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## **Appendix U – Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report Summary**

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This appendix summarizes the studies completed on 51 rivers, and provides summarized information on the six river segments the BLM found to be suitable. Full text of the two Suitability Reports is available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/recreation.php>.

This appendix additionally summarizes the range of river segments recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) considered among the alternatives within this Final EIS. The full evaluation and analysis of the study rivers across the range of alternatives and the Proposed RMP is included in Chapter 3 – Wild and Scenic Rivers.

### **Introduction, Project Area, and Preliminary Determinations**

In October 1990, the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) western Oregon districts (Coos Bay, Eugene, Klamath Falls Field Office, Medford, Roseburg, and Salem) completed the eligibility phase of a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) evaluations as part of the resource management plan revision process (USDI BLM 1995). The cumulative result of this planning effort was the identification of 51 eligible river segments across western Oregon.

This current study process assessed the suitability of these 51 river segments that have been previously identified as eligible components of the National System. The project area for this suitability study includes all BLM-administered river segments within the BLM's western Oregon district boundaries that have been determined to meet the eligibility criteria for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

### **Why Conduct a Suitability Study and Why Now?**

Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act (Pub. L. 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271–1287) directs Federal agencies to consider potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in the land use planning process. To fulfill this requirement, whenever the BLM undertakes a land use planning effort, the BLM may choose to analyze river and stream segments that might be eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National System. The BLM has made this decision.

### **Steps in the Wild and Scenic River Study Process**

A WSR study process is composed of two main components: the eligibility phase and the suitability phase. The BLM has completed the eligibility phase and the suitability phase for all eligible rivers within the planning area for the western Oregon RMP. The eligibility and suitability phases were conducted in accordance with BLM Manual 6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management (USDI BLM 2012), The Wild and Scenic River Study Process Technical Report (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999), and with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## Eligibility Phase

The eligibility studies completed in 1990 determined 51 individual segments within BLM-administered lands in western Oregon met the eligibility criteria for inclusion into the National System. Under the 1995 RMPs, the Records of Decision included these 51 rivers segments as eligible candidates for the National System. These segments are currently managed under interim protection until the BLM evaluates their suitability. **Table U-1** identifies the 51 eligible rivers, their outstandingly remarkable values, tentative classifications, total miles, and acres of BLM-administered lands within study river corridors.

**Table U-1.** All eligible Wild and Scenic River segments within the decision area

| Study River Name           | Outstandingly Remarkable Values      | Tentative Classification | River Length (Miles) | BLM-administered Lands (Acres) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alsea River                | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife           | Recreational             | 1.1                  | 404                            |
| Antelope Creek             | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 1.3                  | 718                            |
| Applegate River            | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 1.3                  | 839                            |
| Big Butte Creek            | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 2.0                  | 706                            |
| Cheney Creek               | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 2.2                  | 711                            |
| Clackamas River            | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife           | Recreational             | 0.0                  | 30                             |
| Cow Creek                  | Fish, Wildlife, Historical, Cultural | Recreational             | 10.0                 | 3,339                          |
| Drift Creek                | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 0.4                  | 150                            |
| Elk Valley Creek           | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 1.6                  | 464                            |
| Fall Creek - Eugene        | Recreation                           | Recreational             | 0.4                  | 87                             |
| Fall Creek - Salem         | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 2.4                  | 670                            |
| Kilches River              | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife           | Recreational             | 0.0                  | 66                             |
| Lake Creek Segment B       | Recreation, Fish                     | Recreational             | 0.9                  | 483                            |
| Left Fork Foots Creek      | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 0.1                  | 131                            |
| Little Applegate River     | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 1.7                  | 1,368                          |
| Little Luckiamute River    | Ecology                              | Recreational             | 0.3                  | 40                             |
| Little North Santiam River | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 3.5                  | 1,205                          |
| Lobster Creek Segment B    | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 0.1                  | 352                            |
| Luckiamute River           | Ecology                              | Recreational             | 2.2                  | 624                            |
| McKenzie River Segment B   | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 1.0                  | 56                             |
| Middle Santiam River       | Cultural, Ecology                    | Recreational             | 0.6                  | 193                            |
| Nehalem River              | Recreation                           | Recreational             | 0.2                  | 40                             |
| Nelson Creek               | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 2.6                  | 833                            |
| Nestucca River Segment B*  | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 0.6                  | 212                            |
| North Fork Clackamas River | Fish                                 | Scenic (Seg. 1)          | 1.4                  | 389                            |
|                            |                                      | Recreational (Seg. 2)    |                      |                                |
| North Fork Gate Creek      | Fish                                 | Recreational             | 0.6                  | 199                            |
| North Fork Siletz River    | Fish, Wildlife, Ecology              | Scenic                   | 3.5                  | 990                            |
| North Fork Trask River     | Recreation, Fish                     | Recreational             | 3.0                  | 778                            |

