

Oregon's Scenic Waterways

Informational Update



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Water Resources Commission Meeting
August 21, 2014
Hood River, Oregon

Outline

- **Background**
 - History of Oregon's Scenic Waterways
 - Overview of current program
- **Evaluating waterways for potential further study**
- **Suitability and eligibility study process**
- **Role of WRC**
- **Next Steps**



Scenic Waterway History

- 1970's-80's
 - Created to preserve, protect & enhance Oregon's outstanding waterways



State Scenic Waterways

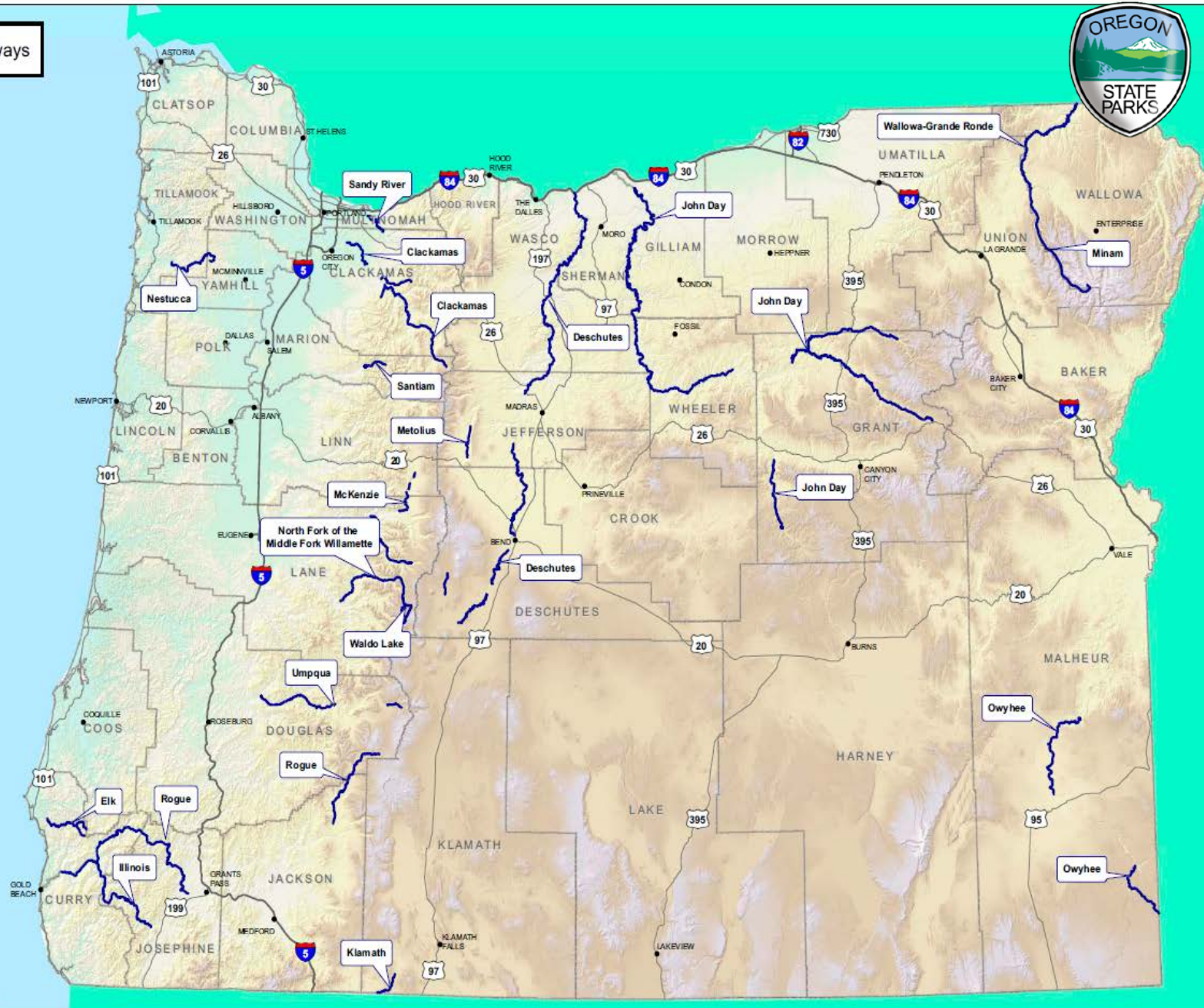




Image: ODFW





Images: ODFW



Current program

- **Limitations**
 - Dams/impoundments
 - Can impact new water right permits
 - Placer mining*
 - Does not include “recreational prospecting”
- **Some other land use changes subject to review process**
 - Focus on visual impacts *from* river
 - Includes agency/public comment
 - Work with landowners to blend proposal into the landscape



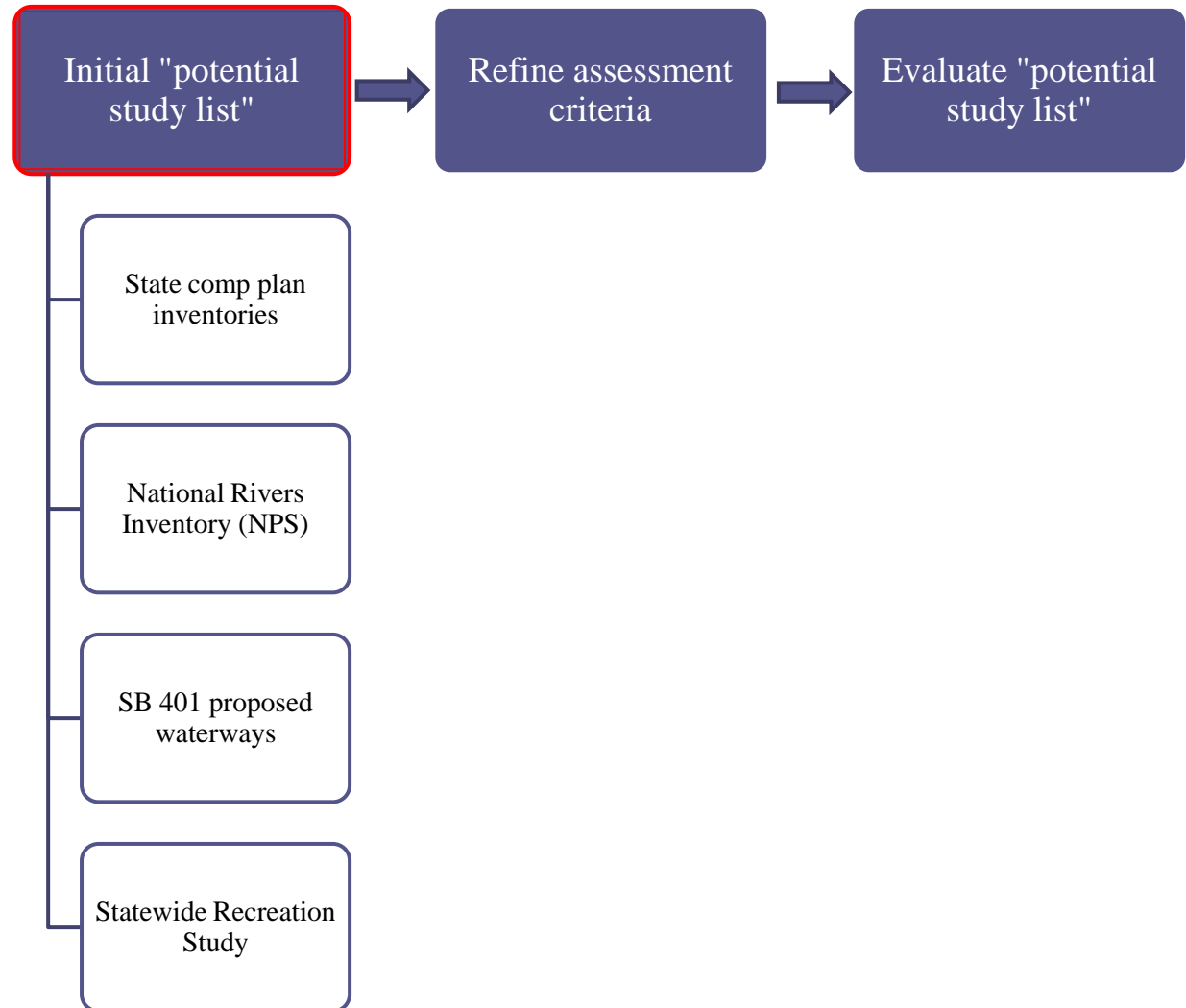


Why are we here?

