

Environmental Solutions · Standards and Assessment

North Fork Smith River Outstanding Resource Water Designation

Presentation to the EQC
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Portland, Oregon

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Recommendation to EQC

- Designate North Fork Smith River and its tributaries and associated wetlands as Outstanding Resource Waters
- Establish policies to protect and maintain water quality
- Exclude waters in state-owned (DSL) parcel



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Antidegradation

- Part of water quality standards
- Three levels
 - Limited waters
 - High quality waters
 - Outstanding resource waters



Outstanding Resource Waters

- Special protection for outstanding state waters
- DEQ to develop screening process.
- None designated in Oregon.



Courtesy of Sundance Kayak School

Petition to conduct rulemaking

- Submitted Feb. 2016
- Direction for rulemaking
 - 1995 Issue Paper



Proposed Rule in Petition

- Designate NF Smith River waters as ORWs
- Prohibit permits and activities that degrade water quality and ecological integrity
- Policy for restoration and emergencies



Advisory Committee



Issue Paper

Technical Analysis	Policy Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting• Outstanding values• Significant water quality parameters• Adequacy of limnological data• Technical feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need• Ramifications• Managerial Feasibility

This map illustrates the Smith River Watershed, which spans across the border between Oregon and California. The watershed is outlined in a thick black line. Key features include the Kalmiopsis Wilderness (dark green), the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (light green), and the Smith River National Recreation Area (red dashed line). The map shows the North Fork Smith River flowing through the center, with numerous tributaries such as Horse Creek, Chrome Creek, Spokane Creek, Baldface Creek, Taylor Creek, Biscuit Creek, Fall Creek, North Fork Diamond Creek, Shelly Creek, West Creek, Blue Creek, Rowdy Creek, Bear Creek, Fourth of July Creek, East Fork Winchuck River, and North Fork Chetco River. The map also indicates the location of the Kalmiopsis National Monument and the Six Rivers National Forest. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the symbols for Wild & Scenic River, Smith River Watershed, National Recreation Area, Wilderness, Inventoried Roadless Area, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, State Land, and Private Land. An inset map in the top left corner shows the location of the Smith River Watershed within the state of Oregon and its proximity to California and Nevada. A scale bar and a compass rose are located in the top right corner.

Ecological characteristics

- Clarity and color of the waters
- Pristine conditions
- Critical coho salmon habitat
- *Darlingtonia* wetlands
- Important recreational waters



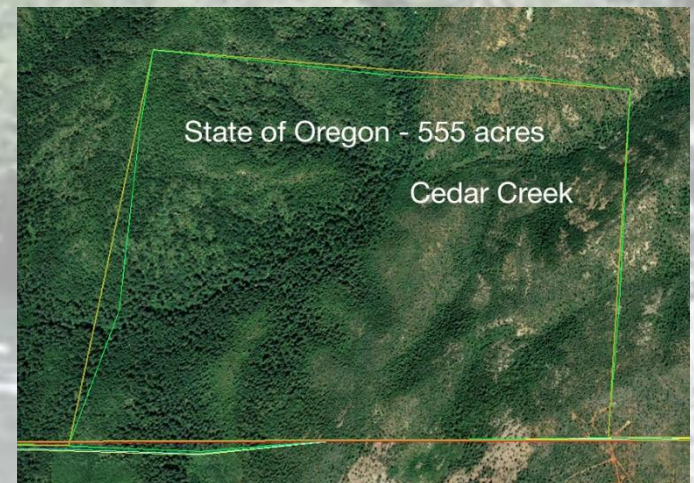
Need

- Fulfills antidegradation requirement
- Protecting unique value



Implications

- No NPDES permits
- State parcel
- Continued recreation activities



Public Notice and Hearings

- Jan. 13 – Feb. 28
- Portland and Brookings
- 63 attendees, 32 comments



Public Comments

- 1,326 commenters
 - 1,318 favored designation
 - Seven opposed
 - One expressing neither favor or opposing (EPA)



Significant Comments and Response

- DSL parcel
- Rule language suggestions
- No need for designation



Final recommendation

- Amend OAR 340-041-0004 and 340-041-0305 as shown in the Draft Rules to:
 - Designate the North Fork Smith River and its tributaries and associated wetlands as Outstanding Resource Waters.
 - Establish policies to protect the high quality of these waters.
 - Exclude a portion of Cedar Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Smith River, from ORW designation.

