

## **The River Democracy Act What They Are Saying**

### **Elected Officials**

**State Rep. Ken Helm, Washington County:** “Healthy rivers nourish our ecosystems, economy, and culture, and I am grateful for Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect Oregon’s Wild and Scenic Rivers. These beautiful, wild places are central to our identity as Oregonians and must be protected for generations to come.”

**State Rep. Pam Marsh, Jackson County:** “Healthy clean rivers are the essence of my district. Whether you're floating down the world-renowned Rogue River or hiking along Jenny Creek, rivers in my district provide clean drinking water to our communities, offer recreational outlets for all, entice visitors who support our local businesses, and give us solace to play, heal, and teach. I thank Senator Wyden for his leadership on the River Democracy Act of 2021, and in protecting Oregon’s most precious resource – our waters.”

**Casey Kulla, Yamhill County Commissioner:** “While the Oregon Coast has some of the most productive salmon streams in the world, very few are protected. Expanding the Wild and Scenic designation will protect the upper reaches of the Nestucca River and add to the amazing work of farmers, elected officials, and fisherfolk in the Salmon Superhighway.”

**Greg Evans, Eugene City Councilor Ward 6:** “I fully support Senator Wyden’s effort to designate more Wild and Scenic rivers in Oregon. This effort will protect some of our state’s greatest natural assets and support tourism and the economy for years to come.”

**State Senator Floyd Prozanski, Douglas & Lane Counties:** “Many rivers in my District are essential for clean drinking water, fish populations, recreation, and scenic beauty, and during the pandemic they have become all the more critical to our quality of life. From the headwaters and tributaries of the McKenzie and Middle and Coastal Fork Willamette, to the vital waters of the North, South and main Umpqua, protecting more of our streams as Wild & Scenic Rivers will ensure these values continue to benefit our communities for generations to come. Thank you, Senator Wyden!”

**State Rep. Marty Wilde, Lane and Linn Counties:** “The McKenzie river provides clean drinking water to over 200,000 Oregonians while also serving as an ecological focal point of the state, and a centralized space for nature-based community building in Lane County. It is critical to preserve the McKenzie’s spring-fed water so that generations of Oregonians to come may still enjoy it in the future.”

**State Rep. Janeen Sollman, Washington County:** “As a State Representative I know how important our pristine rivers and waters are to the people of Oregon. I applaud Senator Wyden for his efforts to protect our rivers through Wild and Scenic designations and look forward to helping him preserve these special spaces for future generations.”

**State Senator Jeff Golden, Jackson County:** “Since its inclusion in the original Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the Rogue River has become the vital artery of Southern Oregon’s economy and quality of life. It’s time to complete the task those visionaries started fifty years ago.”

**Milwaukie Mayor Mark Gamba, Clackamas County:** “For well over a decade I’ve been enjoying and helping to clean and preserve the Clackamas River. It is one of the most beautiful rivers in the state and certainly the most wild in the Portland Metro area. Important endangered fish habitat, municipal water sources and some of the best riverine recreation depend on this beautiful river and it is critical we protect it. Thank you, Senator Wyden for your leadership in protecting this river.”

**Former State Rep. Cheri Helt, Deschutes County:** “As a State Representative for Bend, protecting our pristine rivers, creeks, and waterways is a top priority for me. Our rivers, forests and mountains are an important part of our quality life, as they are the heart and soul of our community. Senator Wyden’s smart bill will preserve and protect our beautiful waters and wilderness for future generations to enjoy.”

**Bruce Abernethy, former Bend City Councilmember:** “Central Oregon is home to several world-class rivers that help make our high quality of life possible. Clean surface and groundwater is needed to brew our fine beers and cultivate our crops, and our renowned river recreation opportunities draw both locals and tourists from far and wide. I support the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and am keen to add more protections for current and future generations.”

**Former State Senator Arnie Roblan, Lincoln, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Lane, Douglas, and Coos Counties:** “Thank you, Senator Wyden for your continued leadership to promote and preserve access to Oregon’s beautiful outdoor areas. Tourism and outdoor recreation are so important to the Oregon Coast and its businesses and your bill will help these critical economic sectors in our coastal communities.”

### **Tribal Nations**

**Shannon Wheeler, Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee:** “The waterways of the Nez Perce Tribe’s homeland, which include what is today Northeast Oregon, hold particular significance for our people. The opportunity to provide additional protections through Wild and Scenic designation to areas, such as the Joseph Creek Watershed in northeast Oregon, that have critical cultural and ecological resources important to our tribal members is a welcome one and we appreciate Senator Wyden’s leadership on this issue.”

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees:** “The CTUIR appreciates Senator Wyden’s work on this and hope this legislation can protect and preserve the natural and cultural importance of our ecosystem.”

**Terri Parr, Executive Director, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI):** “ATNI supports passage of legislation that establishes additional Wild and Scenic designations as a means of preserving and protecting critical lands and waterways that are culturally, traditionally, and historically invaluable to ATNI Tribes and are critical to the future of the Pacific Northwest.”

