



Klickitat & White Salmon Rivers Fisheries & Science Conference

Columbia River Gorge NSA

and

Wild and Scenic River Designation

Sue Baker CRGNSA
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Wild and Scenic River Act 1968

Preserve rivers with outstanding

- **Natural values**
- **Cultural values**
- **Recreational values**

**and in a free-flowing condition for
the enjoyment of present and future
generations**



Wild and Scenic Rivers are:

- **Designated by Congress or Secretary of the Interior**
- **Administered by a federal or state agency**
- **Boundaries are generally $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on either bank to protect river related values**
- **Designation does not have to include the entire river**



Rivers are classified as

- **Wild- free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.**
- **Scenic- free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.**
- **Recreational- readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along their shorelines, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.**



White Salmon



Klickitat

Scenic Area Act

SEC. 13 Tributary Rivers and Streams

(c) Wild and Scenic River Designations

- **Klickitat from Wheeler Creek to the Columbia – Recreation**
- **White Salmon from Gilmer Creek to Buck Creek – Scenic**

Designation does not

- **Prohibit development**
- **Give Federal government control over private property**

Uses such as

- **Recreation, agricultural practices, residential development, and others may continue**

River protection is

- **Voluntary through landowners and river users, and**
- **through regulations and programs of federal, state, local and tribal government**

The Act limits

- **how much land the federal government is allowed to acquire from willing sellers (100 acre per river mile- White Salmon Management Plan asks for a congressional exception of 150 acre)**

Lower White Salmon Wild and Scenic River Management Plan

- **The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides overall legal authority and requirements for planning and management of W&S Rivers.**
- **Overall management goal is to meet the intent of the W&SR Act by:**
 - **maintaining the current character of the river area and,**
 - **providing long term protection and enhancement of its outstandingly remarkable values.**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

White Salmon

- **Whitewater Boating**
- **White Salmon River Gorge**
- **Hydrology**
- **Native American Indian longhouse Site & Cemetery**
- **Resident Fish**

Klickitat River

- **River's Free-flowing Character**
- **Resident & Anadromous Fish & their Habitat**
- **Native American Dip-net Fishing**
- **Geology of the Lower Klickitat Gorge**

River task force members

- **Sverre Bakke**
- **Bob chamberlain**
- **Steve Couche**
- **Bruce Eddy**
- **William Gross**
- **Jon Hall**
- **Johnny Jackson**
- **Pan Knudson**
- **Bill Locke**
- **Mike Sandlin**
- **Bob Schneider**
- **Elmer Schuster**
- **Richard C. Smith**
- **Walter Speedis**
- **Krista Thie**
- **Bill Weiler**
- **Dennis White**
- **Bill Yallup**
- **Phil Zoller**
- **Tracy Zoller**
- **Klickitat County Commissioner**
- **SDS lumber company**
- **Forest Service, Mt Adams Ranger District**
- **Pacific Power and Light**
- **White Salmon Launch Point**
- **White water market**
- **Indian river People**
- **Washington State Dept of Fisheries**
- **Husum Landowner**
- **Mt Adams Orchards**
- **Lower Columbia Canoe Club**
- **Yakima Indian nation**
- **Husum a Landowner**
- **Yakima Indian Nation**
- **Botanist**
- **Washington Environmental council**
- **Friends of The White salmon**
- **Yakima Indian Nation**
- **Phil's guide Service**
- **White Water Adventure**

Public input to plan: 136 written responses

- **94 individuals**
- **11 local land owners**
- **8 federal government agencies**
- **5 conservation/preservation organizations**
- **4 plant/wildlife organizations**
- **2 Yakama Indian Nation Tribal Governments**
- **2 agencies of Klickitat county**
- **2 agencies of Washington State**
- **2 River guide/ outfitters**
- **1 elected official of Klickitat County**
- **1 non-tribal government Indian organization**
- **1 agriculture industry**
- **1 timber industry**
- **1 logging business**
- **1 boating club**

Desired Condition of the Five Management Areas

1. White Salmon River Channel: OHW

- **Water quantity, throughout the year, is the same as when designated**
- **Water quality is as high as measured in 1991**
- **River remains free flowing**
- **Pump houses, spring boxes, etc are relatively inconspicuous to boaters**
- **Absence of litter in river and on banks**
- **Historic river related structures remain in place**
- **Fish habitat in good condition**
- **Increase in large woody material from 1991- not where boating safety is compromised**
- **Everyone has equal opportunity to float river**
- **Boaters respect the rights of private landowners**



2. The Buffer:

200' each side outside rural centers

100' each side in Husum

20' beyond gorge rim in BZ, not exceeding 200' wide

- **Vegetation is generally undisturbed and made up of native species**
- **Vegetation is**
 - late successional or becoming so**
 - is dense enough to screen development outside buffer**
 - Used as a wildlife corridor outside rural center**



3. Federal Lands Outside the Buffer

- **Oregon white oak are abundant and healthy**
- **Some conifer manipulation occurs to maintain existing oak stands**
- **Wetlands and riparian area function effectively**
- **A few short interpretive trails are located in the area, but not near the river**
- **A few roads are are still in existence**
- **Few or no cattle graze in the area.**

4. Private Lands Outside the Buffer and Rural Centers of BZ and Husum

- **Landscape is a mixture of agricultural fields, orchards, small woodlots and farm and rural residences, with fields and wood- lots predominating**
- **Active production of agriculture products continues**
- **Occasional harvest of small stands of timber**
- **Residence increase somewhat from 1991 levels and are located on land which is least suitable for agriculture production and forest management.**
- **Development activities new since 1991 are not visible from the river**
- **There may be a few new uses which promote, or are compatible with farm and forest operation, but other types of uses are absent**

5. Private Lands Outside the Buffer but Inside Rural Centers of Husum and BZ

- **Small, spacious, attractive rural communities of**
 - **residences**
 - **small businesses**
 - **commercial services that fit into and serve the surrounding forest and farm patterns**
- **No land use or traffic conflicts**
- **Absence of large industrial or commercial facilities that**
 - **don't fit the area or**
 - **adversely impact river values (especially water quality)**
- **Adequate community water and sewer systems**
- **Buildings visible from river are not visually dominate**
- **Portions of the rural center adjacent to the Buffer are community parks**



FS Management Actions

- **One full time staff W&S River manager and a summer River ranger**
- **Review and comment on proposed county permits inside W&S river corridor**
- **Work with realtors/landowners selling parcels in the corridor**
- **Work with others such as Underwood Conservation District, Washington Department of Ecology and River Keepers to monitor water quality**
- **Conduct surveys on social and physical carrying capacity**
- **Work with outfitters to educate public about river ecosystems, etiquette, history and the rivers outstandingly remarkable values**
- **Work with Klickitat County, Federal Highways and WA State Parks on recreation projects**

Gilmer Creek











BZ Falls



BZ Put In















**BZ Put In:
Private Boaters**

Private Boaters

Husum Falls



Private Boaters



Commercial Outfitters



Commercial Outfitters





BZ put in

Gorge Games 2008





What's in Store for The Future?

