



Setting Scenic Waterway Flows

Water Resources Commission Meeting-Agenda Item C

Rachel LovellFord

March 12, 2015

Setting Scenic Waterway Flows-Overview

1) Introduction

2) Background:

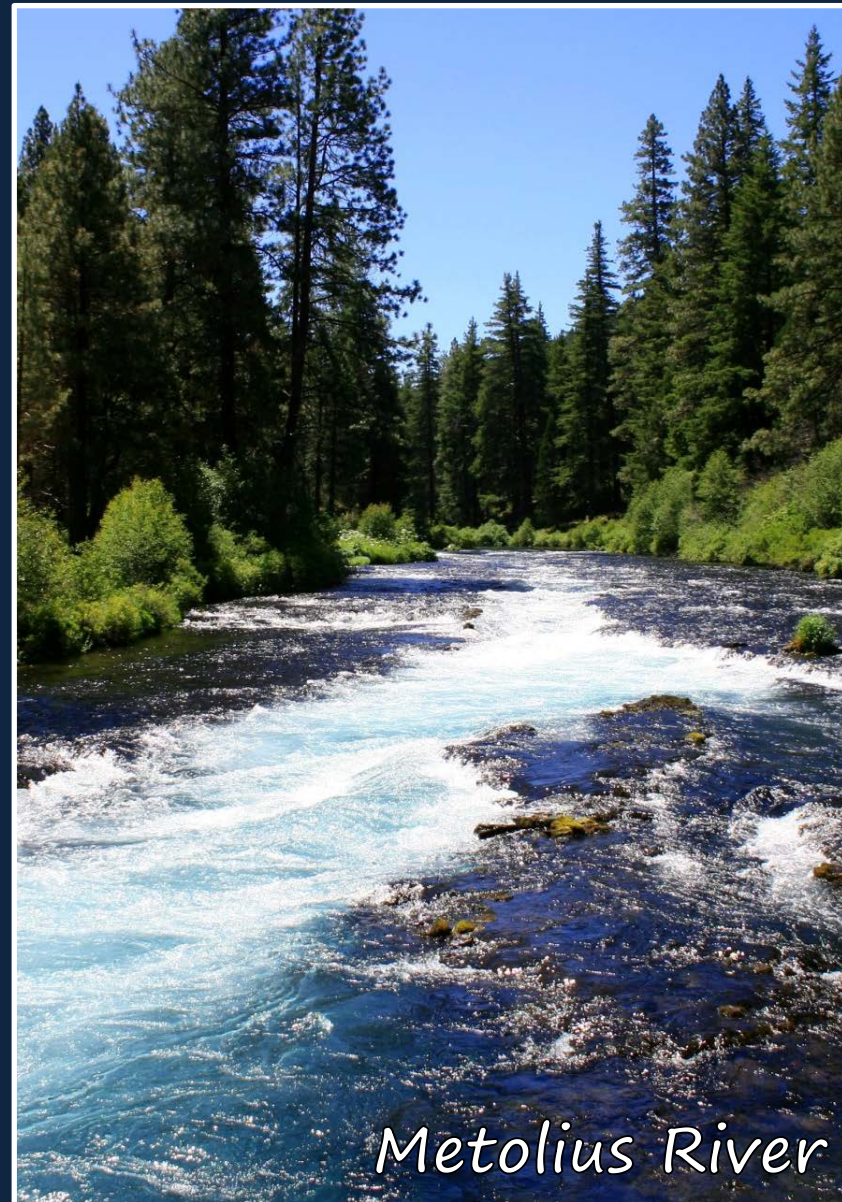
- Why set scenic flows
- How flows determined
- What has changed

3) Proposed Scenic Flow Framework

4) OPRD Pilot Process:

- Overview
- Integrate framework
e.g. Molalla

5) Discussion (20 min)



Metolius River

Setting Scenic Waterway Flows-Intro

Past Commission Meetings:

- Why new scenic waterways proposed
- OPRD Scenic Designation process
- How designation impacts new water rights



Today:

- WRD's proposed Scenic Flow Framework
- Proposed integration with OPRD's process



Future Commission Meetings:

- Additional presentation planned (September)
- Commission to adopt scenic waterways and flows for specific locations (December)

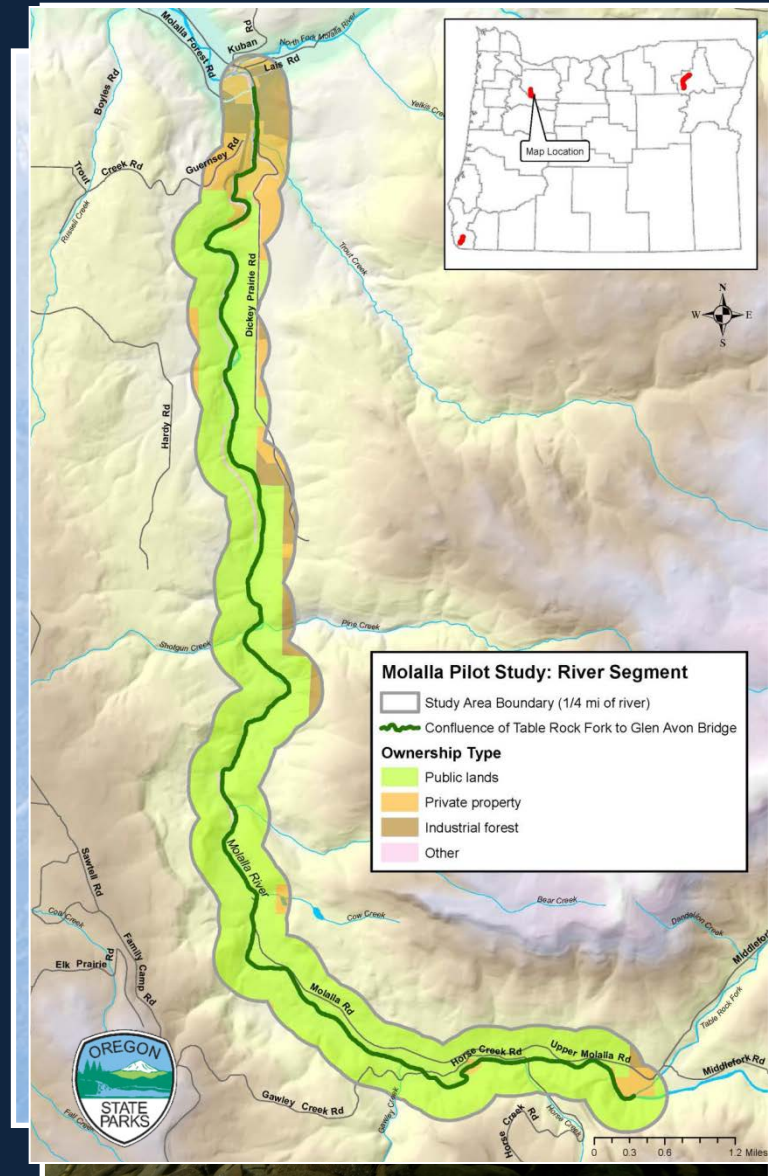
Setting Scenic Waterway Flows-Intro

What is a Scenic Waterway?

