

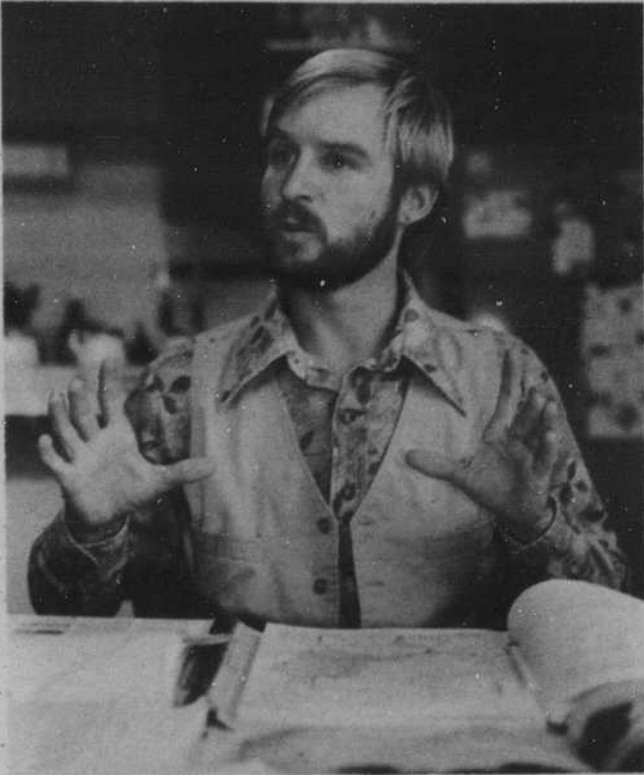
Bill protects 'wild scenic river'

By Dan Coran
Of the Emerald

President Ronald Reagan recently signed a bill which added more than 50 miles of Oregon's Illinois River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Under the new designation, the undeveloped section of the river will be permanently protected from mining, logging, road-building and other human impact.

"The river has been both protected and hurt by its remote status. Until recently, it hasn't been well-known enough to have champions in Washington selling it to Congress. This is the third time it's been proposed as wild and scenic, and finally it's gone through," says David Atkin, leader of Friends of the Illinois River, a Eugene-based environmental group that formed nine months ago to lobby for passage of the river's wild and scenic status.



David Atkin

The Illinois River rises along the crest of Siskiyou Mountain Range, near the Oregon-California border.

Flowing northwesterly for 98.1 miles through broad valleys and steep canyons, the river joins the Rogue River 27 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The newly protected segment of the Illinois River stretches from the border of the Siskiyou National Forest in the south to Nancy Creek in the north.

Under the legislation signed by Reagan, 28.7 miles of the Illinois River is designated as wild and 17.9 as scenic. The remaining 3.8 miles is classified as recreational.

"Most people don't realize what a jewel Oregon has sitting out there in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness," Atkin says. "It's the most remote, rugged and raftable river in the lower 48 states," Atkin says.

The October decision concluded a 15-year struggle to have the river designated as wild and scenic.

When Congress passed the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, eight rivers throughout the nation were granted wild and scenic status, in-

cluding the Rogue River, of which the Illinois is a tributary.

At the same time, another 27 rivers were named as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System upon further study. The Illinois River was included, and a formal study on the river was completed by 1973.

According to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, a "wild" stretch of river must be "free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially untouched and waters unpolluted."

"Scenic" rivers differ from wild ones in that they are accessible by roads in some places.

In order to be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a river must meet wild and/or scenic qualifications and must possess several "outstandingly remarkable" characteristics, according to the 1968 act. The Forest Service granted the Illinois River wild and scenic status based on five characteristics: scenic value, plant life, fish life, recreational use and water quality.

Although a one-quarter mile strip along each bank of the Illinois River will be protected under the new designation, about 22 miles of the river's 29-mile wild section already flows through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, which provides additional protection for an extensive area around the river. Whether the wilderness area should be extended to include the remaining seven miles is still uncertain.

"The spirit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that the outstanding characteristics of the designated rivers be protected," said Atkin, "and this means that the view shed, main drainage creeks and the steep slopes outside the one-quarter mile strip (around the seven miles) should be left alone."

However, not everyone is in favor of extending the status.

Dick Felgenhour of the Industrial Forestry Association says extension could possibly lead to the loss of valuable timber.

"One-quarter mile doesn't sound like much," he says, "but the federal agencies become too conservative. They put in a buffer area around the strip which limits production even more."

"There are other ways of preserving the area around the Illinois besides pure protection," Felgenhour says. "You can forest an area and still protect it through conservation steps. That's what repairing zones are all about. I agree that the Illinois should be protected, but not 20 miles on both sides."

On Nov. 17, the Forest Service will hold public meetings at high schools in Grants Pass, Gold Beach and Myrtle Point, starting at 1 p.m., to consider policy alternatives for the Siskiyou National Forest. The future of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness will be one of the issues discussed.

While the meetings are in progress, several members of the Friends of the Illinois River plan to celebrate the new designation of the Illinois River with a rafting trip down its challenging rapids.

"We want to have a general cleanup of the common campsites along the river as kind of a birthday present," Atkin says.

Lone Star

160 S. Park • 484-7458

Double Your Fun Rock-n-Roll

★ 2 for 1 Mon-Fri

★ 8:30-10:00 pm SPECIAL - Well, Wine & Draft

★ Tuesdays - KZEL Rock Night 96¢ Well, Wine & Draft

★ Wednesdays - Ice tea Party \$1 Long Island Ice Tea

INTERNATIONAL at Shilo

Gateway I-5 • 726-1261

GIVE US TIME TO REPAY YOUR LOAN.

If you've gone to college on a National Direct Student Loan or a Federally Insured Student Loan made after October 1, 1975, and your loan is not in default, here's a way to get your loan repaid.

Use the Army's Loan Repayment program. Each year you serve on active duty reduces your indebtedness by one-third or \$1,500, whichever amount is greater. In a three-year enlistment, you eliminate your debt.

Additionally, you could learn a valuable skill and take advantage of many other Army opportunities. If you have the time, we have the money.

Check it out with your Army Recruiter.

1111 Willamette Street • 687-6431

**ARMY.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.**

Coupons in the Emerald save you money. Check every page, every day. It pays.

**BRONZED
AND
BEAUTIFUL!**



**KEEP YOUR TAN
LOOKING GREAT
ALL WINTER!**

SunShower Tanning Center

Across 13th Avenue from the University Bookstore
WATCH FOR PRE-OPENING SPECIAL!!!

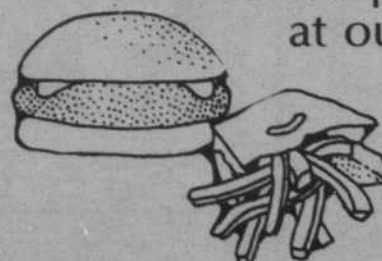
Great Oregon Burger Company

WORLD'S GREATEST BURGERS
Been Studying Hard and Want a Bite?

Great Oregon Burger Co. is
Open Daily till Midnight

Featuring Quality burgers, Sandwiches,
Breakfasts and More!!

Take a trip through our salad bar
at our new location at



460 Coburg Road • 485-6797

Or visit our campus location at
13th Ave. at High St., • 344-5221
Call in your order and we'll have it ready
when you arrive