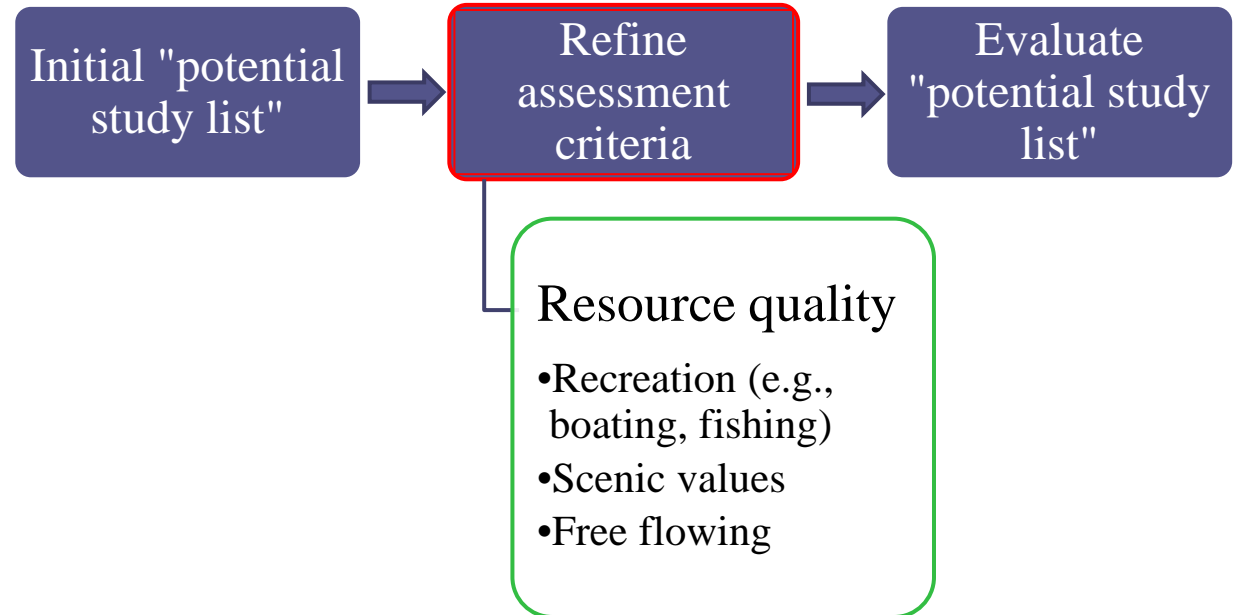
- **SB 401 (2013): OPRD to study certain waterways for consideration**
- **Governor asked OPRD to study 3 segments/biennium**
- **ORS 390.855 requires “ongoing study” with periodic reporting**



