

Item J: Waldo and Crater Lakes Outstanding Resource Waters Rulemaking



Photo courtesy of Debra Sturdevant



Photo courtesy of Crater Lake NP

Environmental Quality Commission meeting
Jan. 21, 2021

Proposed EQC Action – ORW Designation

DEQ proposes that the EQC amend Oregon's water quality standards rules to:

1. Designate Waldo Lake an Outstanding Resource Water
 - Protect the existing high water quality of Waldo Lake.
2. Designate Crater Lake an Outstanding Resource Water
 - Protect the existing high water quality of Crater Lake.



Outstanding Resource Water Policy

Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding state resource, existing water quality must be maintained and protected.

Agenda Outline

- Presentation
 - Background: Petition
 - Information on Waldo and Crater Lakes
 - Rulemaking process and proposed rules
- EQC action
- Remarks
 - Crater Lake National Park Superintendent, Craig Ackerman
 - Willamette National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor, Duane Bishop

2019 Waldo Lake Petition

- Submitted by Northwest Environmental Defense Center
- EQC granted the petition
- Include Crater Lake

Waldo Lake

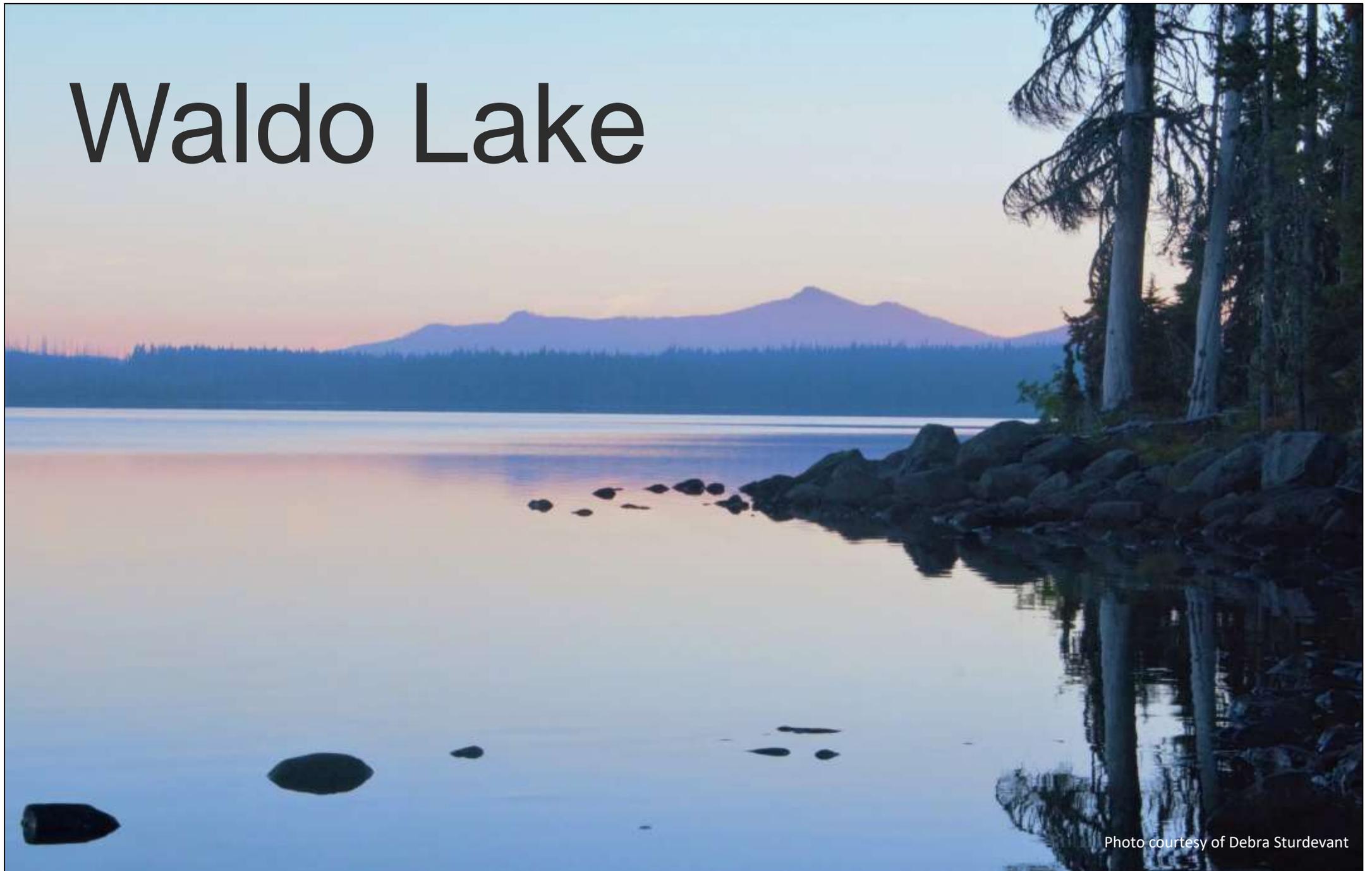
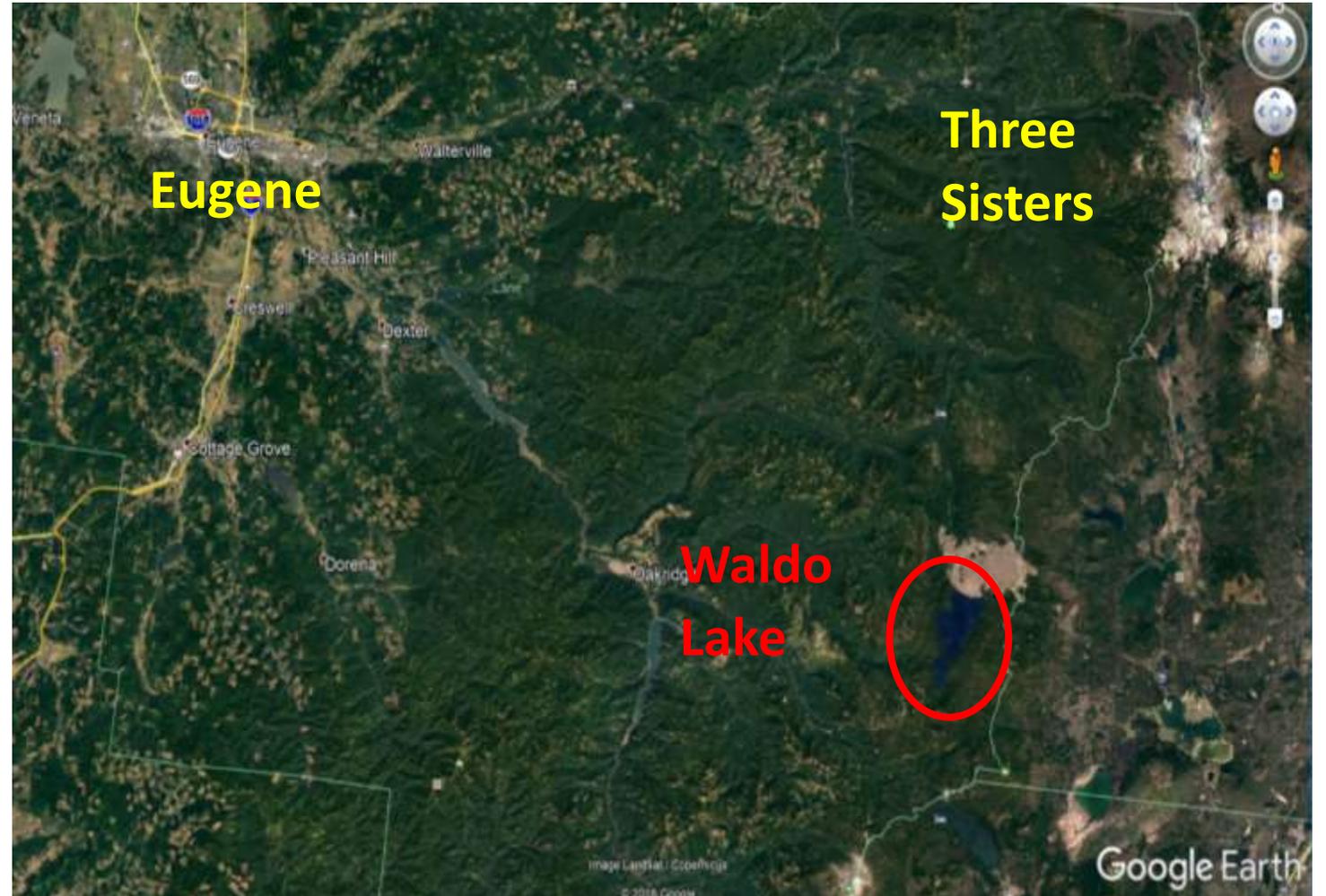
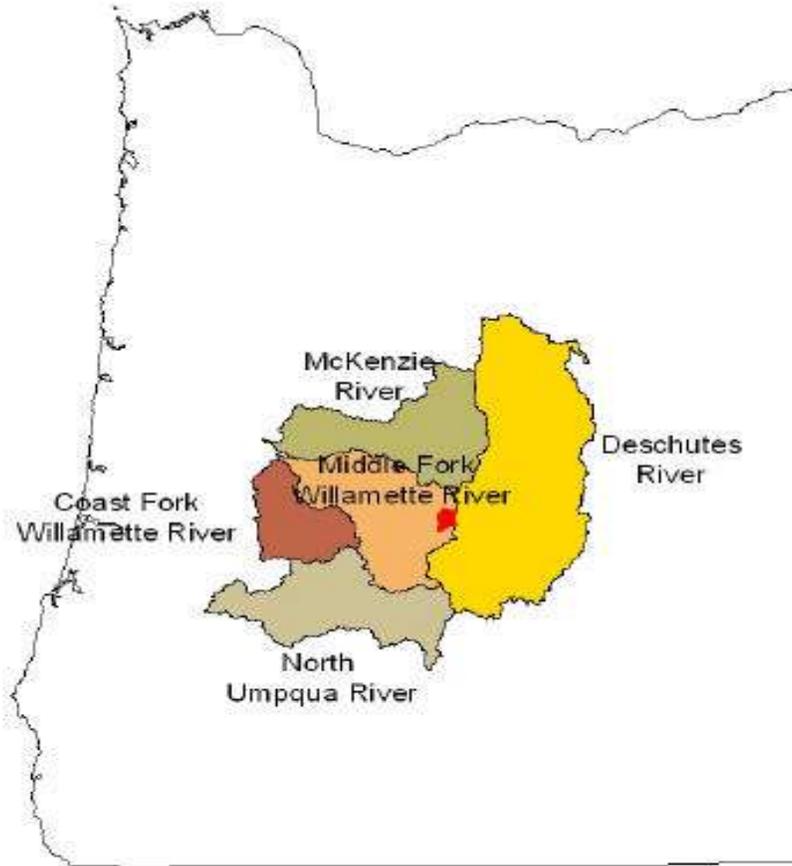
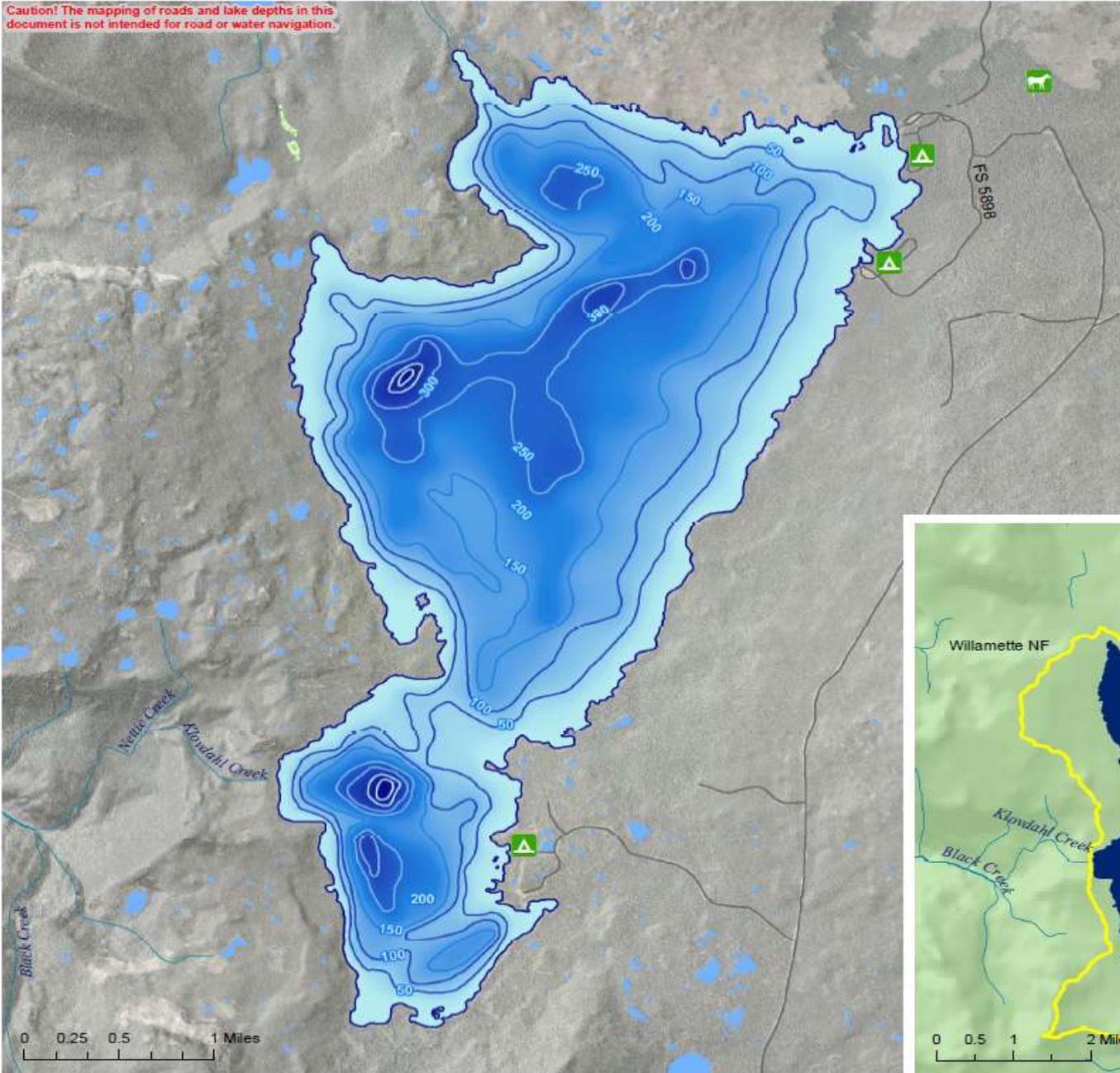


