



OREGON

Two separate pieces of legislation in the U.S. Senate could help protect and restore numerous river corridors in the Rogue watershed and protect various at-risk landscapes in Oregon's Southwest Siskiyou region.

The River Democracy Act

This piece of legislation would designate more than 4,000 miles of Oregon's waterways as Wild & Scenic. Several hundred individuals and businesses nominated some of their favorite watersheds for inclusion in the bill from the Oregon Coast to the Oregon High Desert. In SW Oregon alone, more than 750 miles of waterways are included for protection, incorporating tributaries to the Rogue, Chetco, Applegate, and Winchuck River watersheds.

The Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act

This piece of legislation would encompass protections for several watersheds in Southwest Oregon. The Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act would:

- Create the 90,000 acre Rogue Canyon National Recreation Area;
- Expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness by 55,000 acres;
- Establish the Molalla Canyon National Recreation Area);
- And permanently "withdraw" 100,000 acres of public lands in the Hunter, Baldface, and Rough & Ready Creek watersheds, located in Josephine and Curry Counties.

City of Ashland, Oregon Councilor Tonya Graham said, "We know that conserving 30% of our lands and waters is a threshold we need to accomplish for our overall ecological health. We appreciate President Biden giving us guidance on what this can mean for local communities and how private entities, local, state, and federal governments can work to preserve our lands and waters collectively."