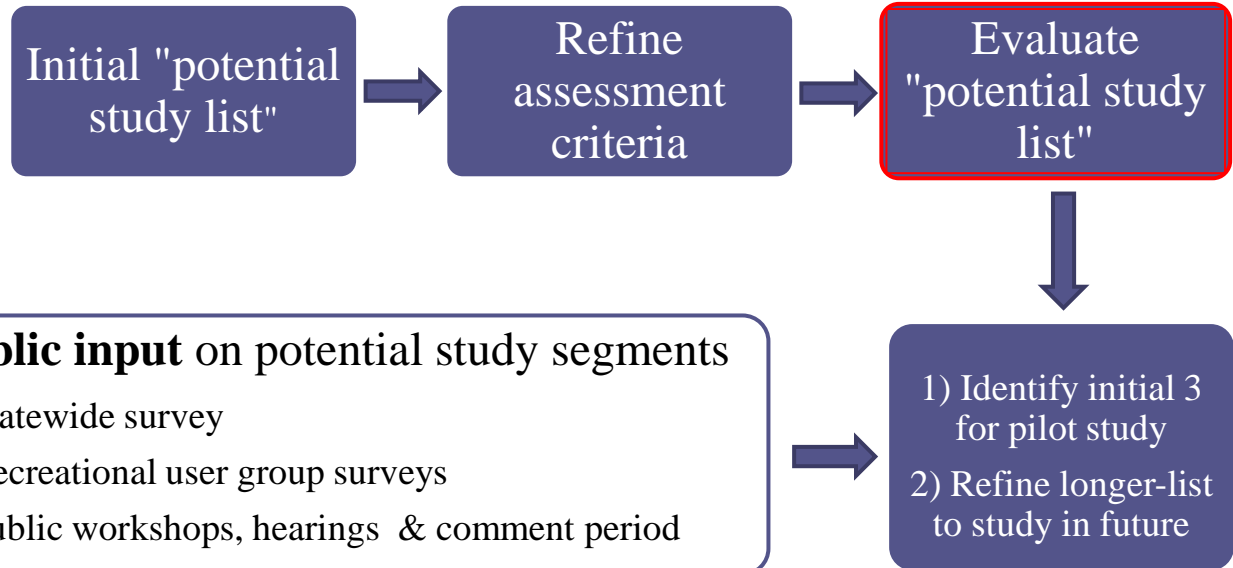
1000's of waterways...where to start?



Potential study list: coarse filter(s)



Select study waterways



Scenic Waterway Task Force

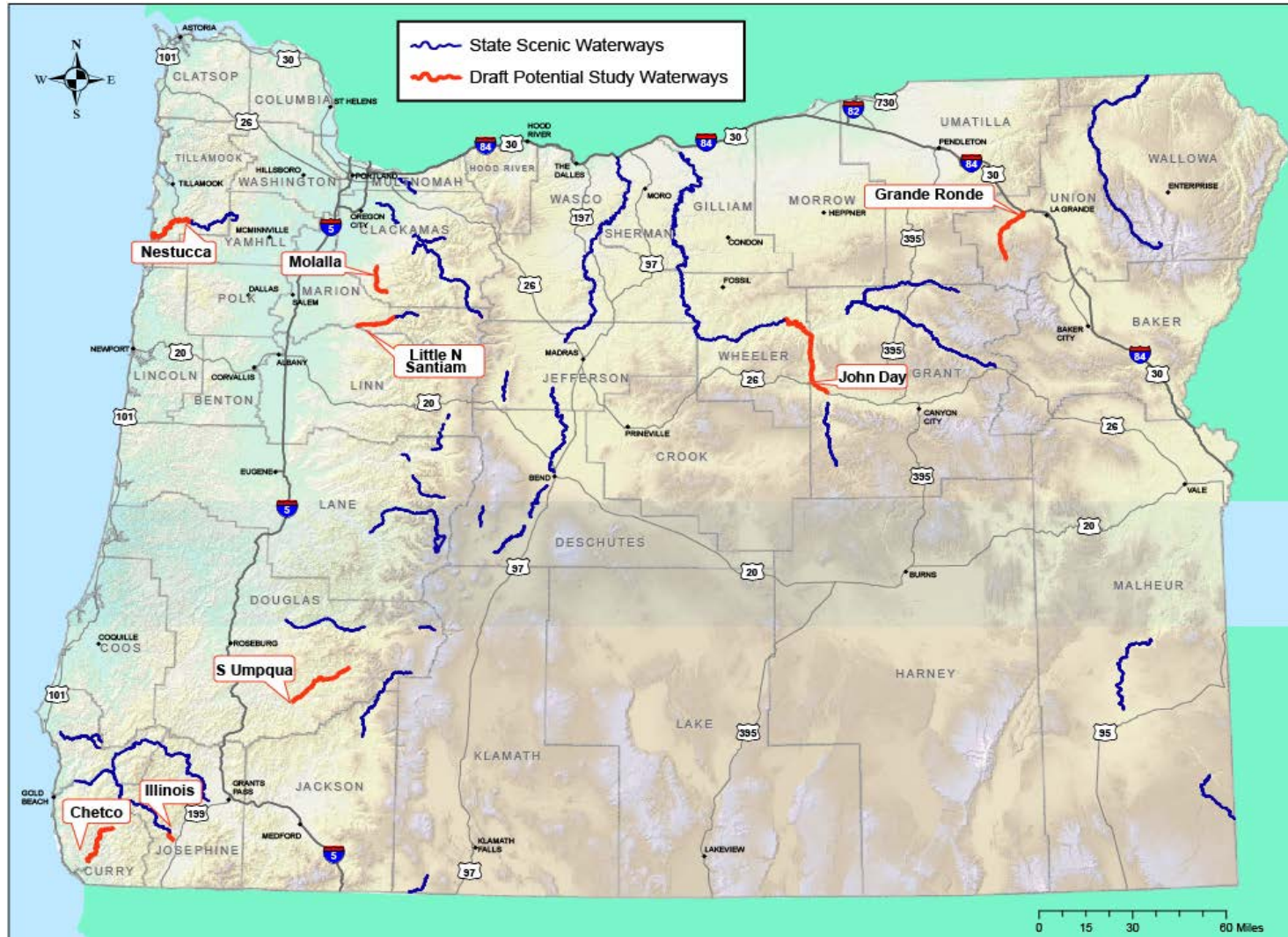
- **State and federal agencies, local governments and non-profits**
 - ✓ Review selection process
 - ✓ Refine waterway eligibility criteria
 - ✓ Prioritize rivers for '13-'15 pilot studies
 - Review draft study reports



