



# Siskiyou Wild Rivers

## A NATIONAL MONUMENT

for the Twenty-first Century

Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains are a treasured natural heritage for all Americans. Wild rivers flow freely through this ancient, rugged land of endless forested ridges and deep, boulder strewn canyons. Rare wildflowers line the banks of these rivers, carpet the hillsides and color the dark forest floors. Weathered, red rock crags mark some ridgelines while others are upholstered in a lush forest cover of deep, dark green.

This is a landscape of exceptional geologic complexity and one of the great reservoirs of biological diversity in North America. The Siskiyou are a crossroads in time and space where plant species from such diverse ecological regions as the high deserts of the Great Basin and the fog shrouded Pacific Coast, have converged in unique combinations. It has served as a refuge for plants and trees that existed during the age of the dinosaurs, now lost from other areas of the West during periods of climate change, submergence, and massive flows of lava and ice.

This is the proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument, encompassing a little over one million acres of public lands in the Siskiyou National Forest (863,400 acres) and adjacent lands in the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (184,800 acres). The purpose of the monument is to protect, preserve and restore the globally important objects of scientific and historic interest found in Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains.

**A SALMON REFUGE:** There are five National Wild and Scenic Rivers and nine Wild and Scenic candidate rivers in the proposed monument. These rivers and their tributaries

contain some of the most valuable salmon and steelhead habitat in the contiguous United States and are a critical refuge for native wild fish populations at risk of extinction.

**UNIQUE GEOLOGY, RICH FLORA:** The Josephine ophiolite is a prominent geologic feature of the proposed monument. Formed as ancient seafloor was scraped off on the

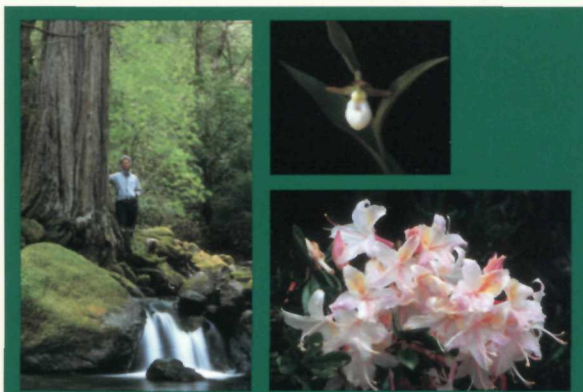
continental shelf (like frosting on a knife dragged across a chocolate cake), it is the largest such formation in North America. Its serpentine rock supports scores of rare plant species, native bunch grasses, Jeffrey pine savannas and unique wetlands, known as darlingtonia fens.

**THE LAST WILDLANDS:** At the heart of this nationally outstanding landscape is the Kalmiopsis Wildlands, rich in rivers, remote and unspoiled. At over 500,000 acres, this is the largest complex of wilderness and unprotected roadless areas left on the Pacific Coast.

**GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY:** Numerous studies and assessments have documented the important scientific values of the Siskiyou. The World Wildlife Fund recently found that the

Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion has more conifer species than any other temperate-zone forest and named it one of the most important ecosystems on the planet.

**CULTURAL VALUES:** Archeological sites within the proposed monument attest to continuous human habitation of the region over the past eight or nine millennia. More recent inhabitants have left us old mining cabins and vanished towns, like Sebastopol, the first settlement in Josephine County.



*"Tributary ravines contained so much blossoming azalea that the forest often smelled like a roomful of fancy women... there were more orchids than I'd seen anywhere. California lady's slippers hung over one rivulet like tiny Japanese lanterns dipped in honey..."*

DAVID RAINS WALLACE  
THE KLAMATH KNOT

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# WILD RIVERS, WILD FISH, WILD LANDS. . .



Above: A black bear and her cub forage for salmon and other food along the banks of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River (2).

Left: The Wild and Scenic Illinois River (1).



Steve Miller

Left to right: The Wild and Scenic Chetco River (3); Baldface Creek, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic N. Fork Smith River (4); the Wild and Scenic Elk River (5); and Silver Creek (6).

