

“Wild and Scenic Rivers ... offer opportunities for solitude. They provide necessary fish and wildlife habitat.”

— Ian Isaacson, Oregon board chair of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Rivers

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“Wild and Scenic Rivers hold many backcountry values for hunters and anglers,” said Ian Isaacson, Oregon board chair of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “They offer opportunities for solitude. They provide necessary fish and wildlife habitat.”

Once a river falls under the Wild and Scenic designation, federal land managers will be required to assess wildfire risks in the area. Plans must include assessing wildfire risks to nearby homes and businesses as well as ways to restore water quality from environmental damage caused by wildfire.

The bill also encourages federal land managers to develop river management plans in collaboration with Native American tribes as a way to keep their voices heard. Tribes across the Pacific Northwest voiced support for the legislation.

“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,” said Dan Courtney of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

In Central Oregon, rivers and creeks that are part of the bill include:

- North Fork Crooked River: The bill adds 3.5 miles to the main stem plus several tributaries (66.5 miles total).
- Metolius River: No new additions to the main stem. Addi-



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

An angler wets his line along a section of the Crooked River in 2018.

tions are tributaries (36 miles).

- Whychus Creek: 7.6 miles of the main stem (above its confluence with the Deschutes River), plus 5.9 miles of Snow Creek (tributary of the Whychus).
- Tumalo Creek: 24.7 miles added.
- Deschutes River: an 8.4-mile section from Lava Lake to Crane Prairie Reservoir.
- Fall River: two separate sections totaling more than 7 miles.
- Browns Creek: a 2.7-mile section.
- Paulina Creek: an 8.6-mile section.
- Cultus River: a 1.9-mile section.

Around 2,500 Oregonians submitted more than 15,000 nominations to be included in the act, which builds on legislation passed in 2019 that added more than 250 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon.

Oregon now has 2,173 miles designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system, but that total is just a fraction of Oregon's 110,994 miles of rivers and streams.

By expanding the river network, Oregonians “can protect the health of delicate ecosystems and strengthen access to high-quality drinking water, while increasing wildfire resilience, and bolstering our recreation economy,” said Merkley.

The bill is good news not just for environmental protections and wildfire resilience, it is also meant to help the economy — river rafting, fishing and hiking trips help boost jobs and spending. In Oregon, outdoor recreation supports more than 224,000 jobs and generates \$9.3 billion in wages and compensation, according to the Oregon Tourism Commission.

“As a fly-fishing guide and owner of a fly-fishing shop, my livelihood depends on Wild and Scenic Rivers like the Deschutes, Crooked, and Metolius,” said Jeff Perin, owner of the Flyfishers Place in Sisters. “These are challenging times for small-business owners and having access to protected rivers is more essential than ever.”

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A section of frozen waterfalls along Tumalo Creek in 2018.

University

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“And even if it's allowed, we're not sure it's the right thing to do.”

In Deschutes County, state mandates currently limit outdoor gatherings to a maximum of six people. OSU-Cascades expects to have a graduating class of about 330 students this year, according to spokesperson Christine Coffin.

This marks the second straight year without a traditional graduation ceremony for OSU-Cascades grads. Last summer, the university initially postponed the event, then later canceled it.

“Even with more people being vaccinated daily, it is not possible within anticipated state and local health guidelines to plan any large in-person gathering as early as June,” OSU President F. King Alexander said in a statement. “We feel it's important to make this announcement now before large numbers of our graduates' families begin to make travel and lodging arrangements.”

Johnson acknowledged that this is a disappointing decision for graduating seniors and their families.

“I feel really bad for the graduating seniors, just like I did last spring,” she said.

Jade Warner, a senior at OSU-Cascades, said she felt the university made the right decision. She was beginning to get a bit nervous about having a massive in-person graduation celebration, she said.

“I (value) health and safety above all else, and I don't see us at a point where that makes sense,” Warner, 22, said. “I'd much rather have my friends, family and peers be safe.”

More details about the university's virtual commencement will be released in the next few months, the release stated.

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Workplace

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What won't change?

Keeping 6 feet of distance from all others, requiring customers and employees to wear a face covering — as well as regular sanitation of common areas, shared equipment and high-touch surfaces — will continue to be mandatory, assuming the rule is approved by the department.

Employers will continue to be required to display safety posters, develop an infection control plan, ventilate businesses as much as possible and provide employees with training in case of the novel coronavirus strikes.

Public health agencies will retain the power to direct companies to isolate certain employees who have been potentially exposed or infected.

What will change?

Among the changes, Oregon OSHA will ask employers to consider not transporting multiple people in a single vehicle, though this activity will not be prohibited.

Business owners with more than 10 employees and existing ventilation systems will

be required to certify in writing that the ducts are flowing, and bosses will be required to cooperate with public health agencies that seek to arrange workplace vaccinations.

Written notice will be mandatory for employees who quarantine, with the notice stating their right to return to work — without penalty from management — after the period of isolation ends.

Health care organizations will be required to provide workers believed to be exposed to COVID-19 with respirators, unless they demonstrate a “genuine shortage.”

Oregon OSHA highlights that wearing face shields — the thin plastic visors resembling welders' masks — “should be discouraged when more suitable alternatives” exist to prevent spreading the disease. Oregon Health Authority is considering banning face shields entirely.

Vaccines not required

While the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries previously announced that em-

ployers may require their employees to be inoculated, with some exceptions, Oregon OSHA's proposed rules state that “employers need not require employees to accept the vaccination.”

If employers are offered the vaccine on a voluntary basis, those who refuse must provide written documentation.

However, if the Oregon Public Health Authority or another agency requires certain workplaces to get their shots, the employer must cooperate by making workers and space available.

“It is the considered opinion of both the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon OSHA that all individuals should accept vaccination unless it is medically contraindicated,” the agency said. “Allowing some workers to decline such a vaccination does not indicate any doubts on the part of the state or Oregon about the value of the vaccine and the importance of reaching a high vaccination rate to both public and worker health.”

DEATH NOTICES

Sylvan “Butch” Barney Crume Jr. of La Pine, OR November 10, 1943 - January 24, 2021

Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Crume family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

James Franklin Willhite Jr. of La Pine, OR June 12, 1942 - Jan 27, 2021

Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Willhite family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

Dennis aka “Mayor of Sandtrap Lane” M. Patterson of Sunriver, OR June 24, 1940 - Jan 27, 2021

Arrangements: Deschutes Memorial Chapel and Gardens is honored to serve the family - (541) 382-5592. Visit our online register book to send condolences and share treasured memories at deschutesmemorial-chapel.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/deschutesmemorial.

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Theft

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She said 12.9% of victims were unaware if their cars were locked or not. Most vehicles were stolen in the early morning between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The brand most commonly stolen in Bend in 2020 was Honda, with 16, followed by Subaru with eight, Toyota and Ford with seven each.

It was not known how many of the stolen vehicles were rental cars or how many of the victims live outside the area.

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