

## **Wild & Scenic River Management in the Columbia Gorge**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Portions of the Klickitat and White Salmon rivers were designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in 1986 with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. "The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were created by Congress in 1968 (Public law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et. Seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition of the enjoyment of present and future generations. The act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development."(<http://www.rivers.gov/>).

Rivers are classified wild, scenic, or recreational. Wild rivers are "...rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watershed or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted." Scenic rivers are "...rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watershed still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads." Recreation Rivers are "...rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Upper portions of the White Salmon and Cascade Creek in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest were added to the W&SR system in 2005, and are classified as Wild or Scenic. The section of the White Salmon from Gilmer Creek to Buck Creek is classified Scenic. The section of the Klickitat from Wheeler Creek to its confluence with the Columbia River is classified a Recreation River.