Photo courtesy of Debra Sturdevant

Location of Waldo Lake



Caution! The mapping of roads and lake depths in this document is not intended for road or water navigation.



Waldo Lake

Lane County



GNIS Name - Waldo Lake
GNIS ID - 1151818
NHD Reach - 17090001020920
Lat/Lon - 43° 46' 02" / -122° 03' 10"
Elevation - 5,420 ft, 2,193m
Lake Area - 6,298.0 acres, 2,548.8 hectares
Basin Area - 29.7 sq mi, 77.0 sq km
Type - Natural lake
Trophic Status - Ultraoligotrophic, 18/08/81
Bath Map - CLR, 01/01/03
© Portland State University



Map courtesy Center for
Lakes and Reservoirs,
Portland State University

Water Quality

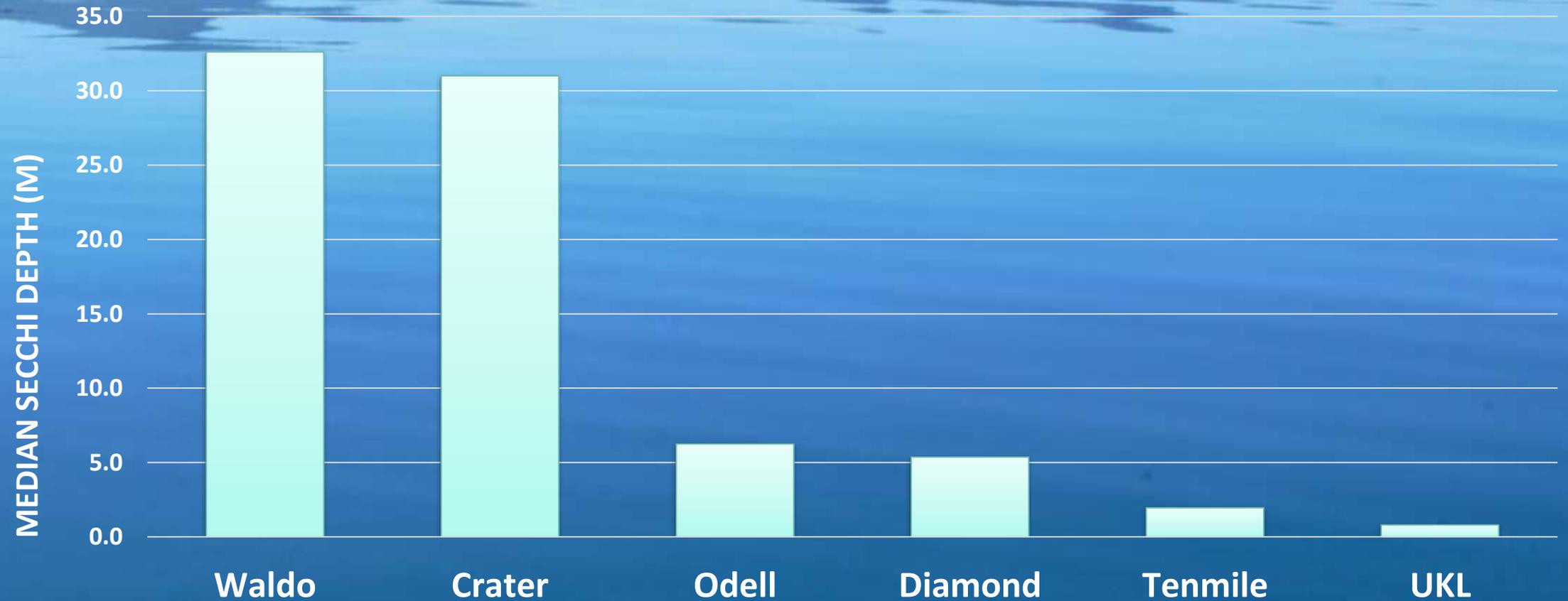


Photo courtesy of Debra Sturdevant

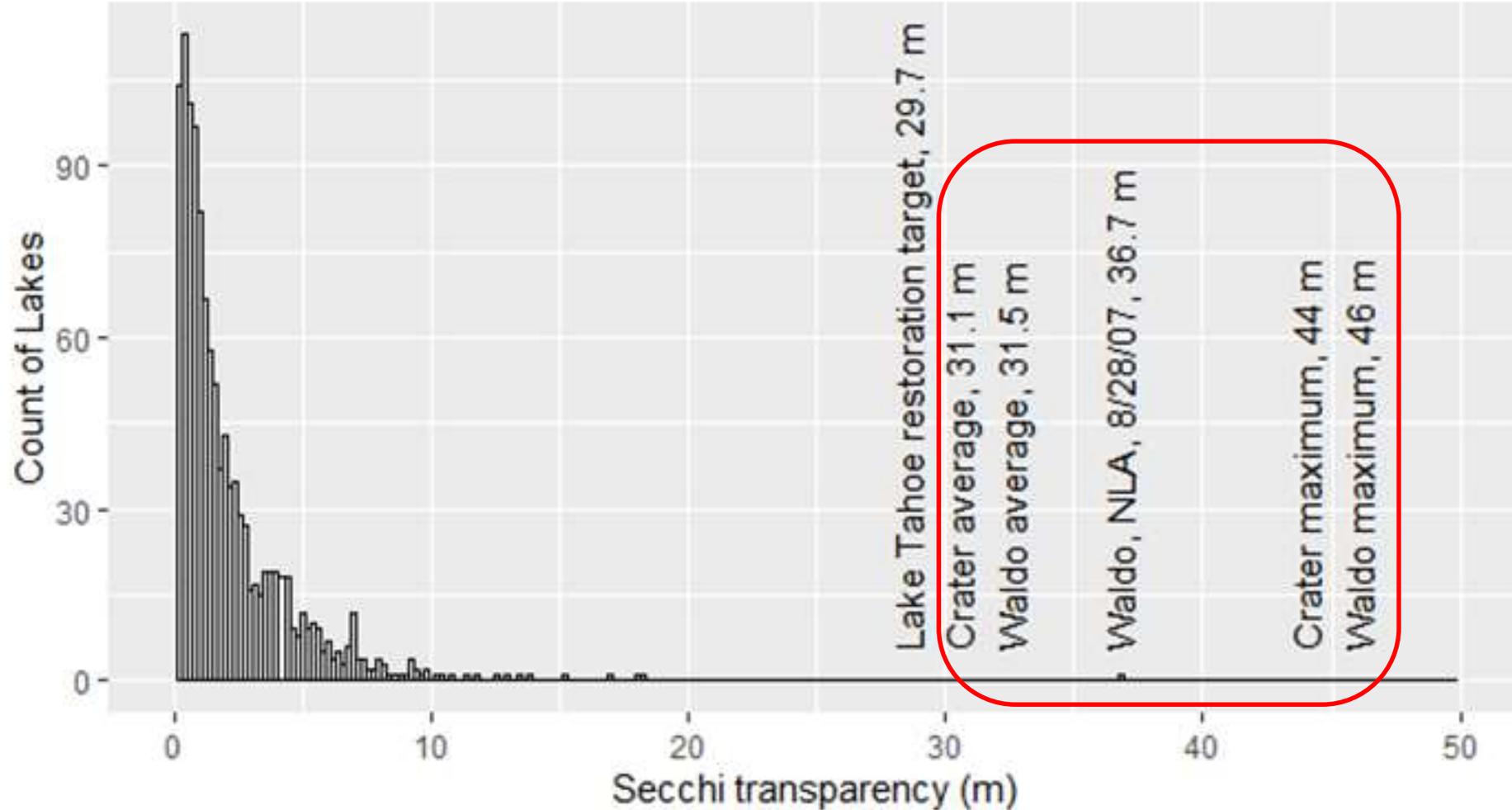
- Extraordinarily clear
- Low productivity
- Like distilled water

Photo courtesy of Debra Sturdevant

Secchi Depths of Selected Oregon Lakes



Secchi Depths from the 2007 National Lakes Assessment



Ecology and Research



Northwest Salamander

- Leafy liverwort
- Amphibians

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Recreation

kayaking / swimming
hiking / camping
mountain biking

Current Protections



Photo courtesy of Debra Sturdevant

Questions about Waldo Lake?