The proposed monument for the Siskiyou Mountains has naturally reproducing native salmon and steelhead populations, large roadless watersheds, high water quality and no dams. This is one of the few remaining places where a salmon refuge can be successfully established.



Ken Morrish



Left: Steelhead from the Pistol River (7). Right: The 105,000 acre South Kalmiopsis roadless area (8). One of the strengths of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers proposal is its large size. According to aquatic ecologist, Dr. Christopher Frissell: "Few completely roadless, large watersheds exist in the Pacific Northwest, but those that remain relatively undisturbed play critical roles in sustaining sensitive native species and important ecosystem processes."

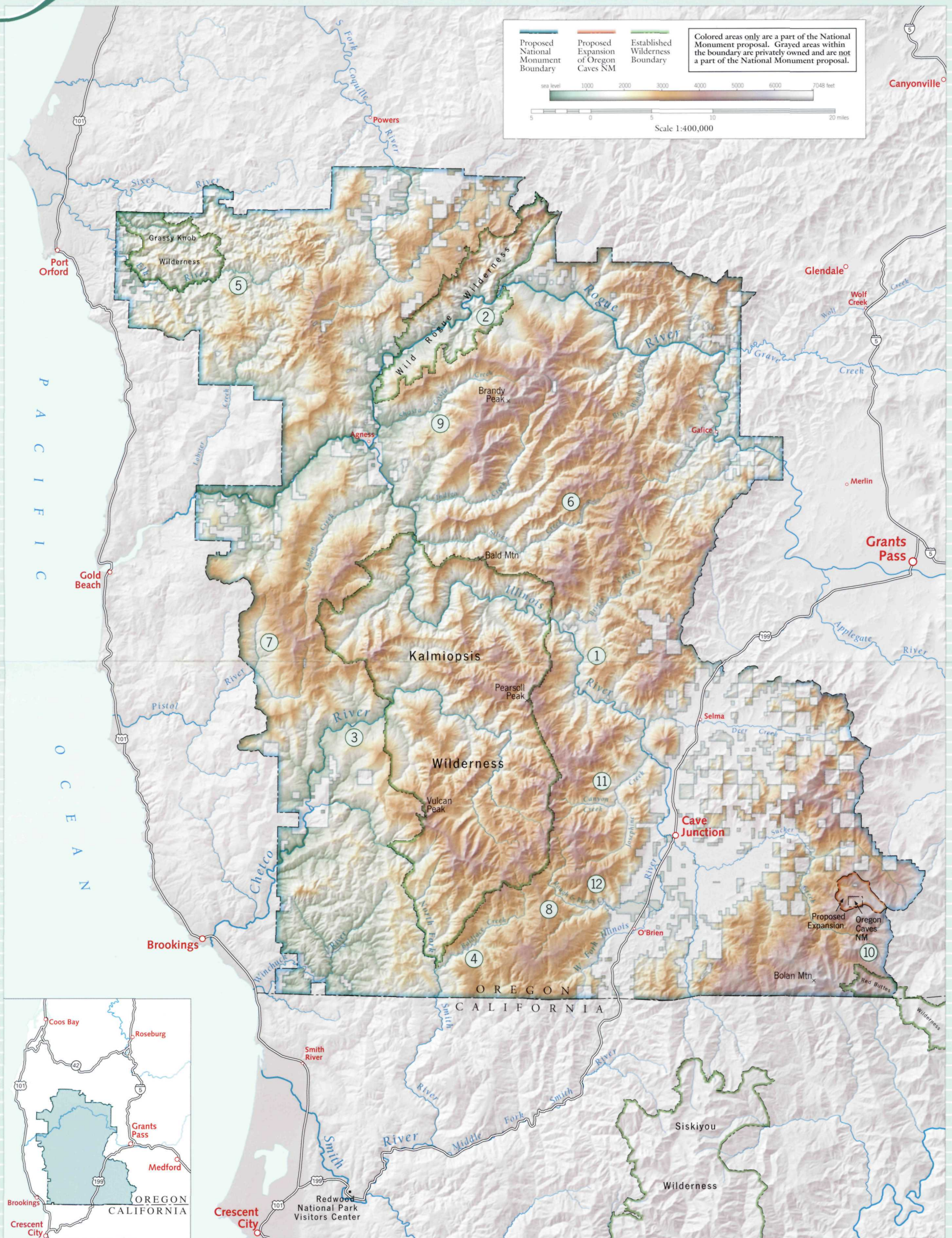
*"I knew enough to realize that the Rogue River steelhead had no equal in fresh water for speed, strength, cunning and endurance... All trout are beautiful. But this one of sea species seemed more than beautiful... He was all muscle. He looked exactly what he was, a fish-spirit incarnate, fresh run from the sea, with opal and pearl hues of such delicate loveliness that no pen or brush could portray them. He brought the sea with him and had taken on the beauty of the river."*

