20	151-200	109-1 45
20	201 -250	146-181

2. Emphasis will be on viewing large diameter trees and multi-age stands, both vertical and horizontal diversity are also to be emphasized. The large tree component should be as dispersed as necessary to give the overall character of large trees to the area. The standards in Tables 4-30 and 4-31 will be used in achieving desired visual characteristics.
3. A created opening is defined as an opening developed through management activities where tree heights are less than 20 feet. Created openings will be shaped and blended with the natural terrain.
4. Exceptions to created opening size and maximum percentage in openings at one time are permitted under catastrophic circumstances such as blow down, insect and disease attacks, wildfire, and others. Landscapes will be rehabilitated under these conditions.
5. Thinnings and plantings in the foreground will leave irregularly spaced trees. Mixed conifer stand regeneration in foregrounds and middle grounds will be planned for at least two species with no more than 65 percent in a single species.

Even-aged Management Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-30. EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated		Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Retention	Part. Retention	Partial Retention
Maximum % Harvest per Decade	Foreground	4	5	5
	Middleground	9	10	10
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time ¹	Foreground	8	10	10
	Middleground	15	20	20
Target Tree Diameter (inches DBH)		30	24	12
Number of Target Trees at Final Removal (Per Ac.)		3-5	3-5	10
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.) ¹	Foreground >500 ft.	3	5	5
	Middleground	5	10	10

1 Applies to regeneration harvests. Not applicable to intermediate or overstory removal harvests except where an opening is created.

Uneven-aged Management Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-31. UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated		Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Retention	Part. Retention	Partial Retention
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time ¹	Foreground	8	10	10
	Middleground	15	20	20
Target Stand Diameter (inches DBH)		24	20	12
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.) ¹	Immediate foreground	1	1.5	2
	Foreground >500 ft.	2	2	2
	Middleground	2	2	2

¹ Applies to group selection harvests. Not applicable to single tree or intermediate harvests except where an opening is created.

Fuelwood cutting may be permitted but will be limited to dead or down material.

WATER AND SOIL

All dams, diversions, levees, and hydroelectric power facilities are prohibited within the management area.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Subject to valid existing rights, minerals that constitute the bed or bank or are situated within one-quarter mile of the bank of any river designated a Wild river are withdrawn from appropriation. On other river sections, through analysis and consideration of all public values, including minerals values, rivers may be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry where appropriate and necessary.

Protect river and corridor from common materials mining. Common mineral materials will not be removed pending completion of the river management plans.

LANDS AND LAND USES

Where opportunities exist, private land within a formally designated Wild and Scenic River will be acquired. All Federal land will be retained in public ownership.

Wild sections are 'Exclusive Areas' for development of new utilities (transmission lines, gas lines, etc.). Scenic and Recreation areas are 'Avoidance Areas.' Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing right-of-way.

Meet Lands and Land Uses Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

TRANSPORTATION

Existing roads and trails may be operated and maintained in keeping with overall management and river segment objectives. Reconstruction of roads and trails may be permitted upon approval of a project environmental assessment.

New roads and trails may be permitted, consistent with maintaining and protecting Wild and Scenic River values.

FACILITIES

Maintain existing facilities that support Wild and Scenic River management objectives. Fences, gauging stations, and other management facilities may be permitted if there is no major effect

on the character of the area. Addition of new facilities, including recreation facilities, may be permitted, consistent with maintaining and protecting Wild and Scenic River values.

FIRE

For moderate to high intensity wildfires, the appropriate suppression response will emphasize a control strategy. Emphasis should be on protecting life and facilities.

Wildfire suppression efforts should utilize low impact methods, as use of heavy equipment may require restoration efforts to mitigate visual impacts.

FUELS

Prescribed burning is permitted. Low intensity prescribed fires, producing minimal scorch and rapid recovery, are the most desirable.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles and methods. Prescribed fire may be used to help reduce stocking and conditions favorable for bark beetle and other insects and diseases.

Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten users and/or managed resources. Use suppression methods that minimize site disturbance.