| Study River Name                 | Outstandingly Remarkable Values   | Tentative Classification | River Length (Miles) | BLM-administered Lands (Acres) |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| North Santiam River              | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife (Seg. A)                                | Scenic (Seg. A)          | 1.2                  | 376                            |
|                                  | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife (Seg. B)   | Recreational (Seg. B)    | 2.7                  |                                |
| Quines Creek                     | Fish  | Recreational             | 1.9                  | 816                            |
| Riffle Creek                     | Fish  | Recreational             | 2.1                  | 762                            |
| Rogue River                      | Recreation, Fish  | Recreational             | 1.5                  | 754                            |
| Sams Creek                       | Fish  | Recreational             | 7.3                  | 497                            |
| Sandy River                      | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Cultural   | Recreational             | 0.7                  | 1,519                          |
| Siletz River                     | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife   | Recreational             | 2.0                  | 54                             |
| Sixes River                      | Fish, Wildlife, Historical  | Recreational             | 1.4                  | 281                            |
| South Fork Coos River            | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 1.0                  | 551                            |
| South Fork Coquille              | Fish, Cultural  | Recreational             | 0.6                  | 152                            |
| South Fork Gate Creek            | Fish  | Recreational             | 1.4                  | 108                            |
| South Fork Little Butte Creek    | Fish  | Recreational             | 0.0                  | 452                            |
| South Fork Trask River           | Fish  | Recreational             | 1.4                  | 69                             |
| South Umpqua                     | Fish, Wildlife, Historical, Cultural  | Recreational             | 0.0                  | 602                            |
| South Yamhill River <sup>†</sup> | Cultural, Ecology   | Recreational             | 4.7                  | 0                              |
| Table Rock Fork – Molalla River  | Scenery, Cultural   | Recreational             | 0.4                  | 1,480                          |
| Trask River                      | Recreation  | Recreational             | 1.2                  | 444                            |
| Tualatin River                   | Cultural  | Recreational             | 18.0                 | 326                            |
| Umpqua River                     | Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish, Wildlife, Historical, Cultural, Ecology | Recreational             | 4.2                  | 2,403                          |
| West Fork Illinois River         | Scenery   | Scenic                   | 1.1                  | 1,154                          |
| Willamette River                 | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife, Historical, Cultural, Ecology,                  | Recreational             | 0.0                  | 83                             |
| Wilson River                     | Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 1.3                  | 109                            |
| Yaquina River                    | Fish, Wildlife  | Recreational             | 3.5                  | 270                            |
| <b>Totals</b>                    |   |                          | <b>100.9</b>         | <b>29,339</b>                  |

\* The BLM concluded through the suitability assessment that a joint suitability study with the U.S. Forest Service is needed to make a determination about the segment's suitability. This segment will continue to receive protection until completion of the joint study.

<sup>†</sup> The BLM discovered through a revalidation of the eligibility determinations that were made in 1992 that the South Yamhill River corridor does not include any BLM-administered lands. Therefore, this segment that was previously determined eligible did not move forward for suitability evaluation as part of this RMP revision.

## Suitability Phase

The purpose of the suitability phase of the study process is to determine whether eligible segments would be appropriate additions to the National System by considering tradeoffs between corridor development and river protection. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a determination of suitability, which provides a basis for determining which rivers should be recommended for inclusion into the National System. The BLM cannot administratively designate a segment via a planning decision or other agency decision into the National System, and no segment studied is designated or would be automatically designated as part of the National System. Rivers found not suitable by the BLM would be dropped from further consideration for inclusion into the National System.

## **Suitability Determinations**

Of the 51 stream segments determined to be eligible in the 1990 RMP process, the BLM determined that 6 segments meet the suitability criteria for recommendation into the National System, 43 segments were found not suitable during the BLM’s review, one segment (Nestucca River Segment B) was found to warrant further evaluation under a joint study with the U.S. Forest Service to determine suitability, and one segment (South Yamhill River) was removed from suitability evaluation because the corridor contained no BLM-administered lands. **Table U-2** shows the six rivers found suitable.

**Table U-2.** Eligible rivers within the decision area that the BLM identified as meeting suitability criteria

| <b>River Segment Name</b>       | <b>District</b> | <b>Suitable River Tentative Classification</b> | <b>River Miles</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| Little North Santiam River      | Salem           | Recreational                                   | 3.5                |
| North Fork Siletz River         | Salem           | Scenic   | 3.5                |
| Rogue River                     | Medford         | Recreational                                   | 2.1                |
| Sandy River                     | Salem           | Recreational                                   | 7.3                |
| Table Rock Fork – Molalla River | Salem           | Recreational                                   | 4.7                |
| West Fork Illinois River        | Medford         | Scenic   | 4.2                |
| <b>Total Miles</b>              |                 |  | <b>25.3</b>        |

The following sections summarize the data collected in tables (**Table U-3** through **Table U-8**) followed by **Map U-1** through **Map U-6** for each of the six suitable rivers.