**Dan Courtney, Chairman, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians:** “The Cow Creek Umpqua People have lived on the land and fished our waters since time immemorial. Our people have suffered through Removal, Termination and finally restored to manage our forests once again. We applaud Senator Wyden for including elements of management in his Wild and Scenic legislation that consider the sobering risks that wildfire poses to our river corridors. Careful management around our rivers is necessary to maintain good drinking water, healthy fish runs and the beauty that our rivers offer to us and our guests.”

### **Businesses**

**Michael LaLonde, President, Deschutes Brewery, Deschutes County:** “Protecting clean drinking water, public lands recreation, and wildlife habitat are values Deschutes Brewery supports. We thank Senator Wyden for his leadership in protecting Oregon's Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

**Roger Worthington, Owner, Worthy Brewing, Deschutes County:** “As the owner of a brewery I have a deep appreciation of the importance of clean water as a source of both life and good beer. I applaud Senator Wyden's legislation to increase protections for Oregon's cherished rivers as good news for beer, business, outdoor recreation, and climate change.”

**Zachary Collier, Owner/Outfitter, Northwest Rafting Company & ECHO River Trips, headquartered in Hood River County:** “I appreciate Senator Wyden’s leadership and relentless dedication to protecting the rivers of Oregon. The Wild and Scenic River protections he has championed are critical for my outfitting business and Oregon’s recreation economy.”

**Kate Crump, Owner, Frigate Travel, Tillamook County:** “Senator Wyden has been a champion for Oregon rivers his entire career, helping to protect many of the places my family's fishing guide business relies upon. His historic move today will help salmon and steelhead in a warming climate, and make Oregon The Wild and Scenic Capital of the World!”

**Chris Daughters, owner, The Caddis Fly Angling Shop, Lane County:** “Oregon’s storybook rivers draw people from across the world for all of the recreation opportunities they offer. The protection of these rivers and their stream-side environments ensure certainty into the future for river-dependent businesses like The Caddis Fly Angling Shop, and that is why we commend Senator Wyden for introducing legislation to create safeguards for our outstanding, yet unprotected, rivers and streams across the state.”

**Patrick Kruse, Founder and R&D Director, Ruffwear, Deschutes County:** “Ruffwear supports the protection of rivers that provide clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities. We thank Senator Wyden for his leadership in protecting Oregon's Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

**Alyssa Warren Wood, Rogue Infinity Outfitters LLC, Josephine County:** “There is nothing more important to value and protect during these uncertain times than Nature and the Wild places that offer all of us solace, connection, and Life! Senator Wyden is one of the few in power who still sees the 'Green' that is going to save us all one day, and I support him and his every effort to provide each of us, no matter our color, access to increasingly protected wild spaces for the present and for our future's future.”

**Kate Wollney, Regional Manager, OARS, headquartered in Jackson County:** “As a river guide for almost 30 years, I have had many reasons to thank Senator Wyden for all the work he does protecting wild places. In 2020 more than ever, many of us have felt our only safe place to be in the COVID-19 pandemic was outside and in nature. With stress building at home for families juggling home-schooling, working, childcare, financial uncertainty, and threats to their health we heard so many families say that going rafting with us on the Rogue River (one of the charter rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) was "so needed" and "kept them sane." And so I thank Senator Wyden-once again-for standing with his constituents and introducing legislation to protect our rivers. The world is likely to continue to become more complicated, but connecting with nature is a constant that always helps people stay healthy, especially during difficult times such as these.”

**Dave Lacey, Owner of South Coast Tours, Gold Beach:** “South Coast Tours and its guides support the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and all the conservation minded visitors that those designations bring to the south coast of Oregon. We value our wild rivers so much that we call the southern Oregon coast ‘The Wild Rivers Coast’ where there are more Wild and Scenic Rivers concentrated than anywhere else in the lower 48. Thank you, Senator Wyden - we support further designations and rely on those wild river experiences to make us competitive in the tourism industry.”

**Harvey Young, owner and operator, Fishhawk River Company, Central Point:** “A big thank you to Senator Wyden for his support of salmon and river conservation. As a fishing guide in southern Oregon, restoration and protection of cold water streams means everything to my business. This is where our wild salmon spawn, and people come from all over the world for a chance to catch a wild salmon.”

**Alexandra Carr-Frederick, Chetco Brewing Company, Curry County:** “Senator Wyden's tireless work to protect our Wild and Scenic Rivers is priceless, for today and for future generations. Beer is only as good as the water used to make it! Thank you, Senator Wyden, for protecting Oregon's watersheds and water quality for all of us to enjoy.”

**Randy Turney, Owner and Guide, Riparian Tours, Lane County:** “As one who gains part of my livelihood from the McKenzie river watershed, I try to educate folks on the watershed, its history, and the importance of preserving that legacy. That is why I support Senator Wyden’s effort to expand our Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon.”

**Bill Kremers, Oregon River Trails Outfitters, Linn County:** “Senator Wyden’s River Democracy Act of 2021 will cement a future for Oregon’s recreational economy. As a 25-year veteran fishing guide, our rivers need clean, cool waters to produce wild fish. I applaud Senator Wyden for exercising the Oregon Way; reaching out to all Oregonians, finding a pathway forward and securing a future for our fish, wildlife and rural economies.”

