

Lower Klickitat and Lower White Salmon Rivers Boundaries
PROPOSED FINAL BOUNDARIES

I. Legislative Background:

Section 13(c) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (Public Law 99-663), November 17, 1986, designated the lower 11 miles of the Klickitat River, Washington, as a National Recreation River, and 8 miles of the lower White Salmon River, Washington, as a National Scenic River through amendment of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL-90-542). This amendment designated the Secretary of Agriculture to administer these new additions to the national wild and scenic rivers system.

These river segments are two out of eight rivers historically designated and classified "instantly" (without any suitability study). Both rivers are also outside National Forest boundaries and are almost entirely within private ownership.

Recent amendments (October 30, 1986) to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act established a timeline for accomplishing planning activities for additions to the national rivers system. These amendments require detailed boundaries of the river management areas be established within a year of designation and a notice of availability published in the Federal Register. In addition, these boundaries "shall not become effective until ninety days after they have been forwarded to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives".

II. The Process for Determining Final Boundaries:

The first phase in establishing the river corridor boundaries was the identification and notification of landowners adjacent to both river segments, user groups, agency and media contacts, commercial and conservation interest groups, other governmental agencies, the Yakima Indian Nation and elected officials. A mailing list of over 1200 was compiled which included 500 property owners.

A task force provided a resource overview of the river areas, developed boundary delineation criteria, and presented individual suggestions for boundary placement. This group included land owners, commercial guides, river users, conservationists, and various resource specialists from Washington State, the Yakima Indian Nation, and the Forest Service.

Specific boundaries and criteria for their delineation were drafted after review by the task force and Forest Service staff. These draft boundaries, and boundary delineation criteria, as well as a questionnaire were presented to the public by mail and through three informational workshops held in Trout Lake, Lyle, and White Salmon, Washington. Attendance at the workshops totaled 200 people. Media coverage included newspaper articles, radio spots and a talkshow. A 28 page answer sheet on questions asked about the designated rivers and boundaries was then mailed out to workshop participants and others on the rivers mailing list.

During a 30 day public review period, 100 people answered the questionnaire and wrote letters about the draft boundaries. In addition, numerous visits to the Forest Service office and contacts in the field were

made with landowners, businesses, conservationists, elected officials, and Klickitat County and various other government representatives.

The proposed final boundary lines reflect input from the public comment analysis. A notice of availability was published in the Federal Register November 13th, informing the public that final boundaries of both river management areas would be available on the 17th, exactly one year after designation. Copies of the proposed final boundaries, with a summary of the public input and corresponding changes, a brief discussion of the next phase of the rivers planning process, and an explanation of the Forest Service administrative review process and Congressional review process were mailed to 1200 people on the river mailing list.

These boundaries are subject to the Forest Service administrative review process, which allows appeal by commenting parties within a 45 day period. In addition, boundaries may be amended in the upcoming management plans for these rivers if studies indicate this necessity.

A notice of transmittal will be issued in the Federal Register informing the public that the proposed boundaries have been forwarded to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and implemented 90 days after transmittal. Work on the management plans for these rivers will then begin with public involvement and agency coordination.

III. Boundary Criteria:

A group of eight criteria were used to delineate the river management area boundaries.

1. Use boundaries on surveyed section or subsection legal lines except in cases where surveyed roads might be used.
2. Include wetlands, 100-year floodplain and areas already receiving special management under the Washington State and Klickitat County Shorelines Management Act and Plan (200' horizontal distance from the high-water line of the channel and wetlands).
3. Include lands within the "visual foreground", the zone of adjacent land which has a visual impact on the river user.
4. Include current and potential river recreational areas such as river access points; camping, picnicking and fishing sites; and potential locations for hiking, biking, or horse trails along the river corridor.
5. Include other areas in association to the river that contain "outstandingly remarkable" resource values. The resources to be reviewed to see if they have "outstandingly remarkable" values along the river are cultural/historical sites; wildlife habitat; fisheries; geologic features; threatened and endangered plants/animals; and water quality.
6. Include areas in close proximity to the river on which potential development presents a high risk of adversely affecting the "outstandingly remarkable" resources.
7. Incorporate adjacent blocks of Federal and State lands.
8. Minimize inclusion of private lands.