- Cooperative land-use designation
- Classification and management plan
- Segment plus buffer (1/4 mile)

What is a Scenic Waterway Flow?

- New allocations cannot interfere with scenic needs
OAR 690-410-0700(2)(g)
- Priority for the State
OAR 690-410-0030(2)(b)
- IWRS action 11b



Background: Why we quantify (1970-1988)

- **Scenic Waterway Act**
- **ORS 390.835**
- *Diack v. City of Portland*
- **WRC to WRD:
quantify flows for
scenic waterways**

North Umpqua River



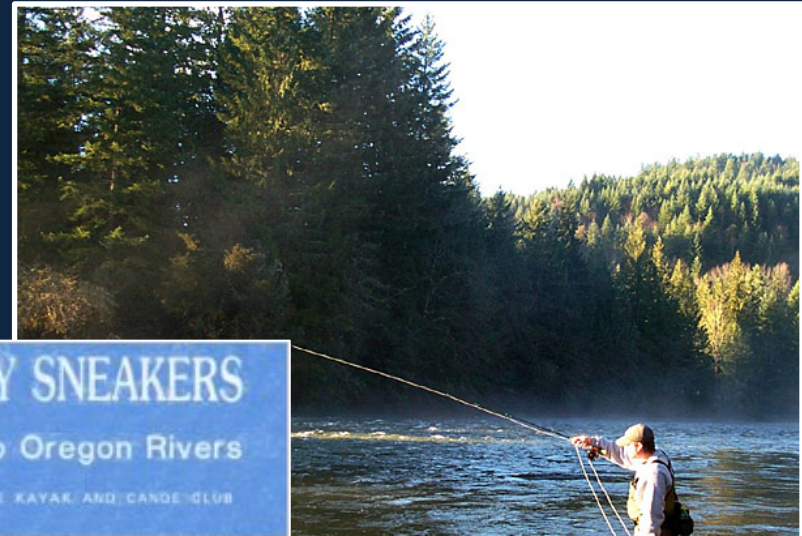
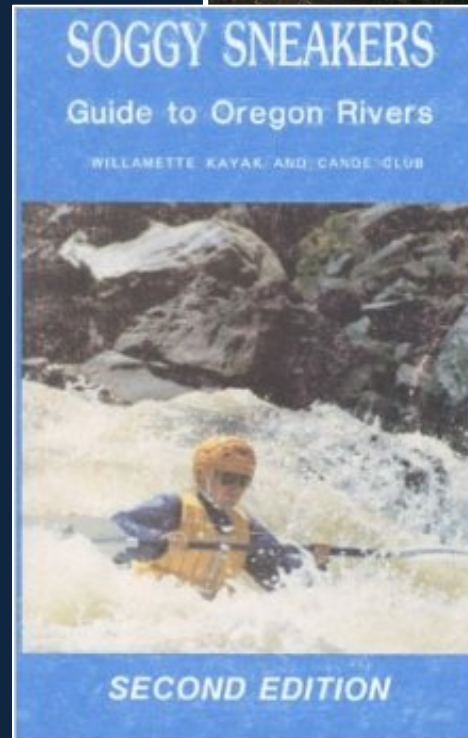
Photo Credit: BLM/USFS

Background: Flow Setting Methods (1989-1992)

- Agency reports
- Technical studies
- Stream gage data
- Guidebooks
- Interviews
- Public comment

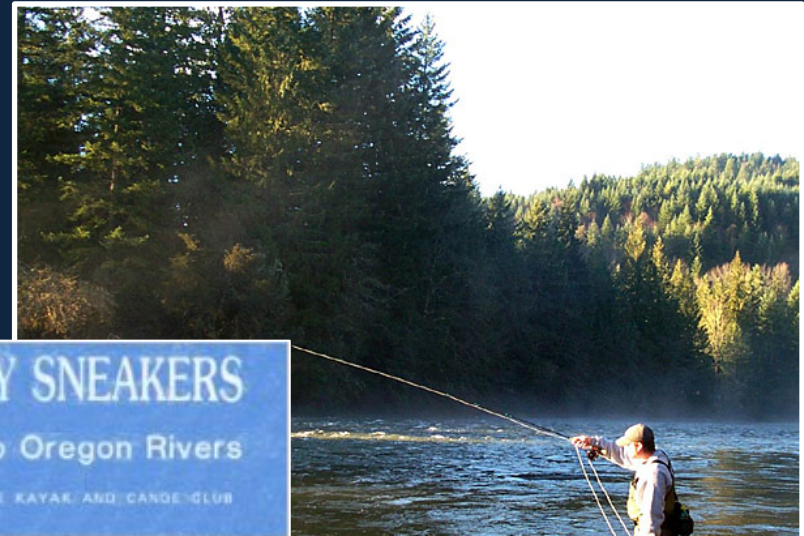
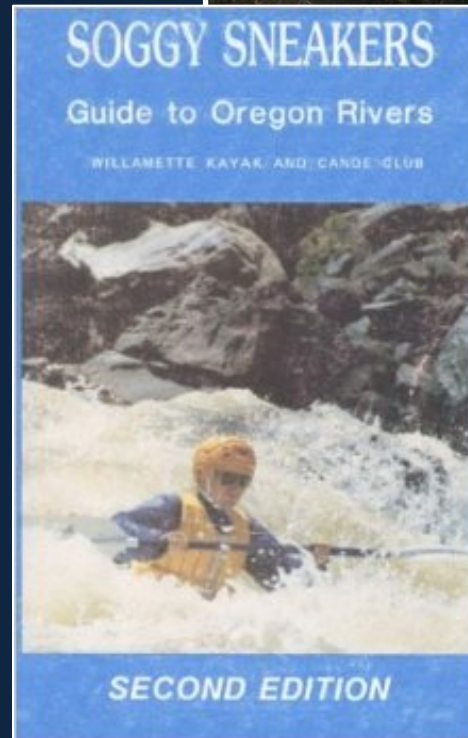


**Recommended
Flow Levels to
Commission**



Background: Flow Setting Methods (1989-1992)

- Last flow adopted: 1992
- Considered in water right process
- Allocation policy not yet fully implemented



Background: Implement Water Allocation Policy (1995)

- **Statistical summarization of available water**
- **Water Availability program**

Natural Streamflow

– Expected Demands (including Scenic)

Available Water

- **Median Monthly Flow used to assess water availability for instream flow allocations**

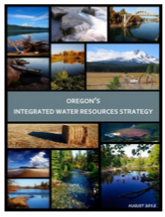
Owyhee River



Water Resources Department

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Adjudications
- Commission
- Dam Safety
- File Pickup
- Forms
- Groundwater
- Jobs at WRD
- Links
- Maps
- Publications
- Surface Water
- Transfers
- Water Law
- Water Management
- Water Rights

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy



The State of Oregon has launched its first Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Adopted Resources Commission on August 2, 2012, the Strategy provides a blueprint for understanding Oregon's water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs now and into the future. Using extensive public outreach, the Strategy identifies the most critical water-related challenges throughout Oregon. It offers recommendations in 13 different areas to address these challenges.