**Sam Drevo, Founder & Director, eNRG Kayaking, Linn and Marion Counties:** “As one of the top paddling schools in the Northwest, we rely on access to rivers like the Clackamas, Santiam and the Willamette for our livelihoods. Senator Wyden’s work will help ensure that these magnificent waterways will continue to be enjoyed by new students that come through our company be they on a kayak, canoe, raft or stand up paddleboard. Thank you, Senator Wyden.”

**Craig Camp, General Manager, Troon Vineyard, Yamhill County:** “Wild and Scenic designations are important for promoting recreation and local economies and preserving habitats and I believe it is important to ensure that these waterways can be enjoyed by future generations.”

**Stuart Warren, Fly Fishing, Jackson County:** “Oregon’s clean rivers and streams are critical to sustain salmon and steelhead populations and therefore my business as a fly fishing guide. These native fish are a vital part of our ecosystems and protecting them for future generations will ensure that businesses like mine will thrive. Now more than ever, we must ensure that future generations will be able to hunt and fish in Oregon’s public lands and rivers. Wild & Scenic River protections are a great way to ensure those protections now and for the future, both for our precious waterways and fish as well as our economy.”

**Zac Kauffman, Owner, Sawyer Paddles & Oars, Jackson County:** “The Rogue was one of the original eight rivers designated as Wild & Scenic in 1968 and is a huge economic driver for our company, its employees and the Southern Oregon region. People from across the country and the globe come here to enjoy Oregon’s fishing and paddling opportunities and our business relies directly on the health of the river for these opportunities. River-based recreation on the Rogue River alone accounts for more than \$30 million in total economic output. Sawyer Paddles and Oars supports Senator Ron Wyden’s bill to protect some of Oregon’s most treasured rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers with its broad support from small business owners like myself, water-sports enthusiasts and other community members who all depend on these waterways.”

**Erik Weiseth, Managing Partner/River Guide, Orange Torpedo Trips - Whitewater Cowboys, Josephine County:** “For over 50 years, our Oregon based whitewater business has provided jobs to the people, and revenue to the overall economies, of rural Oregon communities. At the heart of our ability to do this has been previously protected Wild and Scenic Rivers. Preserving the splendor of, and our access to, these amazing rivers is critical for our company, critical to future Oregonians who want to enjoy the beauty of this gorgeous state, and to the future vitality of our robust outdoor recreation sector. It is for these reasons we are so grateful to Senator Wyden for his work to increase the number of wild and scenic river miles in Oregon.”

**Pete Wallstrom, Owner, Momentum River Expeditions, Jackson County:** “Visitors from across the country and around the globe come to explore Oregon's Wild & Scenic Rivers. The growing outdoor recreation economy in the state supports 172,200 jobs and generates \$16.4 billion in consumer spending. River-based recreation on the Rogue River alone accounts for more than \$30 million in total economic output and is the backbone of my business. Common sense and well thought out protections like the Wild and Scenic river designation are important for our environment and for creating healthy and sustainable rural economies.”

**Taldi Harrison, Government Affairs Manager, REI Co-op:** “For decades, REI has supported community-based organizations that help protect American rivers. Healthy rivers are vital to human and planetary health, well-being and resilience. Like hiking trails, North America’s National Wild and Scenic River System connects all people across the nation to one another and our public lands. REI supports Senator Ron Wyden’s statewide effort to protect and steward Oregon’s most scenic and still wild rivers for today and the next generation. This new bill not only bolsters the outdoor recreation economy across the region, but signals a collective commitment to safeguarding Oregon’s social, cultural, and ecological resources for all to enjoy.”

**Jon Conner, Owner, Conner Fields Brewing, Jackson County:** “The primary ingredient in beer is water and the water we use is a product of the land it flows through. Being a rural brewer who relies on an aquifer source, I consider water a beer's terroir. Oregon craft brewers rely on clean water to make great beer and that’s why I’m joining the many craft breweries across the state asking for Congress to pass Wyden's Wild and Scenic Rivers bill to protect these important watersheds.”

**Nikos Ridge and Jamie Floyd, co-owners, Ninkasi Brewing Company, Lane County:** “A main ingredient to our award-winning craft beer is the clean, clear water that flows out of Oregon’s rivers. That is why we embrace Senator Wyden’s forward-thinking plan to forever safeguard key waterways across the state.”

**Steve Mertz, Owner, The Wheel Apizza Pub, Lane County:** “The top-notch, craft beer at The Wheel all starts with the outstanding water we use from the McKenzie River. Senator Wyden should be commended for his visionary leadership to further protect the waterways that make our state so special and our beer so tasty.”

