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The Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River

Expanding one of Oregon's most picturesque and powerful wild and scenic rivers

Near Crater Lake National Park in southwest Oregon, the emerald green waters of the North Umpqua River begin. Fed by snowmelt high in the Cascade Mountains, the translucent North Umpqua is one of two rivers in Oregon that flows directly from the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean. Management of the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River corridor is jointly shared by the Bureau of Land Management and the Umpqua National Forest. The BLM manages roughly 25 percent of the corridor, totaling 2,223 acres. The corridor provides critical habitat for two federally threatened species, the Oregon Coast coho salmon and northern spotted owl.

In 2008, the BLM partnered with seven federal, state and local governmental agencies

to purchase four parcels totaling 53 acres within the corridor. From the original parcels identified, an additional 211 acres were acquired in 2017, with roughly 240 left for potential acquisition within the corridor in the coming years. These remaining acres constitute some of the last available lands to bring into public management and would expand public access to the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River. These acquisitions provide diverse recreational opportunities such as fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and boating, to name a few, in addition to contributing to local economies. The river corridor draws over 250,000 visitors annually.

South Fork of the Clackamas

Historic waterwork tunnels widely used by early residents now a recreation wonderland

The Wild and Scenic South Fork Clackamas River is on the western slope of the Cascade Range in northwest Oregon. As this wild river flows through a narrow canyon with large rock outcrops and cliffs, a 191-foot waterfall and old-growth trees along the river add to the visual diversity.

This unique location is home to several waterfalls, including some of the biggest in the area: 60-foot-tall Lower Clackamas; 191-foot-tall Clackamas; 35-foot-tall Middle Clackamas; 20-foot-tall Upper Clackamas; and the 100-foot-tall Memaloose.

Perhaps the most interesting fact about this remote Wild and Scenic River segment is that the historic Oregon City Waterwork

tunnels are located within the river corridor. In 1913, Oregon City residents suffered a typhoid outbreak, and needed to find a cleaner water source. The city blasted six tunnels into the solid basalt cliffs along the river in order to provide drinking water for a thirsty public. The project expanded in 1939 and more tunnels were drilled, thanks to help from the Works Progress Administration, one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal recovery programs. The tunnels were productive and used for many years. Since then, they have been decommissioned and are part of a unique visual treat awaiting the adventurous hikers, hunters, and fishermen.

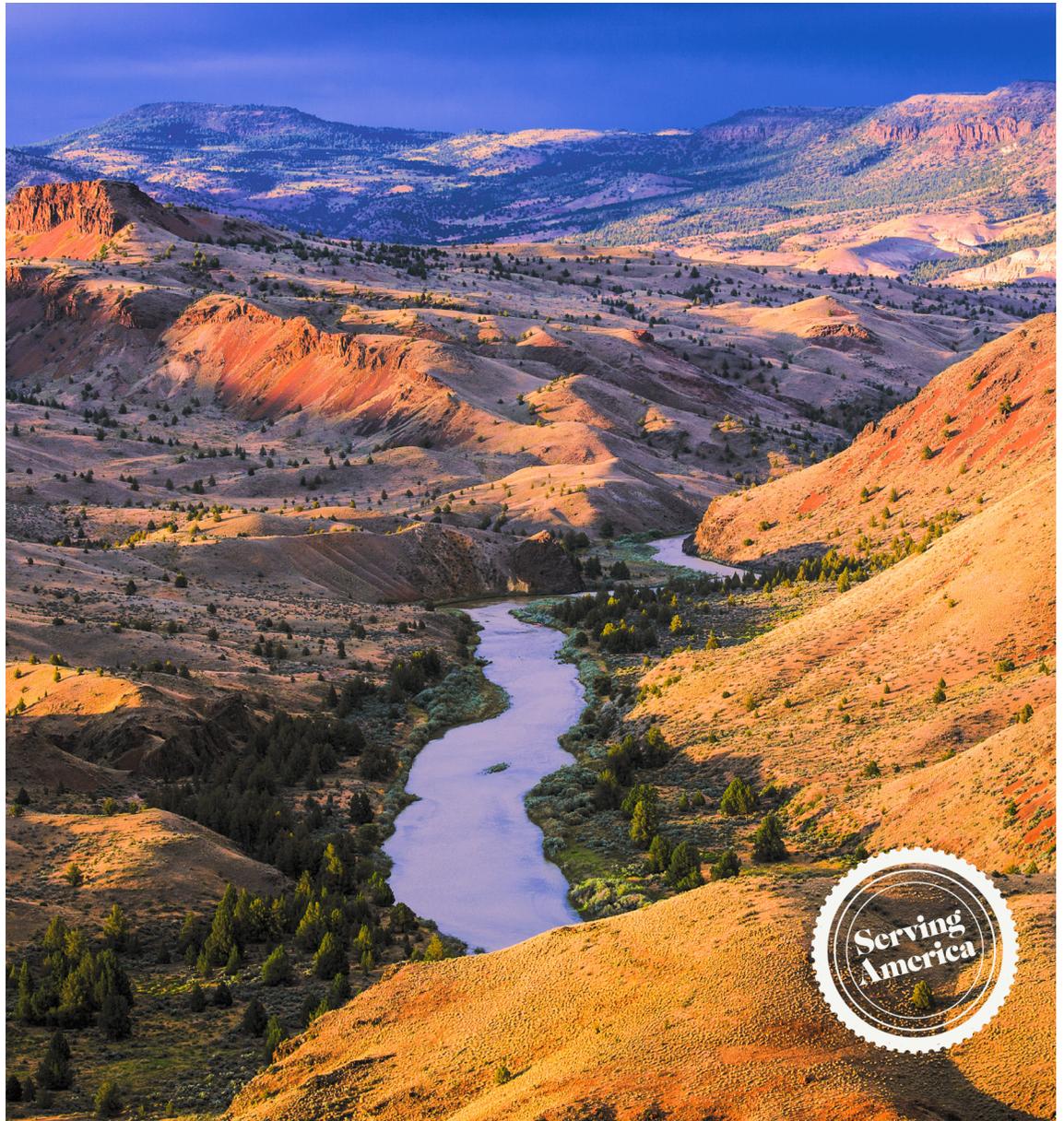


Thirtymile Land Acquisition

Oil and gas revenue contribute to the magic and beauty of the John Day Wild & Scenic River

A visit to the John Day Wild and Scenic River offers a bit of everything to enjoy. As the second longest free-flowing river in the continental U.S., the John Day hosts one of the few remaining wild summer steelhead and spring chinook salmon runs in the Northwest. Visitors can drift along the river, soaking in views of unique rock formations and bighorn sheep, explore the routes of early pioneers on the Oregon Trail, or hike in the prehistoric footsteps of humans who were here 8,000 years ago. As summer ends and the nights start to cool, hunters from around the world hit the slopes of this remote area hoping to bring home waterfowl, upland game birds like the introduced chukar partridge, or deer.

All of these opportunities are expanding, as the BLM Prineville District is completing the process to acquire 11,500 acres along Thirtymile Creek and Armstrong Canyon. The new public lands will offer a road to the river, a launch site, and miles of access to an area that was previously blocked by private land. The acquisition was made possible by funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal program that takes revenues from oil and gas production to conserve and support access to millions of public acres where people can hunt, fish, and contribute to a larger outdoor recreation economy.



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