Questions?

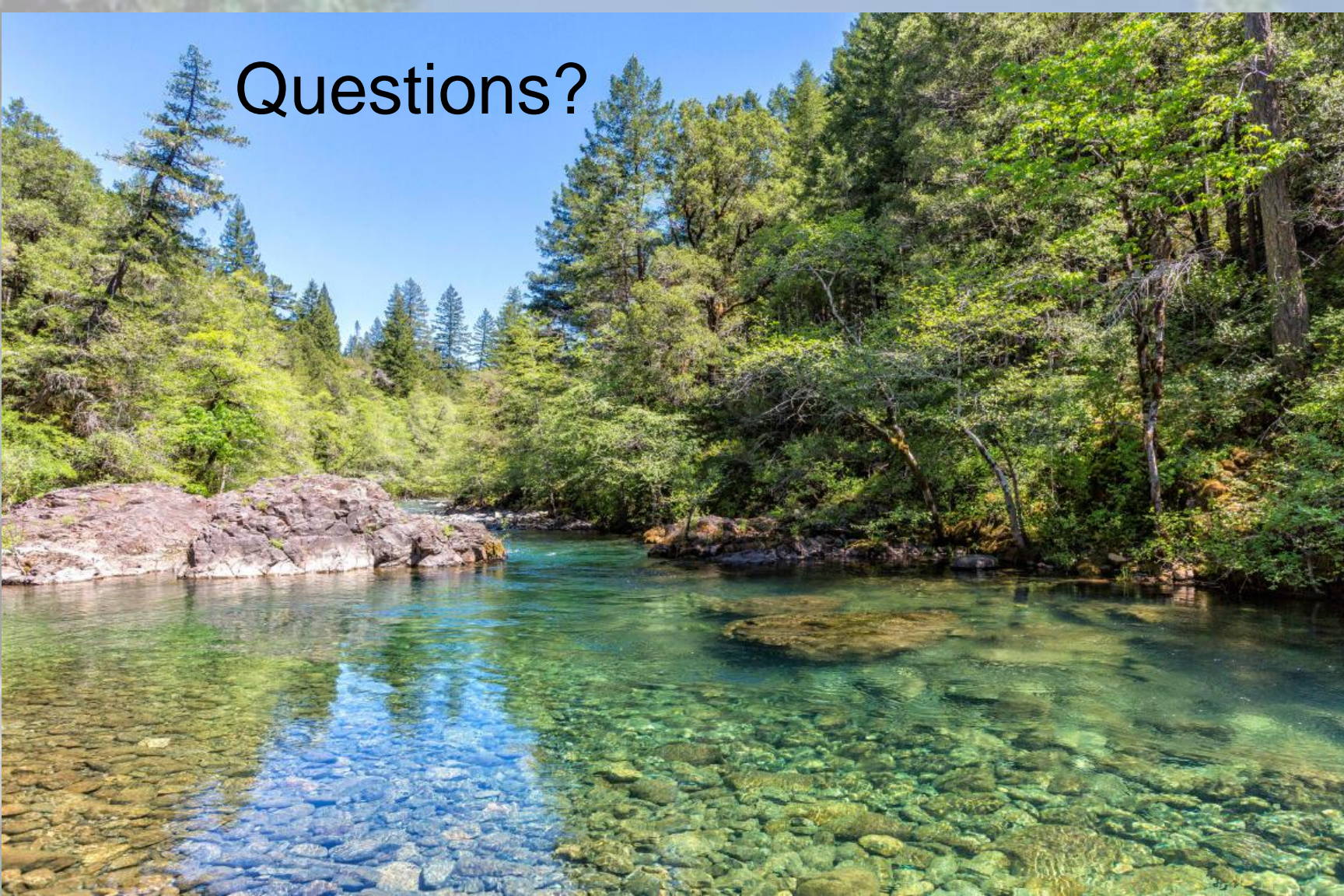


Photo by Ken Anderson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hplfTKvgaQ>