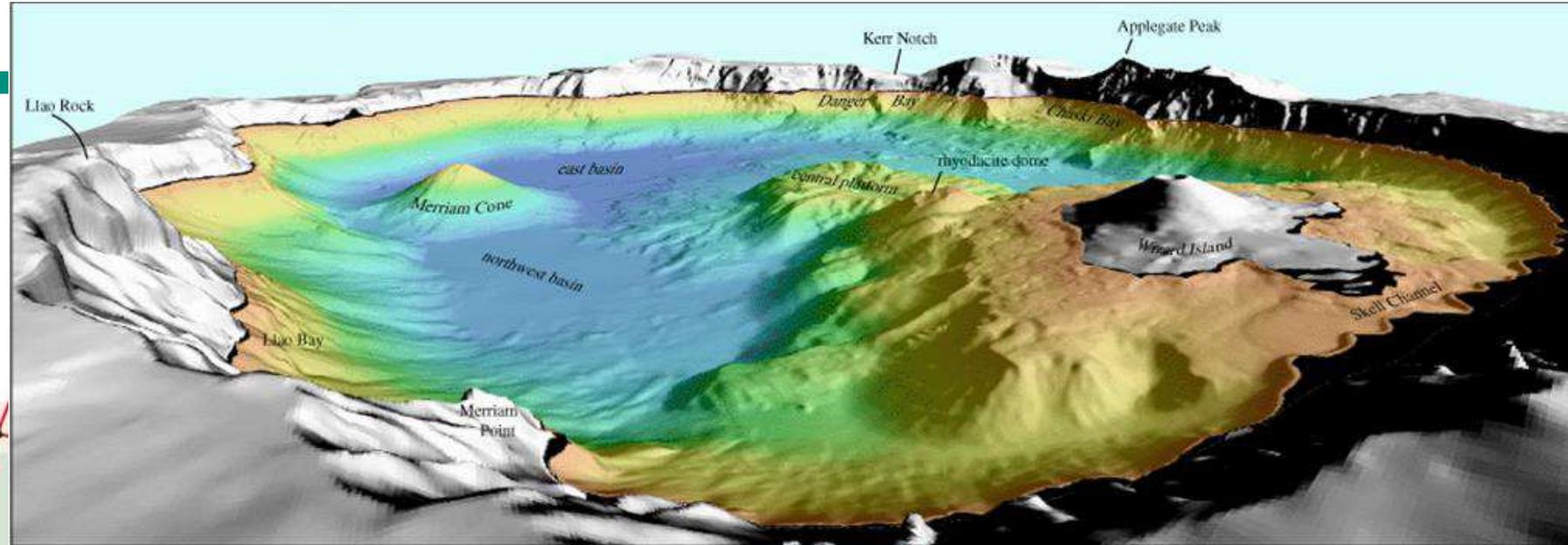


Crater Lake



Photo credit: Debra Sturdevant

Location



USGS shaded relief perspective image of Crater Lake

Deepest Lake in the U.S. at 1949 feet



Water Quality

Photo credit: Debra Sturdevant

A high-angle photograph of a large, clear blue lake surrounded by snow-capped mountains. In the foreground, a rocky island with evergreen trees is visible. The water is exceptionally clear, reflecting the blue sky and the surrounding landscape. The overall scene is serene and picturesque, highlighting the natural beauty and water quality of the area.

Extraordinary clarity
and color

Ecology and Research

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Crater Lake Long-term Limnological Monitoring Program

State of the Lake Report: 2018



Recreation



Photo credit: Debra Sturdevant

Cultural Values



© *Dave Folts*

Lake Management



DEQ recommends ORW designation:

- The lakes qualify as Outstanding Resource Waters based on their water quality and ecological and recreation values.



DEQ recommends ORW designation:

- Proposed rule implements the Outstanding Resource Waters policy.
- State protection will support the agencies' management goals



Rulemaking Process and Public Input

Milestone	Date
Advisory Committee	May – June 2020
Public Notice and Comment	July – August 2020
Public Hearing	August 2020
Environmental Quality Commission	January 2021

Advisory Committee

Member	Organization
Mark Riskedahl	Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Lynda Kamerrer	Oakridge/Westfir Chamber of Commerce
Kelley Minty Morris	Klamath County Commissioner
Andy Schaedel	Oregon Lakes Association
Rich Miller	PSU Center for Lakes and Reservoirs
Al Johnson	Willamette National Forest
Jennifer Gibson	Crater Lake National Park
Randy Jones	DEQ, Eastern Region, Regional Solutions

Summary of Public Comments

- 730 comments were received, 729 in support
- Common comments:
 - Pristine nature and high quality of the waters
 - Importance of protecting water quality for future generations
 - Need for wise stewardship of water quality
 - Protection for critical habitat areas
 - Importance of lakes for recreational use

Summary of Public Comment

- Comments on Rule Language
 - National Park Service
 - EPA
 - Rogue Riverkeeper
 - Forest Service (Waldo Lake)
- Recreational user impacts
 - Human waste; invasive species
- Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Forest Industries Council and Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Final Proposed Rules

- Protect and maintain existing high water quality, ecological and recreation values
 - Except as altered by natural processes
- Prohibit permitted discharges
 - Except construction stormwater permits – short term
- Prohibit other new discharges, with exceptions:
 - Respond to public health or safety emergency
 - Allow restoration or improvement projects

Questions?



Waldo Lake



Crater Lake

Proposed EQC Action – Crater Lake

“I move that the commission adopt the proposed amendments to Oregon Administrative Rules 340-041-0004 and 340-041-0185, as shown in Attachment A.”

Proposed EQC Action – Waldo Lake



“I move that the commission adopt the proposed amendments to Oregon Administrative Rules 340-041-0004 and OAR 340-041-0345 as shown in Attachment A.”