**Kate and James Sampsel, Owners, Humble Heron Fly Fishing & Fine Art, Josephine County:** “Small businesses throughout Oregon depend on visitors exploring Oregon’s Wild and Scenic Rivers. Clean water and abundant wild fish populations on the Rogue River supports our business entirely. Our current and future generation's livelihood depends on the protection and conservation for Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

**Jeff Perin, Owner, The Flyfishers Place, Sisters:** “As a fishing guide and owner of the Fly Fisher's Place in Sisters, my livelihood depends on Wild and Scenic Rivers like the Deschutes, Crooked and Metolius. These are challenging times for small business owners, and having access to protected wild rivers is more essential than ever. I applaud Sen. Wyden's efforts to protect more of our wild waterways, including tributaries of the Deschutes and Metolius Rivers, so that businesses like mine can continue to thrive.”

**Jacob and Olivia Losby, Co-Owners/Operators, Old Town Café, Wallowa County:** “The Wallowa Mountains are home to some of the most iconic rivers and streams in Oregon, which bring people from all over the country to fish, hunt, and support local businesses. As the owners and operators of a small business in the Wallowa Valley that benefits from recreation and tourism, we strongly support legislation that protects Oregon’s rivers and streams, so that these resources can continue to provide opportunities for future generations.”

**Bob Rees, Owner, Oregon Fishing Guide, headquartered in Tillamook County:** “A professional fishing guide of 25 years on the Oregon coast, I’ve spent my career navigating these unique rivers, helping Oregonians and visitors experience the thrill of catching a wild salmon or steelhead. I strongly support Senator Wyden’s leadership to expand Wild & Scenic River designations along the coast to protect and recover our pristine rivers and preserve access for future generations.”

**Karl J. Findling, Owner, Oregon Pack Works, Bend:** “As a lifelong Oregon big game and bird hunter, I’ve seen the connection between healthy riparian zones, clean water, and robust fish and wildlife populations firsthand. For hunters and anglers, rivers are the lifeblood of our way of life. Wild and Scenic protections will increase the possibility that clean water will run for fish, wildlife, and for many future generations of Oregonians. My business relies on robust opportunities for hunting and fishing, and I applaud Senator Wyden’s efforts to increase Wild and Scenic protections across our great state.”

**Colton Stowe, Owner, Owyhee Paddle Co., Malheur County:** “As a local business owner that directly benefits from the amazing and pristine landscapes of Malheur County, I want to thank Senator Wyden for introducing this bill to protect the Owyhee River and other wild rivers that are the heart of our business. More than ever, the success of our business depends on improving recreational opportunities and the preservation of the landscape and culture of the Owyhee, and I sincerely appreciate Sen. Wyden's efforts to do exactly that with this bill.”

**Andy Martin, Fishing Guide and Outfitter, Wild Rivers Fishing, Curry County:** “Healthy salmon and steelhead runs and clean water are the lifeblood of the Oregon Coast economy. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects our most precious resource while providing an opportunity for local residents and visitors to enjoy them.”

**Dan Sizer, Go Wild: American Adventures, Baker City:** “The protection of our rivers is to us a no-brainer. Wild rivers are an iconic feature of the Eastern Oregon landscape. They are integral to our communities and have been from time immemorial. The protection of our rivers not only supports a healthy ecosystem, but supports our rural communities through the opportunities they provide for recreation and tourism. At Go Wild, we depend on our protected Eastern Oregon waterways for guided fishing and hiking adventures that for many of our guests are the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the outdoors.”

**Darren Roe, Owner, Roe Outfitters, Klamath Falls:** “Since 1984, Roe Outfitters has been a family business that relies on the pristine rivers and streams of Southern Oregon. We love this region, and sharing it with our customers. We are so thankful for Senator Wyden and his effort to protect our Wild and Scenic rivers across all corners of this great state for future generations, and support family businesses like ours.”

**Augustus Liszka, Owner, Naked Acres Farm, Clackamas County:** “We are fully supportive of Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect important Oregon rivers and streams through the wild and scenic rivers program. Our farm operates on 75 acres of land in Clackamas County and we rely on access to clean water for our agriculture and our livestock. We believe in responsible land stewardship and a wild and scenic rivers designation protects clean water while also ensuring that farm operations like ours can get the water they need.”

**Jon Steiger and Tyson Fehrman, Owners, ByGeorge Farms, Jackson County:** “As farmers, we love our land and animals and know that clean water is essential to the success of both. Our pasture-centered production practices depend on clean water and we owe a lot to the creek that runs through our farm. That is why we support Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect Oregon waterways through the expansion of designated wild and scenic river miles. The program will protect access to clean water that will allow agricultural operations like ours to continue to thrive in Southern Oregon and beyond.”

**Ken Morrish, Owner, Flywater Travel, Jackson County:** “Oregon is blessed with beautiful and productive Wild & Scenic Rivers. Rivers like the Wild & Scenic Rogue, Illinois and North Umpqua are why I live and operate my fly fishing-based travel business here. We all know that the hay-days of wholesaling out our natural resources for reckless harvest are behind us. Let us enact laws that illustrate that understanding and help us push forward with the critical work of creating sustainable, long-term, economic solutions that showcase the beauty and productivity of our state’s wild rivers. Wild & Scenic River designations do just that, by protecting waterways and drawing people to them, therefore sustaining the economy and these wild waters.”