## Little North Santiam River

**Table U-3.** Little North Santiam River study segment

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Willamette National Forest boundary to confluence with North Santiam River |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 17.18 miles  |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 3.5 miles  |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 4,748 acres  |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 1,205 acres  |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Recreational   |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife  |

## North Fork Siletz River

**Table U-4.** North Fork Siletz River study segment

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Headwaters to confluence with South Fork Siletz River |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 10.60 miles   |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 3.50 miles  |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 3,047 acres   |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 990 acres   |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Scenic  |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Fish, Wildlife, Ecology                               |

## Rogue River

**Table U-5.** Rogue River study segment

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Lost Creek Dam downstream to the confluence of the Applegate River |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 63.24 miles  |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 2.10 miles   |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 19,798.13 acres  |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 753.85 acres   |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Recreational   |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Recreation, Fish   |

## Sandy River

**Table U-6.** Sandy River study segment

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Mt. Hood National Forest boundary to the east boundary of Sec. 36, T. 1 S., R. 4 E., W. M. near Dodge Park |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 26.29 miles  |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 7.27 miles   |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 8,043.17 acres   |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 1,518.39 acres   |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Recreational   |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Cultural  |

## Table Rock Fork – Molalla River

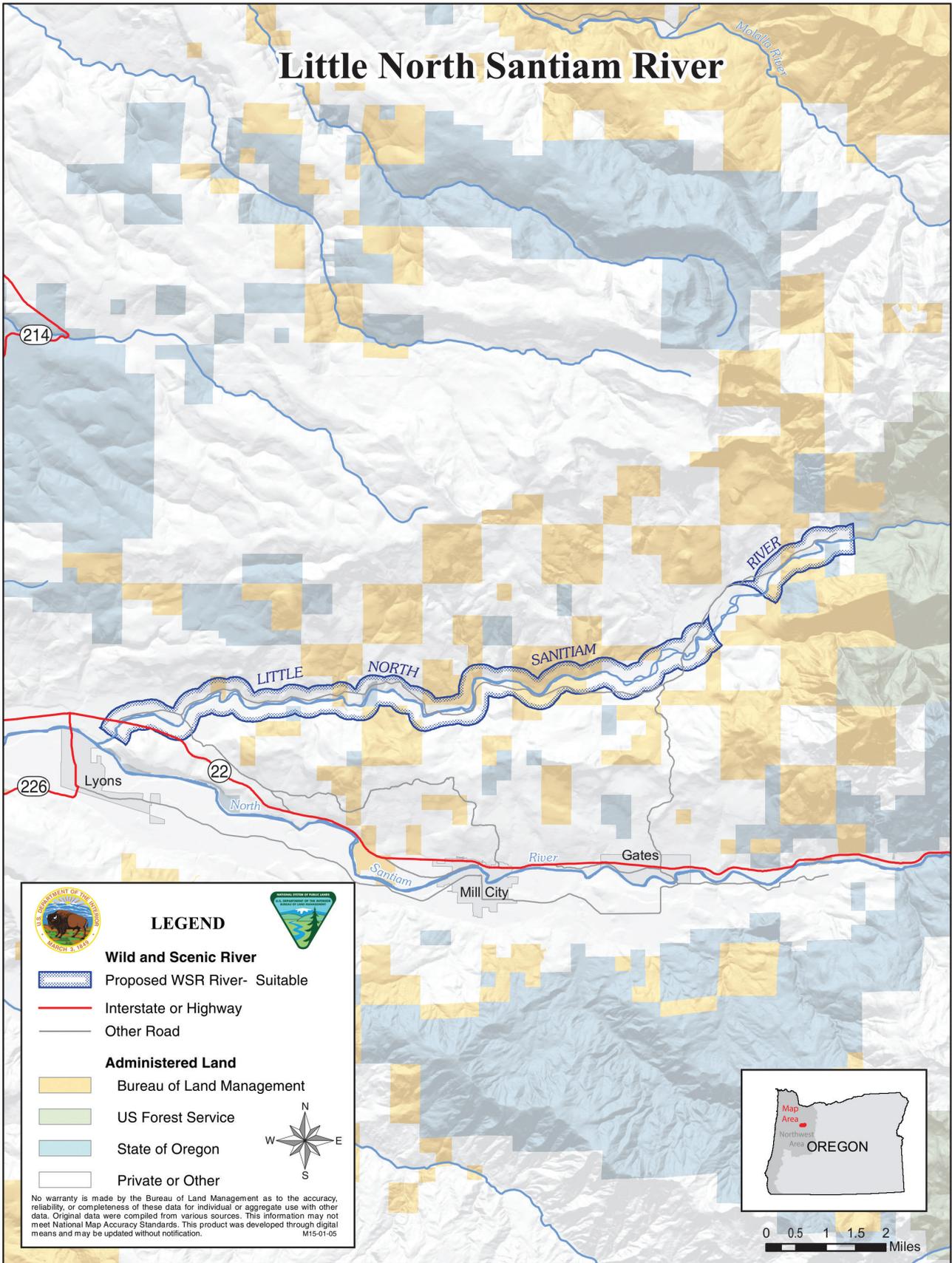
**Table U-7.** Table Rock Fork Molalla River study segment