The Strategy and its Executive Summary are now available online. [Click Here](#)



Agency Resources

Resources For:

- [Wells and Well Construction](#)
- [Exempt Use Water Well Recording](#)
- [Realtors@](#)
- [Certified Water Right Examiners](#)
- [Water Conservation](#)
- [Drought Watch](#)
- [Conservation and Supply Resources and Programs](#)
- [Deschutes Basin Mitigation Program](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Cold Water: FAQ](#)

Agency Spotlight

Public Comment Period Extended to March 2 for Off-Project Upper Klamath Basin Groundwater Rules

Additional Open Houses and Public Hearings Scheduled for February 18. [Click here](#) for more information.

Department Rulemaking

[Click here](#) to view information on current rulemaking activities, including how to submit public comment.

Senate Bill 839 Rules Advisory Committee Meetings

The Oregon Water Resources Department has begun the process for developing the implementation of the Senate Bill 839 grant and loan programs. The rules will establish procedures and requirements for water resource projects to receive funding from the Water Supply Development

- Miscellaneous Streamflow Measurement Inquiry
- Near Real Time Streamflow
- Peak Discharge Estimation Mapping Tool
- Water Availability Reporting System

- Groundwater
- Surface Water
- Water Law
- Water Rights Quick Links
- Rulemaking
- OWRD Legislative Updates
- Public Records Request

Featured Links

- Fee Schedule
- Learn About Water Rights in Oregon
- Water Rights Public Notice
- Water Use Reporting
- Agency Performance Measures
- Locate My Local Watermaster

Water Availability Analysis

Detailed Reports

MOLALLA R > WILLAMETTE R - AB N FK MOLALLA R
WILLAMETTE BASIN

Water Availability as of 3/4/2015

Watershed ID #: 73293 ([Map](#))

Exceedance Level:

Date: 3/4/2015

Time: 2:42 PM

Water Availability Calculation

Consumptive Uses and Storages

Instream Flow Requirements

Reservations

Water Rights

Watershed Characteristics

Water Availability Calculation

Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second
Annual Volume at 50% Exceedance in Acre-Feet

Month	Natural Stream Flow	Consumptive Uses and Storages	Expected Stream Flow	Reserved Stream Flow	Instream Flow Requirement	Net Water Available
JAN	889.00	0.01	889.00	0.00	140.00	749.00
FEB	840.00	0.01	840.00	0.00	140.00	700.00
MAR	715.00	0.04	715.00	0.00	140.00	575.00
APR	727.00	0.11	727.00	0.00	140.00	587.00
MAY	570.00	0.96	569.00	0.00	140.00	429.00
JUN	233.00	1.54	231.00	0.00	120.00	111.00
JUL	99.50	2.91	96.60	0.00	50.00	46.60
AUG	56.50	2.32	54.20	0.00	50.00	4.18
SEP	65.50	0.79	64.70	0.00	65.50	-0.79
OCT	123.00	0.10	123.00	0.00	123.00	-0.10
NOV	606.00	0.01	606.00	0.00	140.00	466.00
DEC	904.00	0.01	904.00	0.00	140.00	764.00
ANN	351,000.00	537.00	350,000.00	0.00	83,700.00	266,000.00

Water Availability Analysis

Detailed Reports

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Water Availability Calculation