**Other Organizations:**

**Chad Brown, U.S. Navy Veteran, Founder & President, Soul River Inc.:** “Senator Wyden’s leadership to champion and protect Oregon’s rivers is an affirmative action! A warrior mission for veterans and our next generation to have the opportunity to benefit from what nature provides our souls. Thank you, Senator Wyden for your strength to protect Oregon’s Wild and Scenic Rivers for us all.”

**Collin O’Mara, president and CEO, National Wildlife Federation:** “The rivers of the Northwest are essential for the region’s iconic fish and wildlife, clean water, outdoor recreation, and jobs. Senator Ron Wyden’s bill to ensure Oregon’s rivers endure for future generations underscores his commitment to conservation solutions that safeguard the region’s water, wildlife, and way of life. We look forward to working with Senator Wyden and Northwest’s delegation to not only pass this common-sense bill, but also to work toward comprehensive conservation solutions that will support wildlife and economic growth for generations to come.”

**Chris Hager, Executive Director of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders:** “Declaring Oregon’s rivers and streams as Wild and Scenic not only preserves pristine riparian habitat and spawning grounds, but helps preserve our Northwest fishing heritage and the vast economy that angling supports. This is the leadership Oregon needs if we want to recover critically listed salmon and steelhead throughout our state.”

**Jorge Guzman, Vive NW:** “Vive NW has a mission to diversify the outdoors and through dozens of excursions over the years we know how much Oregonians of all backgrounds rely on our rivers for recreation, clean water, and inspiration. We applaud and support Senator Wyden’s work to expand protections for Wild & Scenic Rivers in Oregon and we know that protections for these special places benefit all Oregonians.”

**Steve Graeper, President of the Rhododendron Watershed Association:** “Wild and Scenic designation is one of the best ways to protect and preserve our most precious commodity, “BLUE GOLD” better known as safe, clean drinking water. By helping protect intact riparian forests, Wild and Scenic designation also protects drinking water sources from the ravages of fire, flood, and erosion. Protecting rivers, streams, and watersheds to provide safe drinking water, is as important, if not more so, than protecting them for recreation and fish habitat. Rhododendron Water Association’s award-winning drinking water is one of nearly 100 public and private water supply systems in Mt. Hood’s Hood/and Corridor, along the southwest side of Mt. Hood. The protection of intact rivers like the Sandy, Salmon, Zig Zag, Still Creek and their tributaries as Wild and Scenic secures these water sources as the foundation of our rural communities’ health, quality of life and recreation-oriented economy.”

**Thomas O’Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater:** “The wild rivers of Oregon attract whitewater boaters from around the world and are a defining attribute of the quality of life for residents of the state. Senator Wyden has been a consistent leader in recognizing the importance of Oregon’s rivers for public use and enjoyment and his leadership is critical to protect these natural assets for future generations.”

**Priscilla Macy, Network Coordinator, Oregon Outdoors Coalition:** “A love for rivers is a value that is deeply embedded in the history, culture and identity of our state — and Oregon is home to some of our nation's most amazing and scenic rivers: from the Illinois to the Umpqua, the Owyhee to the Santiam, we have an impressive diversity of rivers that provide an abundance of opportunities for outdoor recreation, conservation, and board enjoyment by the residents and visitors of our state. Preservation of Oregon’s rivers is a vital part of the state’s outdoor recreation economy which supports 172,000 jobs in Oregon and generates \$16.4 billion in economic activity statewide. We applaud Senator Wyden’s continued efforts and advocacy for the preservation of many of Oregon’s exemplary waterways.”

**Jared Kennedy, Co-Founder, Outdoor Project:** “For five generations my family has called Oregon its home. From Astoria's canneries to restoration forestry along the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County, we have deep roots in many corners of the state and the watersheds that course through them. Our rivers are the lifeblood of an ecosystem we rely on, and they need our protection now more than ever. Protecting these rivers protects the species that need their cold waters, and the countless other species, including us humans, who rely on healthy watersheds and thriving native fish populations. I strongly support Senator Wyden's effort to expand Wild and Scenic River designations on waterways across Oregon.”

**Russ Pascoe, Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club:** “Our members treasure our access to paddling on Oregon's amazing rivers. It's one of the reasons many of us live here. Getting more of them protected is always one of our goals so we are excited to see Wild & Scenic protections for some of our favorite rivers proposed for in Congress.”

**West Livaudais, Founder, Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection:** “As someone who fights for inclusive access to outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities, I strongly support Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect Oregon’s rivers and streams. Getting outdoors is essential for physical health and wellbeing. Preserving beloved streams and rivers in their natural state helps ensure that all Oregonians, including those living with disabilities, can continue to enjoy them.”

**Dave Peterman, President, Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club:** “Last year, members of the Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club worked to identify eligible rivers for designation. Paddling free-flowing rivers allows quality canoeing and kayaking experiences enjoyed by our members. Preserving and protecting river resources for recreation has additional benefits of providing clean water and healthy ecosystems. Healthy rivers promote quality recreation, protect aquatic resources, support robust ecosystems, and promote the local economy. As new Wild & Scenic River designation proposals are introduced, count on the support of the Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club leadership and members. Your support and leadership in designating Wild & Scenic Rivers is appreciated by those of us who play in Oregon’s rivers.”

