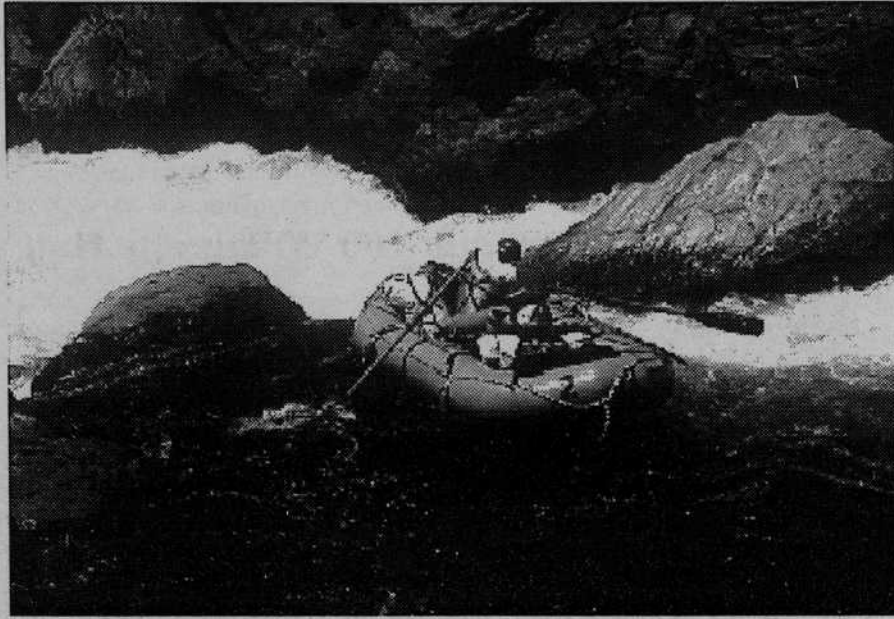


# OP News & Views

## Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument



by Brenda Tincher  
OP Environmental Coordinator

The Klamath-Siskiyou region in southwest Oregon is exceptional because of its rivers, biological diversity and unique geology. The beautiful **Rogue and Illinois rivers** are well known to rafters and kayakers for challenging whitewater.

The proposed national monument area includes five Wild and Scenic rivers and nine Wild and Scenic river candidates, the greatest

concentration in the United States. The rivers provide some of the most exciting recreation in the nation, as well as valuable salmon and steelhead habitat.

Located at the convergence of the Klamath and Cascade mountains, the proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument would protect over one million acres of public lands. The proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument would protect watersheds, help create refuge for salmon and pro-

tect the 200-year-old bedrock by restricting logging and mining.

National monument status would end commercial logging in the area and protect the area from new mining claims. Mining companies with existing claims would have to prove that a claim is economically justifiable before mining could continue. The only changes in recreational activities would be restrictions on off-road vehicles.

Pitch in  
to  
protect  
your  
favorite  
rivers

The key to protecting the Klamath-Siskiyou region is grassroots action from environmentalists and wilderness users. Individuals con-

cerned with protecting the diversity of the region should urge President Clinton to declare the Klamath-Siskiyou region a national monument. Use a form letter or write one in your own words. A form letter taken from the "Voice of the Wild Siskiyou" is available below or pick one up from the Outdoor Program environmental board.

Tell President Clinton how much the Klamath-Siskiyou region

means to you. Encourage him to declare the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument. The need for action is urgent. President Clinton must declare the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument before he leaves office on Jan 20th.

President Bill Clinton  
C/o Roger Ballentine, OEOB 115  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:  
By proclaiming Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument, you would preserve and protect five Wild and Scenic rivers and nine Wild and Scenic river candidates in southwest Oregon's famed Siskiyou Mountains.

History and science have taught us that protecting watersheds is vital to protecting rivers. The Siskiyou watersheds contain some of the most beautiful free flowing rivers in the nation. The rivers provide some of the most important salmon and steelhead habitat. Their permanent protection would be a significant contribution to your conservation legacy in the final months of the Clinton Administration.

### Wilderness First Responder Course

The City of Eugene River House Outdoor Program will be offering the 80-hour curriculum for the Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification over Spring Break: March 23- April 1, 2001. The WFR certification is the current standard for outdoor leaders and guides. The course will be taught by the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) whose certification is universally recognized. WMI is an institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). For more information, call Jennifer at the River House Outdoor Program at 541-682-5329.

Long-time OP Trip Initiator, Steve Carper, is spending a bit more time than usual at the OP Barn these days. Much to the delight of the OP staff and co-op family, Steve is now officially, "the other Barn Guy". The OP is excited to add Steve's superior outdoor skills as well as his vast knowledge of equipment repair and maintenance to the amazing staff of the OP Barn. Steve has initiated kayaking, backpacking, mountain biking and rafting trips through the OP and has helped to instruct our Paddle Captain and Trip Initiator clinics. Welcome aboard Steve!



### Local Club Focus

### Eugene Mountain Rescue

The Eugene Mountain Rescue club was founded in 1968 in order to provide Lane County with trained volunteer rescuers for emergencies in the backcountry- specifically mountain and cliff terrain. The Search and Rescue missions taken on by EMR include: lost and/or injured climbers, cross-country skiers, hikers, hunters or downed aircraft victims. EMR has very strict skill requirements for its members and provides training for each individual. EMR members undergo certification testing conducted by the Oregon Mountain Rescue Council (OMRC) every four years; in April, 1998, EMR passed the certification unconditionally. Members of EMR also conduct educational programs for school, civic, or church groups to promote wilderness safety. If you'd like to learn more about this extraordinary group contact Kiera at 342-7194, or email: emr@eugenemountainrescue.org, or check out their website at www.eugenemountainrescue.