Consumptive Uses and Storages

Instream Flow Requirements

Reservations

Water Rights

Watershed Characteristics

**Median
Flow**

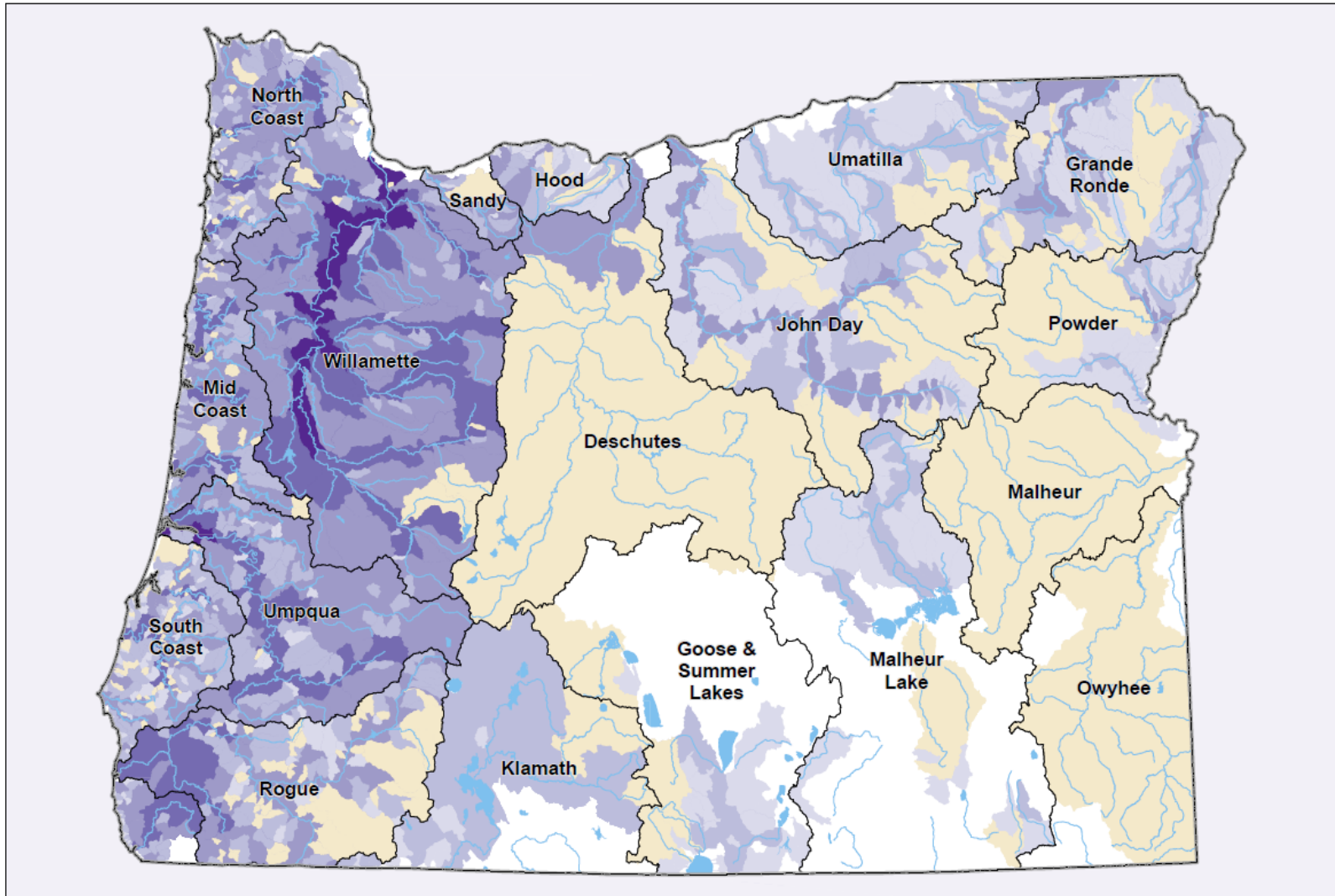
Water Availability Calculation

Expected Demand

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SEP	65.50	0.79	64.70	0.00	5.50	-0.79
OCT	123.00	0.10	123.00	0.00	3.00	-0.10
NOV	606.00	0.01	606.00	0.00	0.00	466.00
DEC	904.00	0.01	904.00	0.00	140.00	764.00
ANN	351,000.00	537.00	350,000.00	0.00	83,700.00	266,000.00

**Scenic
Flows
Here**

Background: Water Availability



January Available Streamflow Calculated at 50% Exceedance

OWRD Hydrographics (eco), 1/24/2013, Projection: Oregon Lambert NAD 83
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Surface Water Bodies
 Lakes
 Streams

Administrative Boundaries
 OWRD Basins

Available Streamflow (CFS)

No Data
 No Water Available
 0.1 - 10
 10.1 - 100

100.1 - 1000
 1000.1 - 10000
 >10000

Background: Summary

Sandy River



Proposed Scenic Flow Framework

Available
Water
&
Values of
Scenic
Waterway
Act



Proposed Scenic Flow Framework

WRD Median
Monthly Flow

&

OPRD
Scenic
Classifications

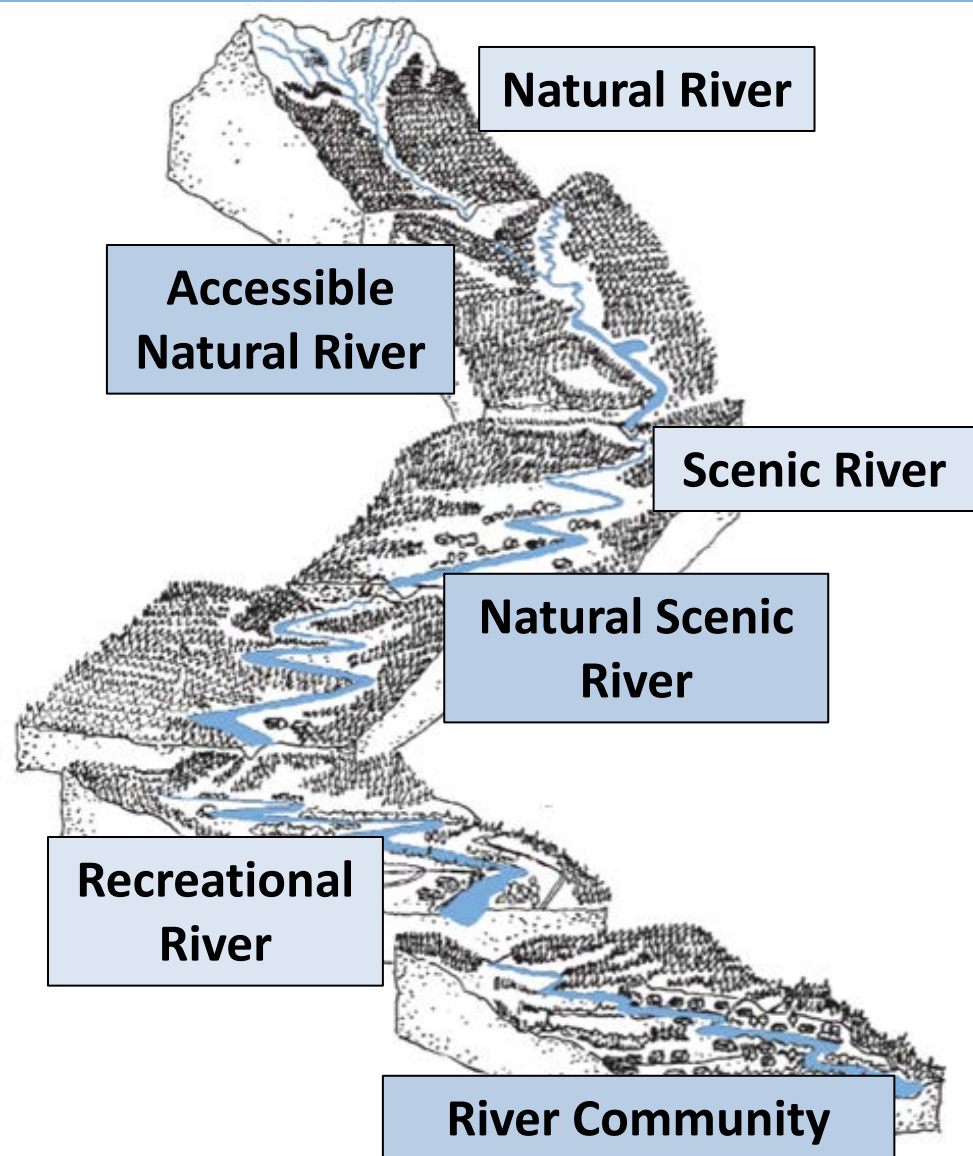


Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: WRD Median, Monthly Flow

- Used as cap on instream and storage allocations
- Consistent with OAR 690-410-0070 (2)(c)