**Nicole Cordan, Project Director, U.S. Public Lands and Rivers Conservation, The Pew Charitable Trusts:** “The Pew Charitable Trusts commends Senator Ron Wyden’s leadership in bringing together Native American tribes, ranchers and farmers, local elected officials, sportsmen and sportswomen, and others to provide Wild and Scenic River protections for Oregon. From Lookingglass Creek in northeastern Oregon, with its lynx and wolverines, to the North Fork of the Smith River in the southwestern part of the state, known for its salmon and steelhead fishing, Oregon is graced with wild rivers that need this protection. Oregon’s rivers drive the state’s tourism and recreation economy, and The River Democracy Act of 2020 will preserve 4,750 miles of free-flowing rivers that provide clean drinking water to surrounding communities; offer prime habitat for salmon, steelhead, and other wildlife; and provide opportunities for people to hike, camp, fish, and hunt. This quality of life attracts retirees, skilled employees, and visitors from across the nation, diversifying and growing local communities.”

**Ian Isaacson, Oregon Board Chair of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Deschutes County:** “Wild and Scenic Rivers and the public lands they connect hold many values for backcountry hunters and anglers: they offer us opportunities for solitude, they provide necessary fish and wildlife habitat, and they provide an economic boost to local economies. We look forward to hunters and anglers enjoying these rivers for generations to come.”

**Maddy Sheehan, Author of Fishing in Oregon, Twelfth Edition; Director, Clackamas River Basin Council; Of Counsel, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, Clackamas County:** “This year we held our collective breaths as wildfires roared through some of our most treasured river basins and came perilously close to our communities. Now we wait to see whether forests weakened by conflagration will hold hillside soil in place, or whether the rivers will run brown, choking the new life in salmon nurseries throughout fire-damaged watersheds. Times like these remind us of our vulnerability, and underscore how important it is to identify and protect the best of the best of Oregon’s precious water resources. Enrolling additional streams in the Federal Wild and Scenic River program will help us secure the future for Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and human communities. Thank you, Senator Wyden, for your far-sighted stewardship on our behalf.”

**Liz Hamilton, Executive Director, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association:** “Wild and scenic rivers are at the heart of Oregon’s natural healing beauty they have been part of our family vacations for generations. Hunting, fishing, rafting and camping along the miles of breathtaking, protected rivers, we forged priceless family memories that will stay with us—forever. By expanding protections for rivers, Senator Wyden is safeguarding one of our state’s most valuable resources and also protecting the future of Oregon’s outdoor recreation industry.”

**Tim Davis, Executive Director, Friends of the Owyhee:** “Senator Wyden is showing innovative leadership by truly engaging the public in public lands conservation in Eastern Oregon. Both the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act and the Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are based on community-driven processes that invited Oregonians to the table. I am grateful to Senator Wyden for listening to our community and standing up for our most important waterways.”

**Christine Guenther, Pendleton On Wheels:** “For Pendleton cyclists, some of our favorite bike routes run along the Umatilla River. Thank you, Senator Wyden for working to make sure that cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to continue to enjoy access to amazing waterways across the state.”

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light:** “As Psalm 24 states, ‘the Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.’ Humanity does not own the Earth, but we are called to care for it as a sacred trust. Water is life. Preserving these waterways contributes to the health of Oregon’s human population and all other species that call this region home. Access to clean water is a human right, and we stand with water protectors around the country and world. Protecting our waterways should be a basic role of government. Your legislation to substantially grow the number of protected waterways has our strong support, as will other proposals that will help preserve God’s creation, combat climate change, and stand up for environmental justice in our state and beyond.”

**David Moryc, Senior Direct, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Public Lands Policy, American Rivers:** “Senator Wyden’s bill will protect Oregonians’ birthright—sources of clean drinking water, outstanding fish and wildlife habitat, and access to unparalleled recreation on public lands,” said David Moryc, Senior Director of Wild and Scenic Rivers for American Rivers. “Senator Wyden asked Oregonians to help him determine the future of the state’s freshwater resources as part of his “river democracy’ process and today’s action reflects the overwhelming demand for a future of healthy rivers and clean water.”

**Janelle Wicks, Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge:** “Conserving, enhancing, and restoring fish and wildlife habitat and cultural history in the Harney Basin is our mission. Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect Oregon rivers will help our work and we thank him for his leadership.”

**Sue Densmore, Executive Director, Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau:** “I enjoy introducing visitors to the wonders of the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve and love to tell them about the River Styx. It is the segment of Caves Creek that flows through the remarkable marble Cave. You can enjoy seeing and listening to it when you take an NPS guided cave tour. We are very proud that it is the first and ONLY underground Wild & Scenic River - thanks to the hard work of Senator Wyden. I fully support Senator Wyden's bill to designate additional rivers - maybe more underground ones - around the state because I know how important Oregon's rivers are for tourism, recreation, and local economies.”

