

# Update to Board of County Commissioners

**From: Public & Government Affairs**

**RE: Wild and Scenic Rivers Federal Designation**

**Date: 03-10-2020**

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Summary	<p>Senator Wyden will be introducing legislation this year proposing to designate certain stretches of river as “Wild and Scenic Rivers,” noting that last October was the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Since his call-out, over 2,200 nominations were submitted to his office.</p> <p>The Clackamas River Basin Council nominated 3 miles of Eagle Creek and 4 miles of the North Fork Eagle Creek for protective status as a “Wild and Scenic River.” For context, this is approximately 6 miles northeast of Estacada. If approved, this would join 8 miles of the upper reaches of Eagle Creek which already hold this designation.</p> <p>The nominated area of Eagle Creek is known for annual migrations of Coho salmon and winter steelhead, and are considered the coldest and cleanest waters of all tributaries within the lower Clackamas River Basin.</p>
Anticipated Impact	<p><b>Land that is adjacent to this stretch of Eagle Creek is owned by the following entities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clackamas County (Eagle Fern Park)</li><li>• Portland General Electric (up and down stream of Eagle Fern Park)</li><li>• Bureau of Land Management</li></ul> <p><b>Use of adjacent land</b></p> <p>Much of this land is in public or utility ownership, and includes significant old growth Douglas Fir trees, some over 400 years old. This designation is supported by PGE, and BLM has reported designation would not present any adverse effects to their forest management. There are no concerns or expected impacts to Eagle Fern Park.</p>
Recommendation	<p><b>PGA recommends the BCC support this nomination and work with PGE to submit a joint letter as the adjacent landowners.</b></p>
Timeline	<p>Senator Wyden has not yet introduced this legislation.</p>