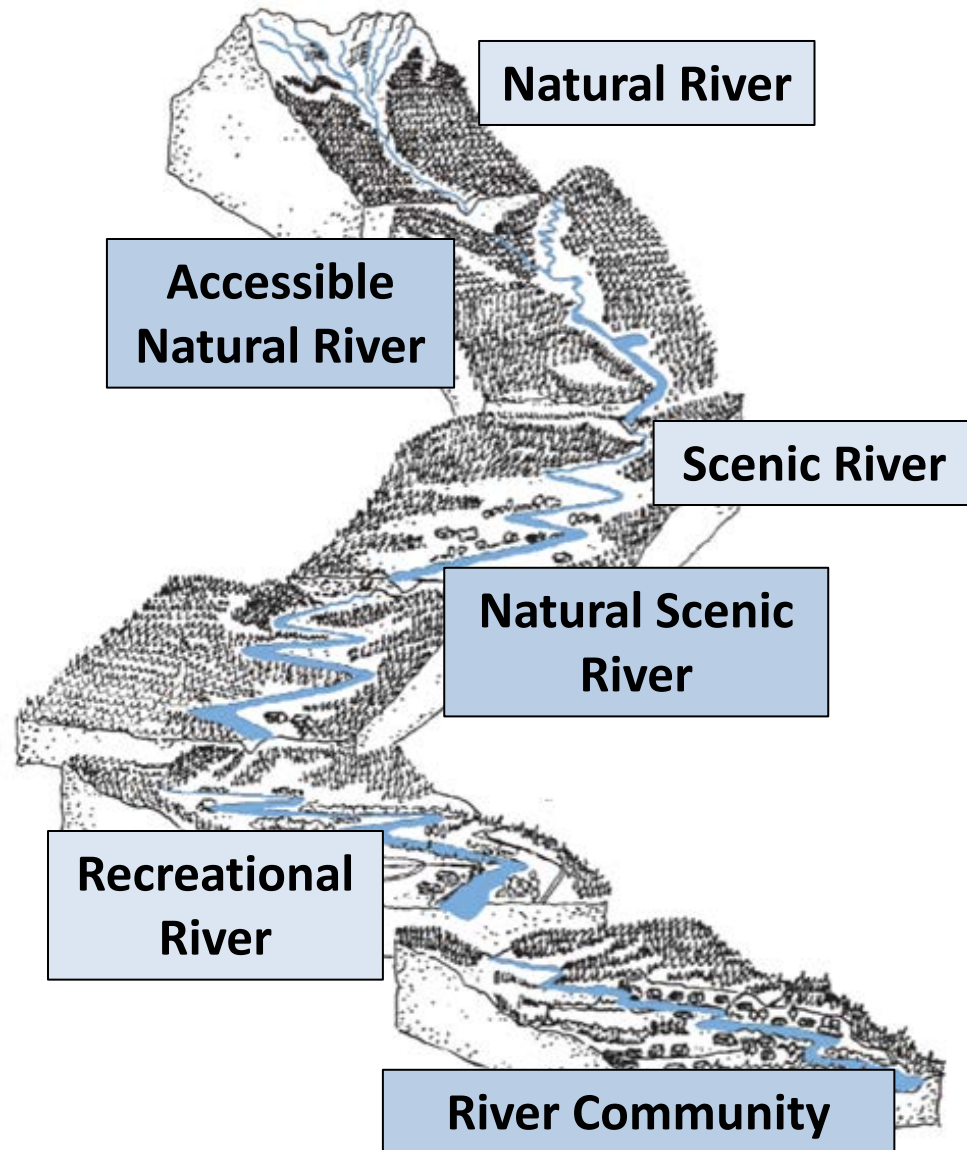


Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: OPRD Scenic Classifications



OAR 736-040-0040:
“In order to **establish varying intensities of protection or development** based on special attributes of each area within the scenic waterways, the following **classifications** are established...”

Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: OPRD Scenic Classifications



Classifications

vary with:

- **Accessibility**
- **Existing land use**
- **Type of scenic view**

Compatibility of new development with existing scene

Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: OPRD Scenic Classification



Natural River Area



John Day River

Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: OPRD Scenic Classification

Recreational River Area



Deschutes River

Proposed Scenic Flow Framework: OPRD Scenic Classification

River Community Area



Troy

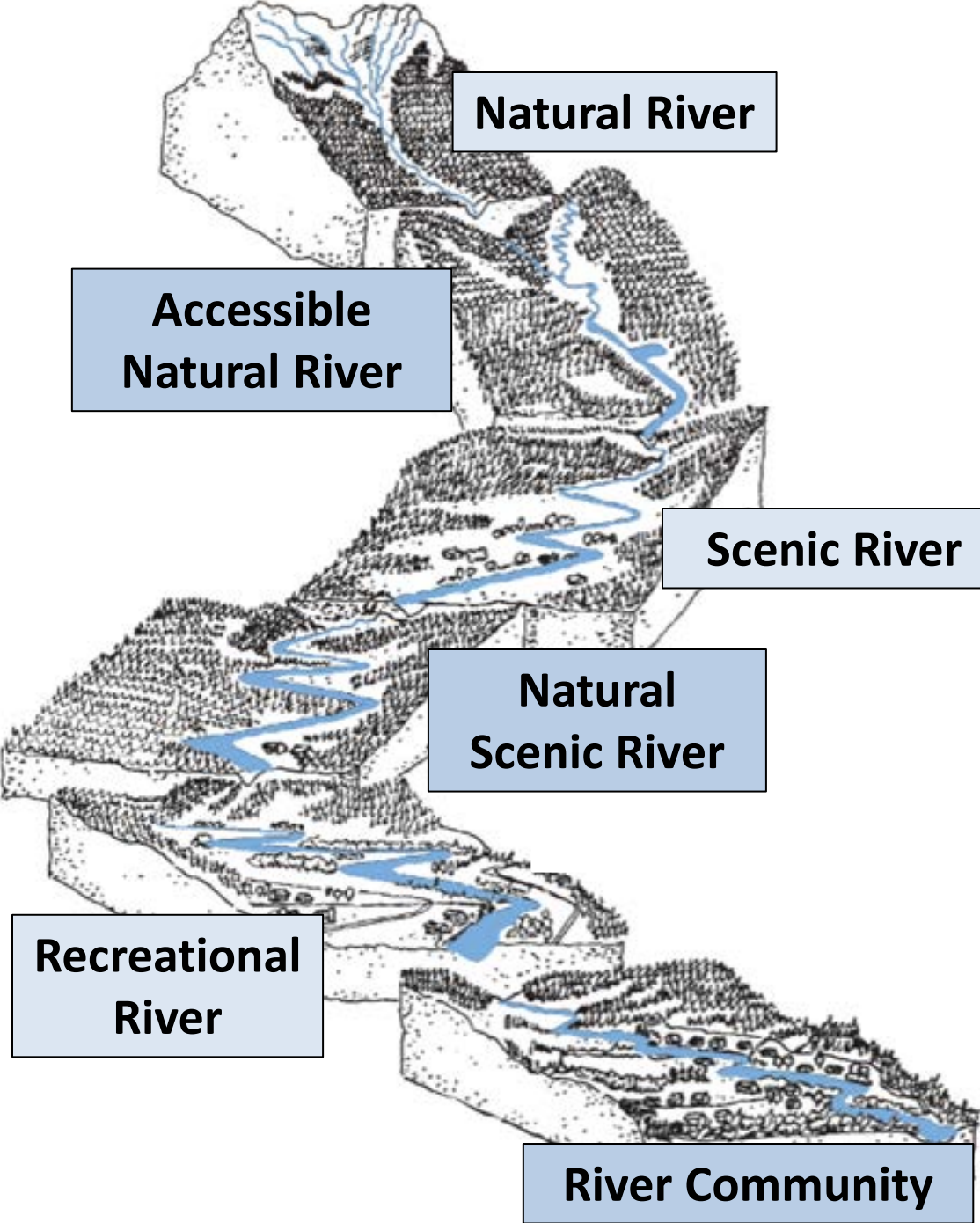


Grande Ronde River

Proposed Scenic Flow Framework

Use a combination of WRD's median, monthly flow level and OPRD's Scenic Classification system