IV. Summary of Draft Boundaries:

The 11 mile section of the Klickitat River designated as a National Recreation River contains "outstandingly remarkable" fisheries and recreational opportunities mainly associated with fisheries. The predominant criteria used

in the draft boundary delineation was to include lands within the visual foreground. The landscape surrounding the river is so open that the viewed area extended to areas over a mile from the river in most places. With 80% private ownership along the river, the viewed area was prioritized to facilitate partial inclusion. Areas that dominated river user views were included within the boundary as well as areas that were judged to have a high risk of development affecting the scenic quality of the river (mainly housing development along the skyline and road building on steep sideslopes). The other delineation criteria addressed areas already included for visual resources, with an addition of a small number of acres to incorporate some blocks of adjacent Federal and State lands. The consideration of riparian areas and the steep slopes within the visual foreground also addressed fisheries and water quality concerns. No threatened and endangered species are known to be within the delineated river boundaries. Sites with known or high potential for cultural, historical, and recreational sites are generally within the riparian area.

The area within the Klickitat River draft boundaries totaled 4600 acres, of which approximately 250 acres are within the river channel. Lands are privately owned except for approximately 400 acres under Bureau of Land Management and 440 acres owned by the State of Washington.

The 8 mile section of the White Salmon designated as a National Scenic River contains "outstandingly remarkable" white-water recreational, scenic and geologic features. The predominant criteria used in draft boundary delineation was the inclusion of potential recreation sites. The visual foreground along the river is extremely narrow since the river flows through a constricted channel. The wetlands criteria also included most of the visual foreground areas, potential cultural resource sites, and remarkable geologic features of the river. Areas for potential recreation development were added to address the possible development of a trail along the river as well as camping, picnicking, and boat put-in and take-out sites.

The draft White Salmon boundaries contained 1730 acres with 85 acres being within the river channel. These lands are all in private ownership.

V. Public Input On Draft Boundaries:

Approximately two-thirds of the 100 respondents during the public comment period had specific comments regarding the draft river boundary lines. Twenty-five percent of these were land owners along the river. In most cases, property owners wanted to minimize the area within the boundaries and to exclude a portion or all of their land. Reasons given for these deletions were that the draft line divided their property, the land could not be seen from the river, and they feared restrictions. Most wanted boundaries to follow topographical features and minor roads rather than legal divisions in order to minimize included lands.

Two-thirds of respondents requesting specific boundary changes belonged to one or more resource conservation or river user groups. These respondents wanted boundaries expanded, particularly along the east side of the White Salmon, and up major tributaries as far as possible on both rivers for wildlife and fisheries habitat, cultural resources, and other resource protection.

A few boundary comments were specific to the Klickitat River. These included changes to exclude the town of Lyle; to include a gravel pit across the Klickitat from Lyle; and a request by a property owner to have more of his land included so as not to isolate a part of the property.

Comments specific to the White Salmon were more numerous. Three areas were proposed for major additions to the boundary: Rattlesnake Creek; Spring Creek; and lands along Oak Ridge Road on the east side of the river between the towns of Husum and BZ Corner. About half the respondents wanted the boundaries expanded to the "maximum allowable" acreage. Reasons given for wanting expansions were for protection of plants, trees, wildlife, birds, water quality, and scenic vistas along the rivers; more access, more recreational opportunities, and more easement and land purchase opportunities; and more protection for flood plains and gravel deposits.

About half of the respondents wanted the lower mile and a half of Rattlesnake Creek added to the White Salmon corridor because of its high potential for Native American cultural sites and the existing graveyard; a 20 ft. waterfall and its plunge pool with accompanying recreational opportunities; protection for future generations; and preservation of the scenic beauty of the canyon. Some listed Rattlesnake Creek as an important tributary for anadromous fisheries when the runs are reintroduced.

The same half of respondents also advocated a Spring Creek addition of up to 200 acres and wanted it included because of current recreational use (hiking and horsebackriding); easy access to the river on an existing trail; a potential educational nature study area; wildlife habitat; high potential for cultural resource sites; and saving the area for future generations.

Referring to a proposed doubling of the river corridor along the east side of the river from BZ Corner down to Husum, the same respondents mentioned the protection of "old growth", stand diversity, and Oregon White Oaks; stopping logging; saving wildlife habitat, particularly deer, turkey, and eagle winter habitat necessary for survival; saving the area for future generations; and preventing more "abuse" of the land.

VI. Summary of Proposed Final Boundaries:

The total acreage for the proposed final river management area for the lower Klickitat River is 4830 acres, with approximately 250 acres of these being within the river channel, resulting in an average of 420 acres per rivermile. Property ownership is 80% private lands, 10% State lands, and 10% BLM. Eight specific boundary changes resulted from the public response.