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Headwaters to confluence with Molalla River |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 13.41 miles                                 |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 4.69 miles                                  |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 4,134.58 acres                              |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 1,480 acres                                 |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Recreational                                |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Scenery, Cultural                           |

## West Fork Illinois River

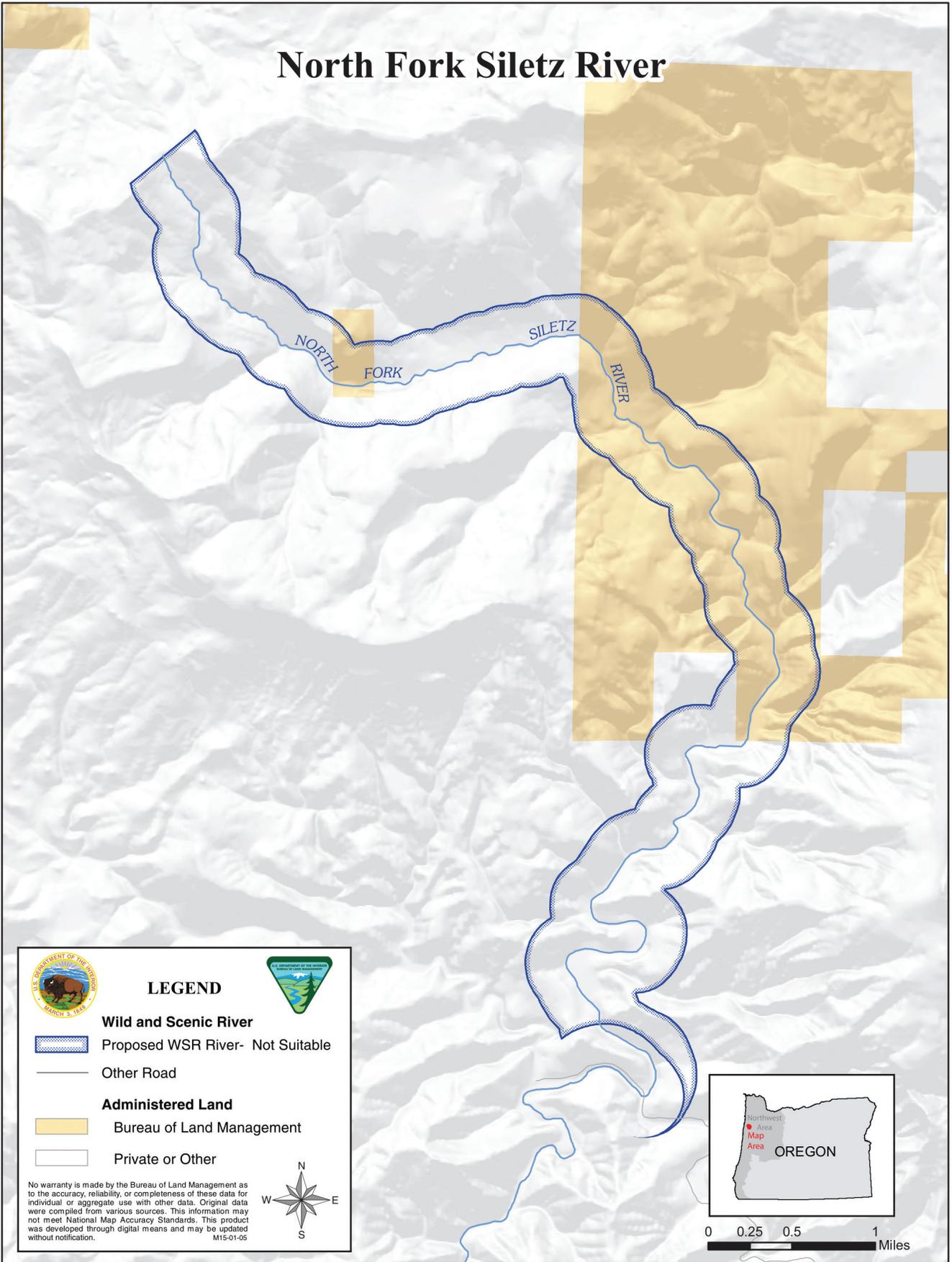
**Table U-8.** West Fork Illinois River study segment

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Segment Description:</b>                    | Oregon/California state line downstream to 0.4 miles above the confluence with the East Fork Illinois River |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 17.03 miles   |
| <b>Length on BLM Land:</b>                     | 4.19 miles  |
| <b>Total Segment Length:</b>                   | 5,248 acres   |
| <b>Area on BLM Land:</b>                       | 1,154 acres   |
| <b>Preliminary Classification:</b>             | Scenic  |
| <b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):</b> | Scenery   |