Klamath River



Natural River

**Accessible
Natural River**

Scenic River

**Natural
Scenic River**

**Recreational
River**

River Community

**Recommended Scenic
Allocation
(percent of median
monthly flow)**

Natural River: 100%

**Accessible Natural
River: 95-100%**

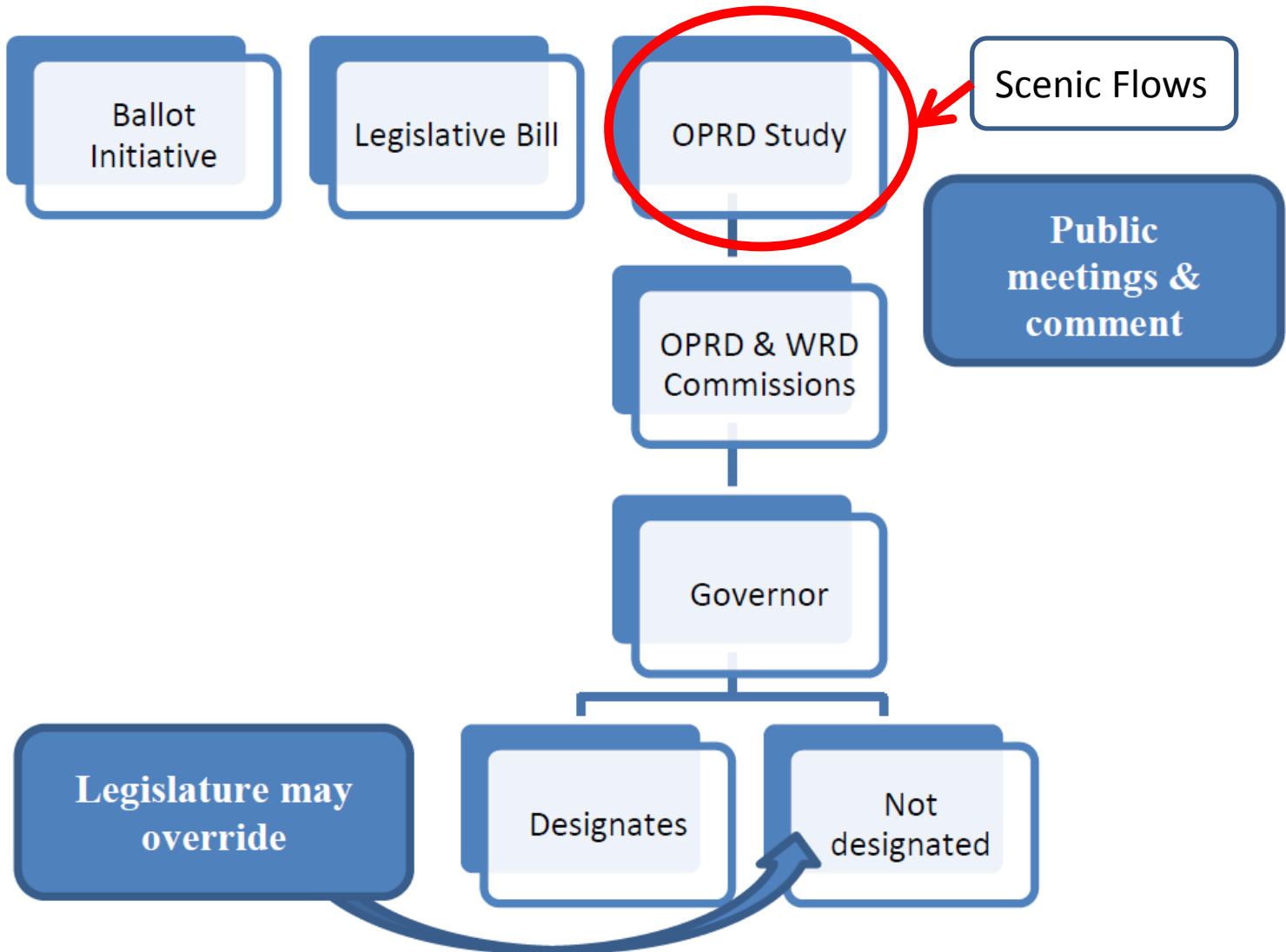
Scenic River: 90-100%

**Natural Scenic River:
85-100%**

**Recreational River:
80-100%**

**River Community:
75-100%**

OPRD Pilot Process and Next Steps



Oregon's State Scenic Waterway designation options

OPRD Pilot Process:

Designation of additional scenic waterways

**Criteria considered when making such
[designation] reports:**

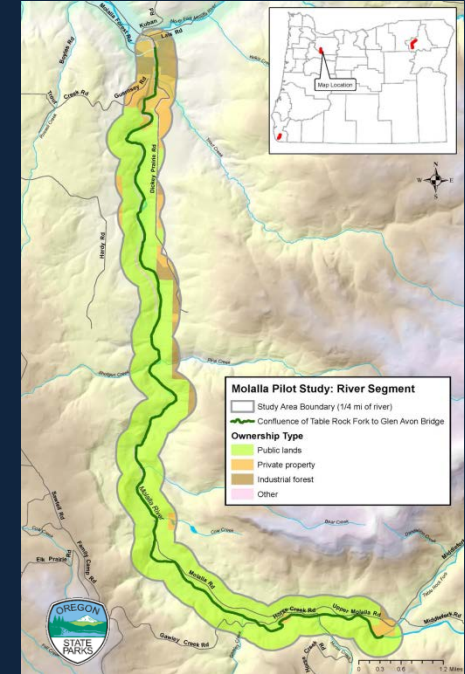
- 1. Physically qualifies**
- 2. Feedback from general public**
- 3. Organized group (including local
proponents) requests designation and
presents basic management plan**

**[http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Pages/
Scenic-Waterways-Assessment-Process.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Pages/Scenic-Waterways-Assessment-Process.aspx)**

OPRD Pilot Process: Molalla

Findings of OPRD Scenic Molalla River Report

- Molalla found eligible
- Public support strong



Written Comment Type	Opposed	Support
Individual Emails and Letters	2	7
Community Meeting Comment Forms	0	1
Email Campaign	0	164
Postcard Campaign	0	33
Total Written Comments:	2	205

OPRD Pilot Process: Molalla

Potential Advisory Group Members:

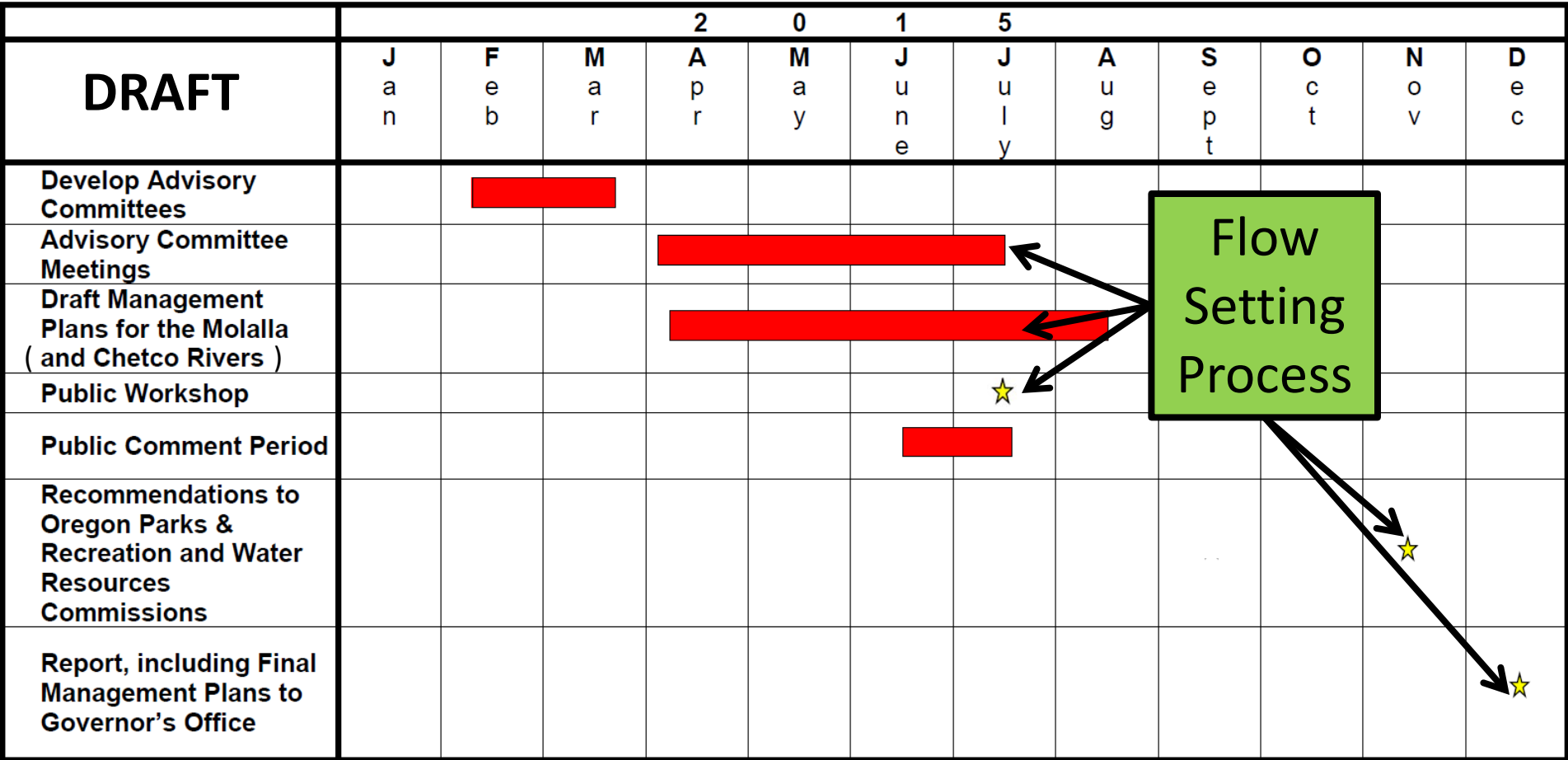
- Molalla River Alliance
- BLM
- Cities and County
- Landowners

Advisory Group Goals:

- Draft management plan
- OPRD classification

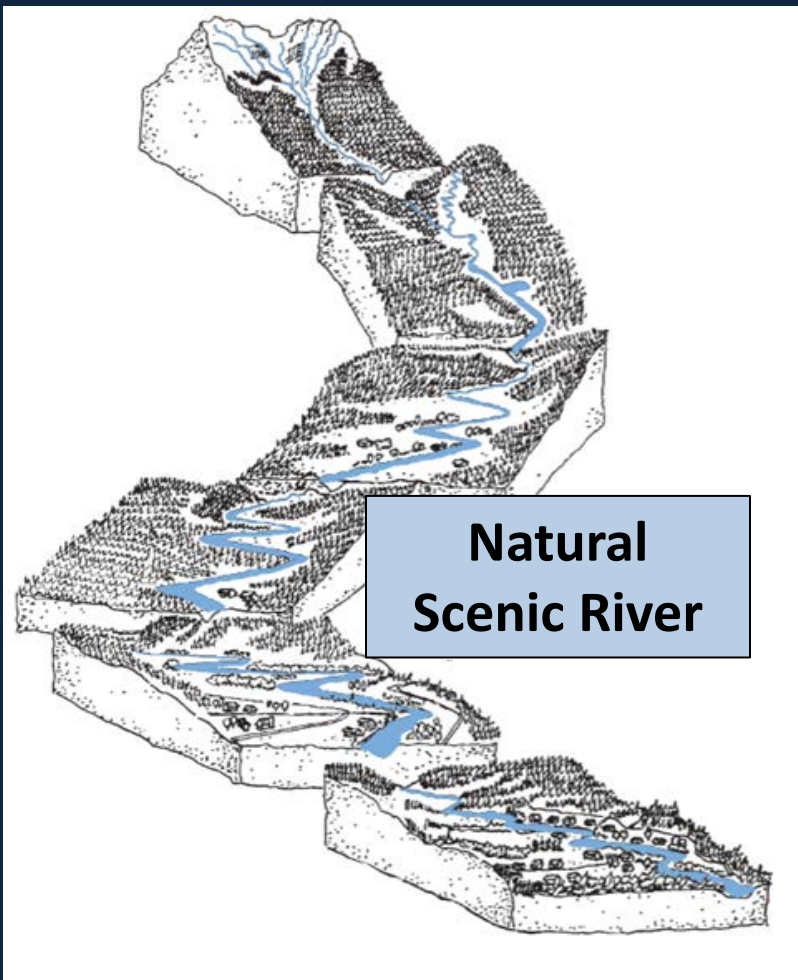
Molalla River

OPRD Pilot Process: Molalla Timeline



OPRD Pilot Process:

Hypothetical Molalla Flow Recommendation Process

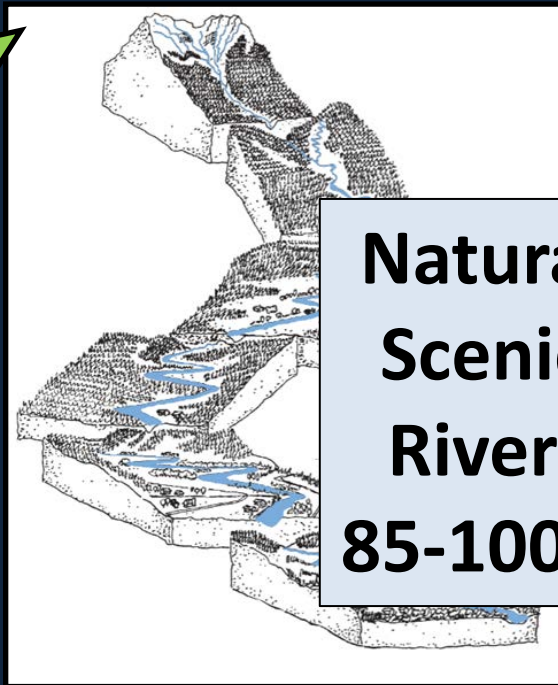


Recommended Scenic Allocation (percent of median monthly flow)
Natural River: 100%
Accessible Natural River: 95-100%
Scenic River: 90-100%
Natural Scenic River: 85-100%
Recreation River: 80-100%
River Community: 75-100%

OPRD Pilot Process: *Hypothetical* Molalla Flow Recommendation Process

OPRD Advisory Group

Suggest classification



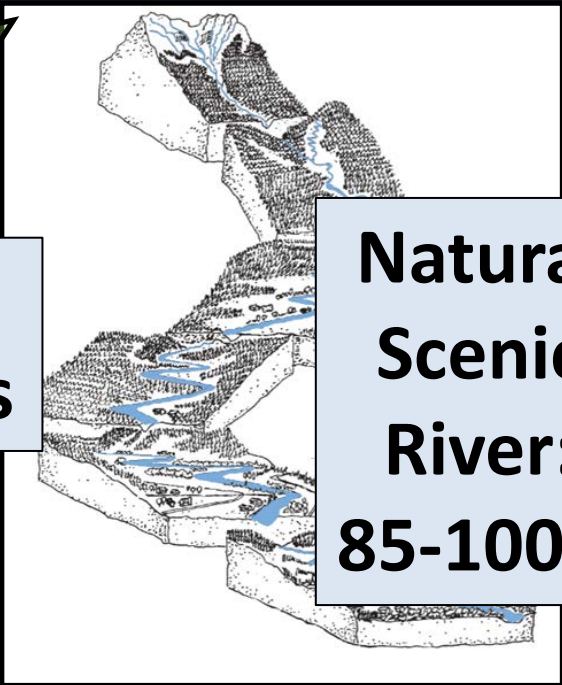
**Natural
Scenic
River:
85-100%**

OPRD Pilot Process: *Hypothetical* Molalla Flow Recommendation Process

OPRD Advisory Group



Public
Process



Natural
Scenic
River:
85-100%

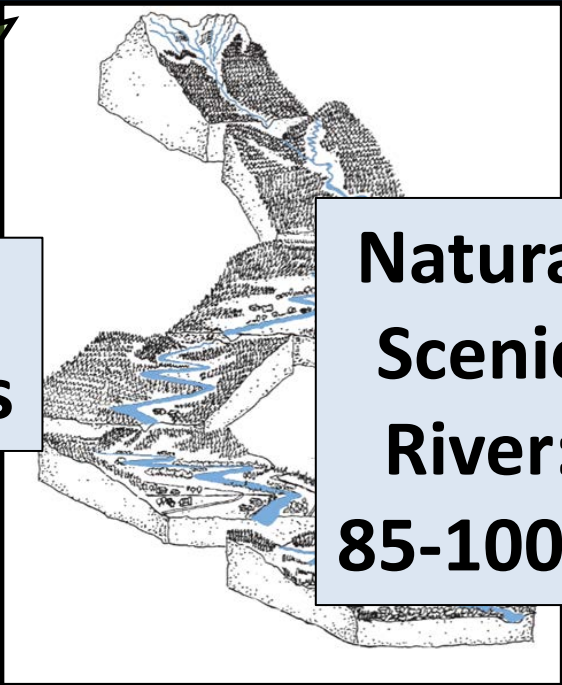
Public input on
classification

OPRD Pilot Process: *Hypothetical* Molalla Flow Recommendation Process

OPRD Advisory Group



Public Process



Natural Scenic River:
85-100%

85% – minor additional water development

92% - less water development

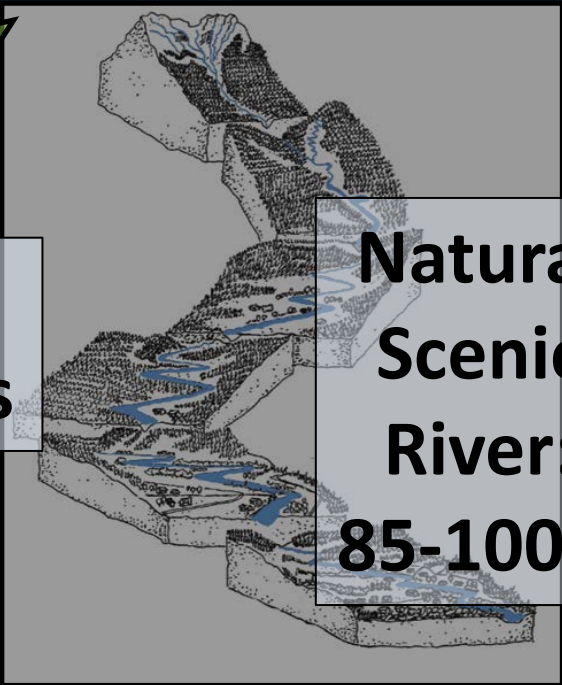
100% – no future water development

OPRD Pilot Process: *Hypothetical* Molalla Flow Recommendation Process

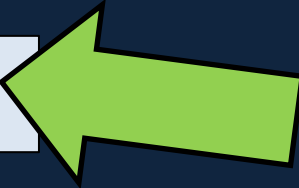
OPRD Advisory Group



Public Process



**Natural Scenic River:
85-100%**



85% – minor additional water development

92% - less water development

100% – no future water development



Setting Scenic Waterway Flows-Summary

Recommended Scenic Allocation (percent of median monthly flow)

Natural River: 100%

Accessible Natural River: 95-100%

Scenic River: 90-100%

Natural Scenic River: 85-100%

Recreation River: 80-100%

River Community: 75-100%

- How we set flows in past
- Proposal for new framework
- Flow setting within OPRD designation process

Setting Scenic Waterway Flows: Questions for the Commission

Any concerns/comments regarding:

- **The Scenic Flow Framework?**
- **WRD's engagement in OPRD's process?**

Reminder:

- **September: Additional WRC presentation**
- **December: WRC to adopt both scenic waterways and flows for specific sites**

Waldo Lake

A photograph of Waldo Lake at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, with the sun low on the horizon. Silhouettes of evergreen trees and mountains are visible against the bright sky. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. Several large rocks are scattered in the shallow water near the shore.

Thank you

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503-986-0836

Hypothetical Molalla River Scenic Allocation: Comparison of Median Monthly Flow to 85% Scenic Allocation