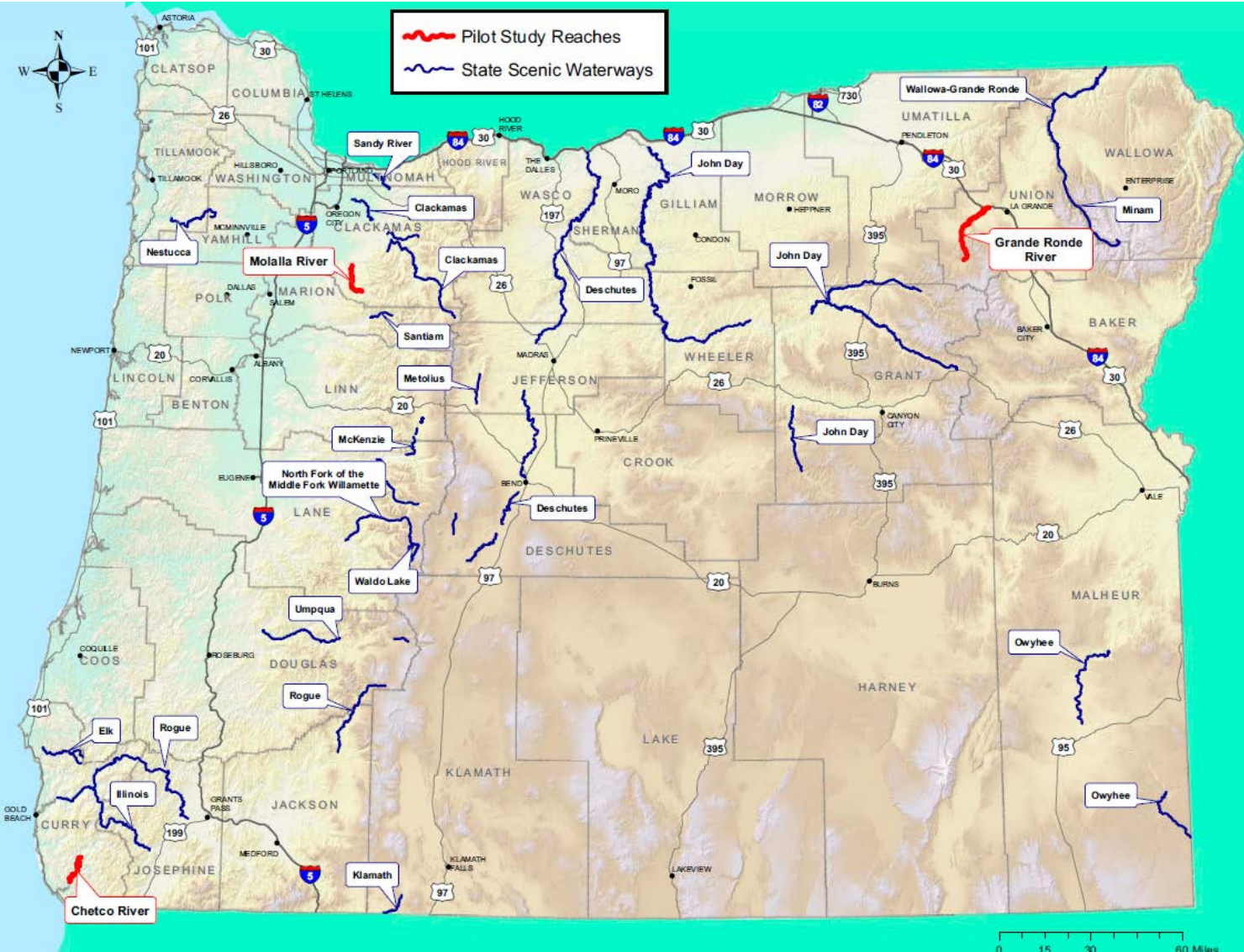


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Task force proposed potential study areas



Pilot study waterways



Nature HISTORY Discovery
Image: Our World



Eligibility study criteria*

- Free flowing
- Scene from the river is pleasing
 - Primitive or rural pastoral
- Outstanding natural or recreational values
- Large enough to sustain recreation use
- Accommodate existing uses w/out undue impairment of
 - natural values
 - quality recreation experience



Feasibility

- ***If the river qualifies, is there support?***
 - Landowners
 - Local government
 - Elected officials
 - Recreational users
 - Other stakeholders
- **Public outreach**
 - Public hearings*
 - Public comment period
- **WRD & OPRD commission meetings**



WRC Role

- **Flow adoption**
 - **Highest and best use**
 - Quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife uses
 - **WRC “shall administer and enforce...”**
 - **Flow recommendation to WRC in November**



SWW flow impacts to *new* permits

- **R:** No dam or reservoir within SWW, but above OK if WA
- **G:** No impact unless proven to interfere
 - Mitigation required if 1% or 1 cfs exceeded of the average natural flow
- **S:** Scenic waterway subtracted from water availability
 - Not cumulative with ISWRs