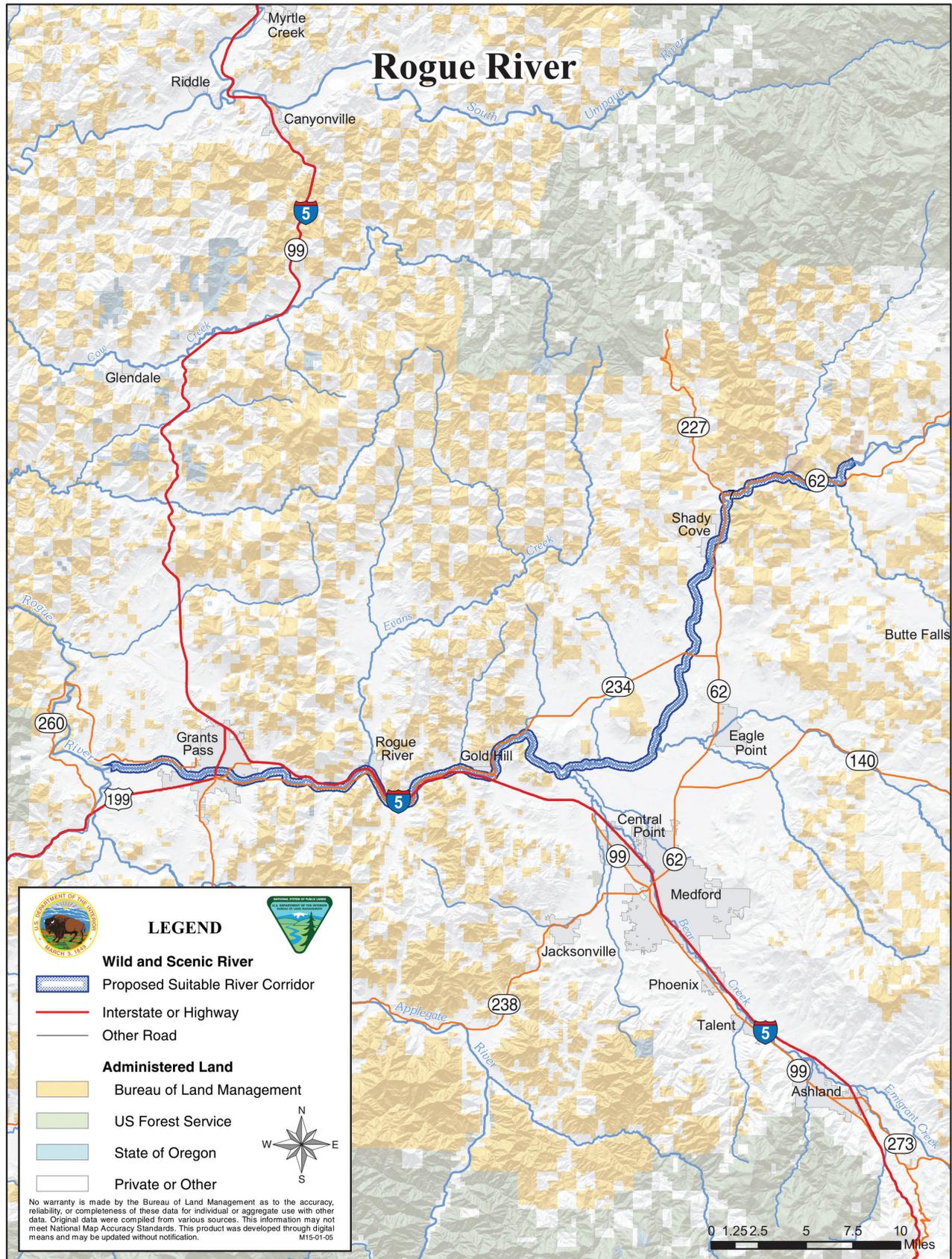


**Map U-1.** Little North Santiam River study segment

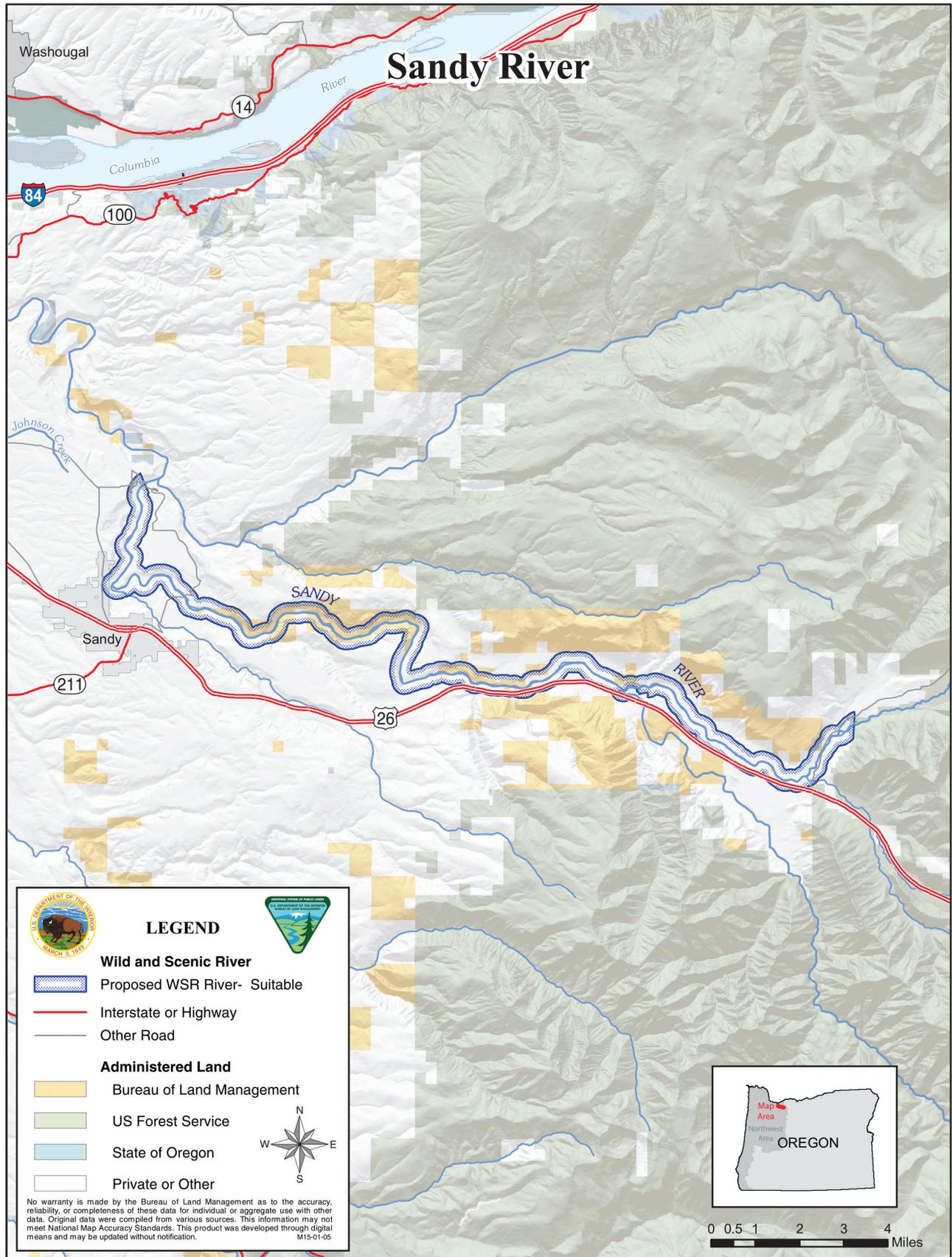
# North Fork Siletz River



Map U-2. North Fork Siletz River study segment

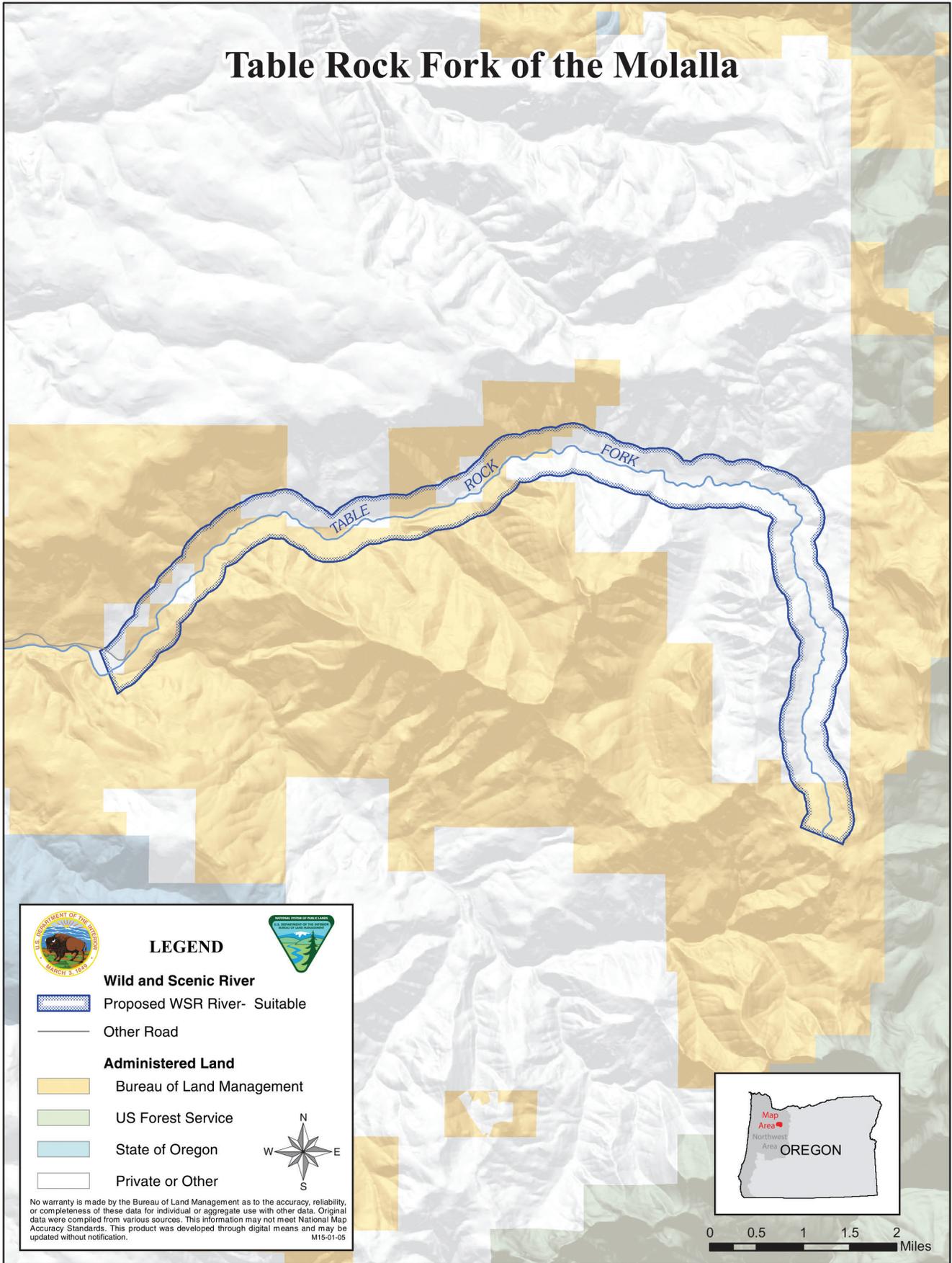


Map U-3. Rogue River study segment

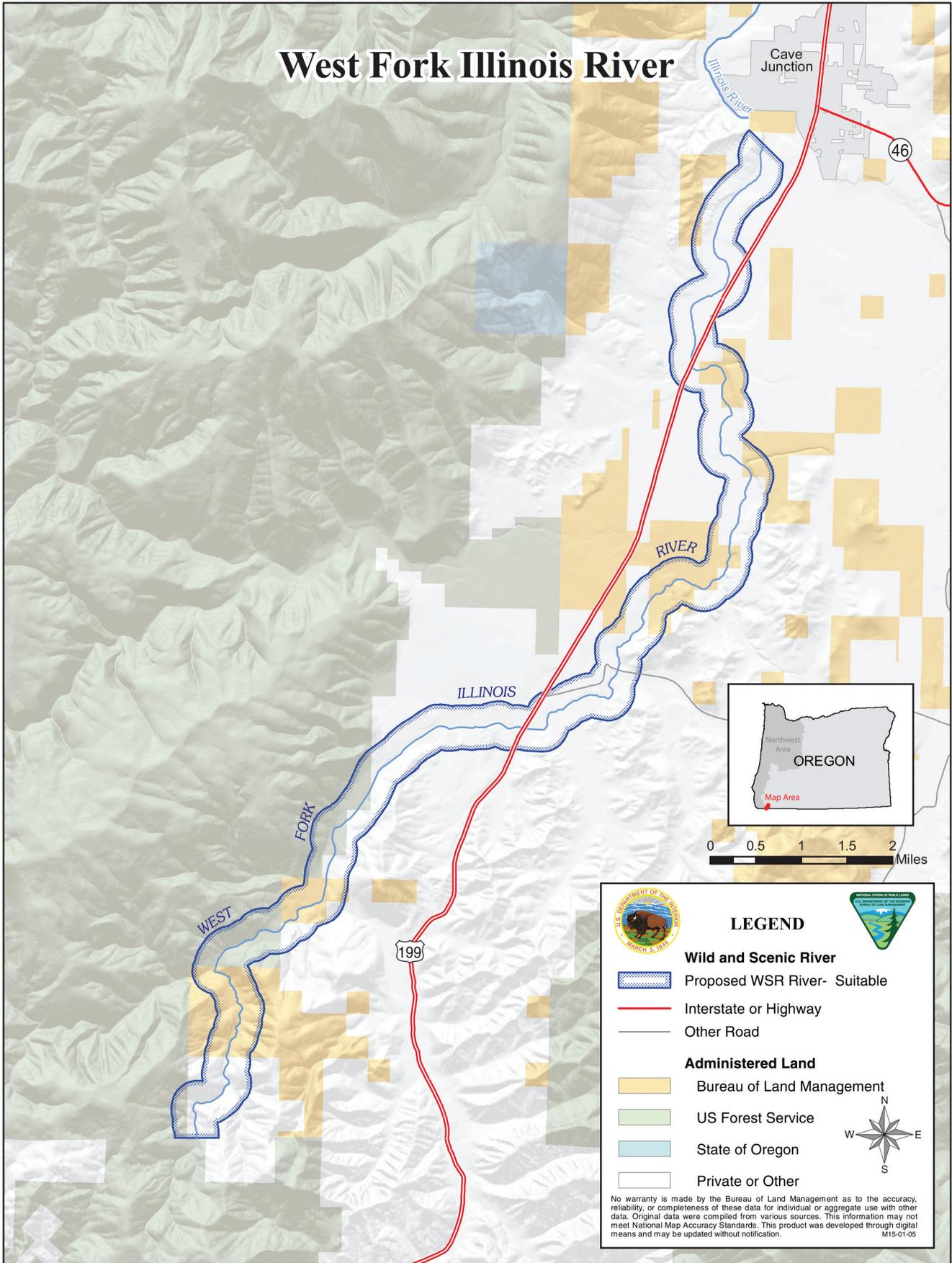


Map U-4. Sandy River study segment

# Table Rock Fork of the Molalla



Map U-5. Table Rock Fork – Molalla River study segment



Map U-6. West Fork Illinois River study segment

## Suitability Reports

The Wild and Scenic River Suitability Reports on the western Oregon BLM's eligible river segments were published in May 2015. For additional detailed information for each eligible river segment, reference the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Reports that have been published as a separate document to supplement the RMPs for Western Oregon planning process. Based on the number of eligible rivers that the BLM studied, suitability reports have been broken out into two regions. The Northwest WSR Suitability Report covers eligible rivers within the Coos Bay, Eugene, and Salem Districts. The Southwest WSR report covers eligible rivers in the Medford and Roseburg Districts. These reports are available on the RMPs for Western Oregon website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/recreation.php>.