**Other Individuals:**

**Sandra Van Liew, Farmer, Morrow County:** “My farming family has been in Morrow County since the 1880s. My family’s deep-rooted farming tradition has taught me the importance of protecting private working land as well as public lands and waters for future generations. I enjoy hiking throughout the beautiful, protected lands of eastern Oregon. Saving the unique and wild rivers of Eastern Oregon for future generations is important to me, and I am thankful to Oregon's senators for their leadership on protecting new Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

**Sarah Cuddy, Science Educator, Former Wildlands Firefighter & NOLS Instructor, Mother, Baker City:** “The rivers and mountains of eastern Oregon are the driving force behind why I call this beautiful place home. Whether I’m hiking, flyfishing, or backpacking, the Wild and Scenic Rivers in eastern Oregon provide a refuge of tranquility in an increasingly wired-in world. I support protecting the wild beauty of these rivers, like those in the Grande Ronde Watershed, so my young daughter and others of her generation can experience their power, and for all the wildlife who called it home long before we did.”

**Michelle McSwain, retired BLM Hydrologist, Prineville:** “As a retired hydrologist working on public lands, I have seen firsthand the need for Wild and Scenic designation to better protect rivers such as the South Fork Crooked River. This legislation will support efforts to restore and steward vital fish habitat on rivers like the South Fork Crooked, a special place that deserves this recognition and protection. On behalf of the many people in Crook County who care for our wild rivers, I express our deep gratitude to Sen. Wyden for including rivers that we nominated in his legislation.”

**Dr. Steven Rotter, Grants Pass:** “I have been a doctor for over 30 years and I firmly believe that the health of our rivers and streams is important for public health and wellbeing, which is why I fully support protecting more of Oregon’s outstanding rivers. Our waterways provide numerous benefits including clean water for drinking and agricultural use, critical habitat for species, and outdoor recreation opportunities. They are our lifeline to continued good health and vital in so many ways. Thank you, Senator Wyden for working to protect our rivers.”

**Dr. Philip Wu, Portland:** “I spent three decades as a practicing pediatrician looking after the health of children and I know this to be true: getting kids outside recreating on our public lands and rivers is a very good thing. Getting their feet wet in a stream, learning how to fish, hiking in a forest—all of these activities help kids unplug from our fast-paced digital world, providing physical, mental and emotional benefits. That’s why I support Senator Wyden’s efforts to protect Oregon’s rivers and streams.”

**Ruby McConnell, author and geologist, Lane County:** “I have a deep personal connection to several proposed rivers, including the Breitenbush and McKenzie River watersheds. If we want to continue to use our rivers' resources as a means of thriving ourselves, we must provide them with protections that allow them, as natural systems, to thrive as well. I believe that Wild and Scenic designation provides those protections and allows for the integrity and dignity of these places to endure alongside human use.”

**GG Johnson, Kira Gilbert, Sydney Dedrick, Bend High School Environmental Club, Deschutes County:** “We can learn so much from rivers. By visiting wild rivers and creeks, we deepen our understanding and appreciation of the place where we live. We were grateful to have the opportunity to participate in the nomination process that Sen. Wyden led and we were thrilled to see Whychus Creek included in his Wild and Scenic Rivers bill. Senator, thank you for listening to Oregonians and for your dedication to the future of Oregon.”

**Robin Hostick, landscape artist, Lane County:** “I’m a professional artist and fourth generation Oregonian. Like many Americans, I have a special relationship with the natural beauty of our wild places. For me, our wild rivers are a timeless and priceless source of inspiration and it is my life’s work to express and share that inspiration with others. The proposal to extend the National Wild & Scenic designation to more Oregon rivers will help preserve the qualities that make Oregon, and America, a place of enduring beauty and inspiration. This is the legacy of a generation. I wholeheartedly support Senator Wyden's proposal.

**Dr. Caitlin Rushlow, Farmer & Hydrologist, Wallowa County:** “As a hydrologist and farmer living in Wallowa County, I know that clean, free-flowing rivers are essential for the economy and ecosystems of our region. That is why I fully support Senator Wyden's effort to designate additional Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon.”

**Mike Higgins, Farmer and retired Junior and High School Science Teacher, Halfway:** “As a fifth-generation eastern Oregonian I’m a strong supporter of Oregon’s clean wild rivers. My great-great-grandparents came to the Burnt River Valley in 1863 and I grew up in a small town south of Baker City – Hereford. I spent the majority of my youth roaming the hills, fishing the streams and hunting throughout the region. I applaud Senator Wyden for his leadership and vision in thinking about protecting our clean drinking water sources and the lifeblood of our wildlands as wild and scenic rivers. This is a gift to our children and their children for generations to come.”

**Charlie Jones, Retired teacher & Navy Commander, La Grande:** “There is nothing more rare and wonderful than free-flowing streams and rivers in natural watersheds. I would not live where they are gone. I have been to many states and to many countries on many continents — those natural waters are nearly always gone. Therefore, I live and will die in northeast Oregon.”