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Designation Process

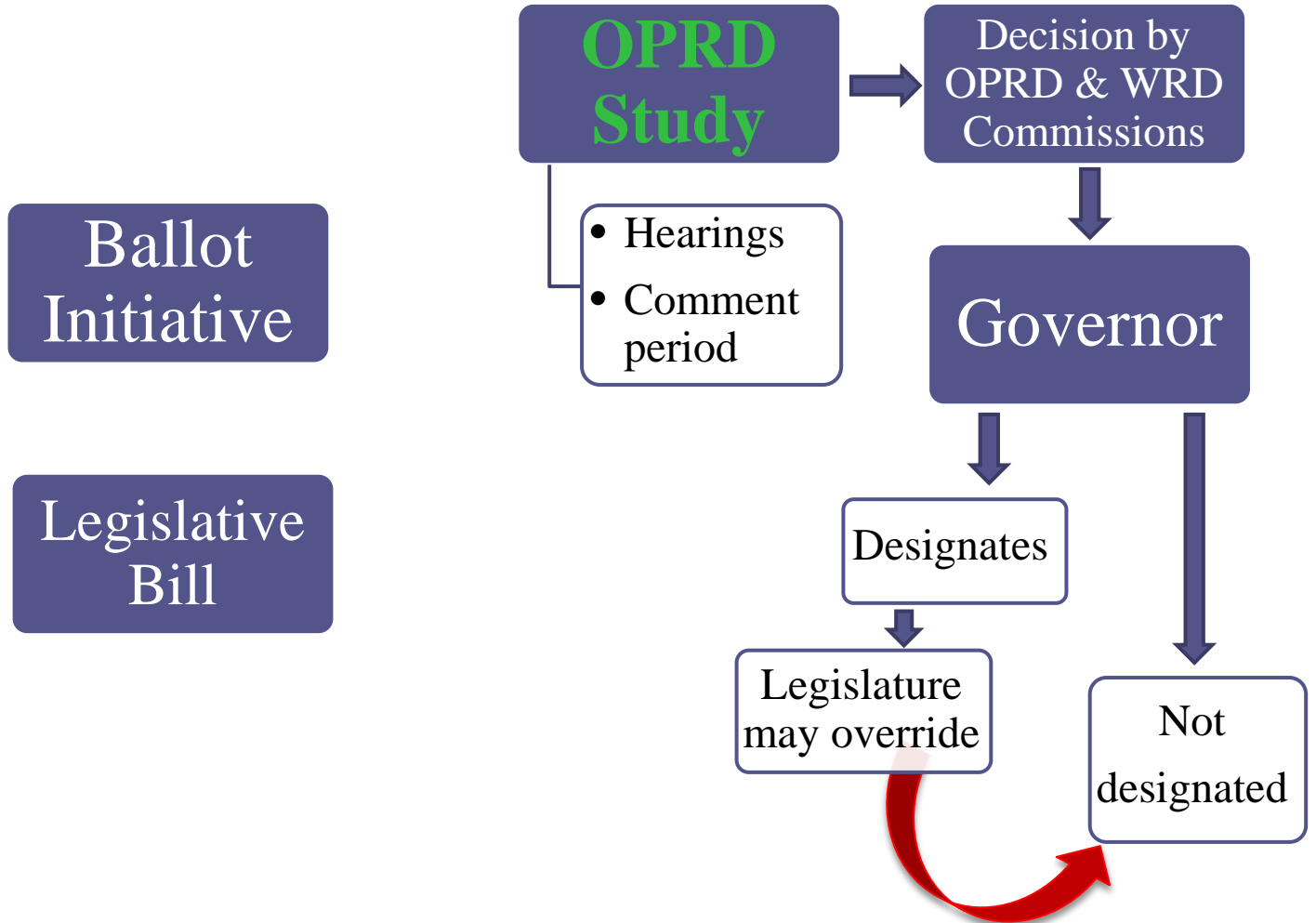


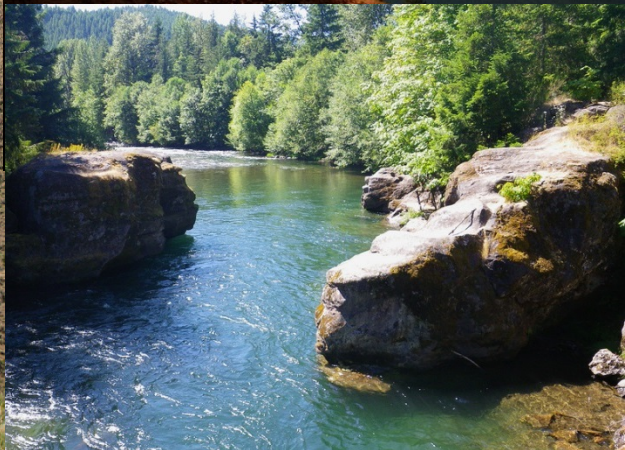
Image: BLM

Planning Timeline

	2013			2014												2015									
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Advisory Committee Meeting			★																						
Develop Evaluation Criteria for Prioritizing Waterways			█																						
Select 3 Pilot Study Waterways				★																					
Determine OPRD Study Methodology				█	█																				
Study 3 Waterways and Draft Report						█	█	█	█	█	█	★													
Public Meetings and Comment Period												█	█												
Recommendations to Oregon Parks & Recreation and Water Resources Commissions														★											
Report to Governor's Office															★										
Web Survey Of Rec Providers and Interest/User Groups				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█												
Statewide Non-motorized Boater Survey				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█												
Regional Trails Plan Workshops													█	█											
Develop List of Potential Study Waterways (future)															█	█	█	█							
Report to Governor on Statewide Trails Plan																			█	█	█	█	█	█	



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Images: BLM , USFS
& ODFW

Questions?



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