## **Land Use Plan Alternatives**

Chapter 3 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes the effects that management actions associated with each alternative would have on the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs), water quality, free-flowing characteristics, and tentative classification of eligible segments. The effect of the alternatives on eligible river segments is assessed by considering the extent to which each alternative protects the ORVs and tentative classification. The analysis conducted for this planning effort for water quality determined that no alternatives would result in changes to water quality within the decision area (see the Hydrology section in Chapter 3). As that analysis has determined that there would be no changes under the alternatives, the indicator of water quality has been dropped from the discussion for affects to eligible rivers. No actions included in any of the alternatives would change current free-flowing values of any of the 51 eligible segments. As there is no action upon which to measure differences for this indicator, it was dropped from consideration for affects to eligible rivers, as the BLM assumes there would be no change to free-flowing characteristics under any of the alternatives or the Proposed RMP.

The BLM considers tentative classifications and ORVs protected for a given eligible segment when that segment is recommended for inclusion into the National System under an alternative. The BLM considers these factors are left unprotected when a particular segment is not recommended for inclusion into the National System. Where an alternative does not protect a particular segment, the analysis considers the potential effect of other management on the two factors. The analysis contained in this EIS is summarized below.

### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would continue to manage the 51 segments identified as eligible during the 1995 RMP process to protect their ORVs, free-flowing condition, water quality, and tentative classification as wild, scenic, or recreational until suitability is determined on the 100.9 river miles and 29,339 acres within the study river corridors. Under this protective management, the BLM would not approve any action that would adversely affect the 51 segments' ORVs and the BLM assumes that these characteristics would persist.

### Alternative A

Under Alternative A, the BLM would determine that all 51 eligible river segments in the planning area are not suitable for inclusion into the National System. The BLM would no longer manage these 100.9 river miles and 29,339 acres of land to protect their ORVs and tentative classification. While management under the guidance of WSR would not occur, the BLM assumed that this change in management would only negatively affect miles and acres of eligible rivers that occur in land use allocations or special

management areas where management direction would be in conflict with retention of the ORVs and tentative classification.

### Alternatives B and C/Proposed RMP

Under Alternatives B and C, and the Proposed RMP, the BLM would recommend six segments for potential inclusion into the National System (**Table U-2**). The BLM would continue to manage these six segments, totaling 25.3 river miles and 7,102 acres of land, to ensure the continued protection of their ORVs, free-flowing condition, water quality, and tentative classification until Congress makes a determination whether to designate the segment as part of the National System. The BLM would not recommend 43 segments for inclusion into the National System. While management under the guidance of WSR would not occur, the BLM assumed that this change in management would only negatively affect miles and acres of eligible rivers that occur in land use allocations or special management areas where management direction would be in conflict with retention of the ORVs and tentative classification. The Nestucca River segment B would continue to receive protection until completion of a joint suitability study with the U.S. Forest Service to evaluate suitability is completed.

### Alternative D

Under Alternative D, the BLM would recommend all 51 eligible segments for inclusion into the National System. The BLM would continue managing the segments to protect the ORVs, free-flowing condition, water quality, and tentative classification. Implementation of Alternative D would result in effects similar to or the same as those described under the No Action alternative, as the BLM would provide protection to these river segments until Congress makes a determination whether to designate the segments as part of the National System (**Appendix B**), and the BLM assumes that these characteristics would persist.