**Frank and Jeanne Moore, WWII Veteran, Founder of Steamboat Inn, Glide:** “We are blessed to have these Rivers here in Oregon and all that they do for us. Let us not take them for granted. We are also blessed to have Senator Ron Wyden with his wisdom to stand up for our rivers. I support his effort to add rivers to be included as Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon. The river is part of me and I am part of the river.”

**Tim Goforth, homeowner, Archie Creek Fire North Umpqua, Waldport:** “Thank you, Senator Wyden for your efforts to conserve and protect our wonderful natural resources. Wild and Scenic Rivers are places I continuously enjoy throughout the Pacific Northwest. Over the past two decades my wonderful wife and I called the North Umpqua River home. Designated Wild and Scenic in 1988, this river has been my homewaters providing recreation and fish for everyone to enjoy. With the recent Archie Creek fire, we lost our beloved home and were displaced over the past few months. I appreciate your consideration to allow property owners to integrate fire mitigation despite being located on a wild and scenic corridor. With stipulations such as these, everyone should be advocating to protect these natural resources for many years to come. Again, thank you senator Wyden for your efforts in protecting the natural wonders of Oregon.”

**Jeffrey J. Dose, retired Fisheries Biologist, Douglas County:** “One of the primary reasons I have chosen to live and practice my profession here in southwest Oregon is the incredible diversity and productivity of Oregon’s many rivers and streams. Designation as a federal Wild and Scenic River will further conserve, protect, and restore the many outstanding values that they feature. I strongly support Senator Wyden’s proposal to greatly increase the number of designated rivers.”

**Susan Applegate, Applegate pioneer descendent, artist, and educator, Douglas County:** “Senator Wyden, with Wild and Scenic status for the South Umpqua River, the beauty and wildness of this river that met my ancestors as they blazed the Southern Trail into Oregon Territory, may now be in protection for generations to come. Let us carry on with the work to protect and restore this treasure. Thank you.”

**Bill Monroe, semi-retired outdoor writer for The Oregonian/OregonLive and chair of the Clackamas River Basin Council:** “I’ve had a highly rewarding career fishing, hunting and watching the wild world along Oregon’s rivers, then passing along those stories to newspaper and online readers. Oregonians are blessed with hunting and fishing opportunities nearly every day of the year. Our watersheds and their diverse wild inhabitants are recreational and renewable treasures. Now I’ve tasked myself with giving back a bit, as chair of a critical and diverse effort to restore habitat and fisheries in the heart of suburban Portland for the sake of future generations, both human and wild. We cannot do this alone; cannot thrive as a society by taking our rivers for granted. We need the vital protection only Congress can provide.”

**Mia Rosser, 15-year-old high school student, Portland:** “My name is Mia, I am fifteen years old and an Oregon resident. Our Wild and Scenic Rivers are critical to keeping the Pacific Northwest thriving in Oregon’s lush greenery and unique beauty. Communities thrive because of Oregon’s rivers. Our watersheds play a significant role in our environment and are a remarkable part of people’s spirituality and connection to nature. Numerous species call our rivers home, we must conserve and protect these rivers for the future of these species. Thank you, Senator Wyden, for your continued efforts to protect Wild and Scenic Rivers in our beautiful state.”

**Janelle & Teresa Wicks, Harney County:** “As a couple who have dedicated themselves to the wild beauty of southeast Oregon, we support Senator Wyden and his efforts to add additional river miles to the Wild and Scenic system. Our river systems are critical wild places that wildlife and our rural community depend on. Thank you Senator Wyden for working to protect these treasures.”

**Solea Kabakov, The City of the Dalles:** “As a volunteer on our local budget committee in The City of the Dalles, I know first-hand how important the rivers and streams of this great state are to the economies and livelihoods of our local communities. We rely on our environment to sustain life and we have learned from our indigenous community; water is life and we must protect it. I applaud Senator Wyden for leading this charge to protect our Wild and Scenic rivers across the state, to ensure these rivers are kept pristine for future generations.”

**Bonnie Lofton, Board Member, Oregon Paleo Lands Center, Fossil:** “Our Wheeler County landscape was created by flowing glaciers and streams, and clean water continues to be crucial to our small communities nestled along the banks of the John Day River.”

**Janet O’Hara, Manager, Hancock Field Station, OMSI, Fossil:** “Oregon’s rivers are a treasure, and I support every effort to protect them. Besides incredible scenery and their essential role in the water cycle, our rivers offer extensive and invaluable education for all. To me, the importance lies in the stories they tell; their lessons in ecological, biological, geologic, and human history. Respecting our rivers, learning about them, and protecting them is a vital part of living.”

**Jeff Scheetz, Jefferson County:** “As a volunteer wildland firefighter at Crooked River Ranch and steward with the Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon area, I work frequently around two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Deschutes and the Crooked. I am grateful that these two amazing rivers are protected for recreation, wildlife, and clean water. I am also appreciative that Senator Wyden has helped us move forward with reducing natural fuels on our neighboring public lands to reduce the risk of wildfire. I look forward to seeing additional important waterways protected in Central Oregon, and across the state, thanks to Senator Wyden's leadership.”