As a result of public comments, a portion of the acreage within the town of Lyle was deleted; the boundary was moved to State Highway 142 through Lyle (map change #1). The gravel pit across the Klickitat was not added because the pit is already included within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Issues related to the pit will be dealt with within the context of the National Scenic Area legislation, since the pit is not visible from the Klickitat River itself. Approximately 60 acres were added along Silvas Creek, Knight and Dillacort Canyons (map changes #2,4,8) in response to fisheries concerns. The remaining 170 acres were added to include high priority areas (map changes #3,5,6,7) within the viewshed. Eighty acres within these were also included at the request of a property owner because of access concerns (map change #3).

The proposed final boundaries for the White Salmon River includes 1730 acres, 85 within the narrow channel area. This averages about 210 acres per rivermile, 100% of which are in private ownership. Public comments resulted in ten boundary changes, reducing five similar areas (map changes #3,4,5,6,& 10) along the river totaling 140 acres. The areas deleted were mainly cleared agricultural lands not visible from either the river or a potential trail located adjacent to the river.

The boundary was changed near Northwestern Lake (Map change #1) to eliminate a small point of land that dropped south of the lake and Buck Creek, the end point designated in the legislation. An additional 10 acre block (Map change #2) was included on the east side of the river across from Buck Creek to include the entire visual foreground.

A 60 acre parcel was included along Spring Creek (Map change #9) to address recreational opportunities including river access from the Spring Creek road. In addition the area has high cultural resource potential.

The boundary along State Highway 141 was changed to eliminate the division of two parcels of land that contained a minor portion, including the residences, within the draft boundaries (Map change #8). These 6 acres that were deleted are not visible from the river.

The area along the east side of the river between BZ and Husum (Map change #7) was reduced about 50 acres to coincide with the boundaries to the north and south that included the visual foreground from the river as well as a potential trail located adjacent to the river. The proposal by the State Department of Wildlife and conservation groups to double the size of this entire area was considered at length. It was decided that the wildlife habitat in that particular area was not an "outstandingly remarkable" resource value for which this river was designated.

In addition, it was decided not to include the lower mile and a half of Rattlesnake Creek that was recommended. Recreational opportunities, a scenic canyon, and the potential for cultural sites do exist in the area. However, there is no direct river access to the area from the White Salmon. It was decided that Rattlesnake Creek, particularly because of its resources upstream, should be addressed as a separate entity, possibly through the State Scenic Rivers program.



White Salmon and Klickitat River Studies

Legislative Background

Section 13(c) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (Public Law 99-663), November 17, 1986, designated the lower 11 miles of the Klickitat River, Washington, as a National Recreation River, and 8 miles of the lower White Salmon River, Washington, as a National Scenic River through amendment of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL-90-542). This amendment designated the Secretary of Agriculture to administer these new additions.

These river segments are two out of eight rivers historically designated and classified "instantly" (without any suitability study). Both rivers are also outside National Forest boundaries and are almost entirely within private ownership.

Overview of Public Involvement

A Fact sheet and questionnaire about the river studies were mailed in September and October to 1200 people on the rivers mailing list. Over 500 of these are private landowners located from the files in the Klickitat County Courthouse.

Three information workshops were held at Mt. Adams Ranger District, Lyle and White Salmon. Over 200 people attended. Questions were collected at the meetings and a 28-page Answer sheet was mailed out in early November.

Final Boundary Lines Review Process

A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register stating that boundaries were available for public review on 11/17/87. Copies will be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. Congress has a 90 day review period of the proposed final boundaries from the date of the transmittal.

Persons wishing to appeal the boundary lines should follow the normal Forest Service administrative review process, beginning with writing a letter of appeal to the National Scenic Area Manager within 45 days after November 17 when the proposed final boundary maps were available.

What's Next?

The next step is to develop management plans for the river corridors within the boundaries. These plans will address a wide variety of concerns such as kinds and amounts of use; access; trails and other recreation development; areas needing protection of "esthetic, scenic, historic, archeologic, and scientific features"; and easements or acquisitions.

The management plans should be completed in fall, 1990. The public will be asked to help develop the management plan beginning this winter.

Suitability studies for the upper segments of both rivers will also be started this winter.

Final Boundary Lines

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FILE

MESSAGE SCAN

TO ~~g.e.cooper~~ *WJ*

From: Carlin B. Jackson
Postmark: Dec 01,87 7:20 AM
Status: Previously read
Subject: Forwarded: W&S Background--FYI

Comments:

From Carlin B. Jackson:

Previous comments:

From Ilene A. Matejko:R06D:

Background paper on final boundary lines for designated segments of the Klickitat and White Salmon Rivers--CRGNSA. Maps to follow.

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KLICKITAT

NATIONAL RECREATION RIVER

FINAL BOUNDARY

NOVEMBER 1987

Approximate Scale: 1.25" = 1 mile