*Zane Grey*  
TALES OF FRESH-WATER FISHING



# PROPOSED Siskiyou Wild Rivers

## NATIONAL MONUMENT



Map by Allan Cartography.

Note: The numbers on the map correspond to photograph captions.



Zane Grey

ZANE GREY, IN *TALES OF FRESH-WATER FISHING* (1928), WROTE GLOWINGLY OF HIS TRIPS DOWN THE WILD ROGUE RIVER CANYON, IN THE CLUMSY WOODEN BOATS OF THE AGE, PROVIDING US WITH A RARE GLIMPSE OF PARTS OF THE PROPOSED MONUMENT AREA IN THE EARLY 1920S.

GREY LAMENTED THAT ONLY A “FEW SENTIMENTAL FISHERMEN” CARED ABOUT THE RIVERS AND URGED THEM TO “BAND TOGETHER TO PROTECT SO MUCH OF VANISHING AMERICA FOR THEIR CHILDREN.” HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE TO IT THAT “MEN DEALING WITH THESE RESOURCES SHOULD NOT GUT THEM AND NOT SPOIL THE BEAUTY AND HEALTH-GIVING PROPERTIES OF THE FOREST AND RIVERS.” ZANE GREY’S EARLY DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WILD ROGUE AND ITS STEELHEAD AND HIS PLEA FOR THEIR CONSERVATION, ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE AREA’S CULTURAL HERITAGE.



# ...COMPLEX GEOLOGY, BOTANICAL WONDERS



*"From my vantage-point I could already begin to see and appreciate the bigness and ruggedness of this Oregon wilderness. It was a mountain stronghold such as I had never before looked into... the ragged country of sharp peaks, black timbered ridges, green range on range, blue canyons, staggered me with its wildness and vastness..."*

*Zane Grey*  
TALES OF FRESH-WATER FISHING

Left to right: Ancient forest in the Shasta Costa watershed (9), craggy peaks in the Sucker Creek watershed (10) are composed mostly of granitic rock and grow lush, old growth forests of firs, pines, and cedars; candystick, a sensitive plant which grows deep under the forest canopy; kalmiopsis leachiana is the oldest living relative of the azalea and rhododendron—a pre-ice age relict that was discovered in the 1930s by pioneering botanist, Lila Leach.



The redrock country of serpentine and peridotite can get more than 100 inches of rainfall a year, yet vegetation is sparse because only specialized plants grow well on serpentine soils. These plants are known as "serpentine endemics."

Clockwise, from upper left: Siskiyou fritillaria, Bolander's lily, a rare rock cress.



Top: The Canyon Creek watershed (11) illustrates the diversity of the area's geology. Right: A Jeffrey pine savannah with native bunchgrasses on serpentine lands. Far right: Ancient Port Orford cedars along the banks of Rough & Ready Creek (12).



This is a richly diverse landscape of many rock forms. Sheets of serpentine and peridotite from the ocean floor were squeezed up through sedimentary rock and granite from the continental crust.

Correspondingly diverse vegetation patterns result – often in abrupt and startling changes as if some otherworldly giant had cut and pasted geologic types with abandon.



A darlingtonia bog or fen is an entire community of life. Darlingtonia fens are found throughout the proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument, along many streams and where water seeps out of the serpentine hillsides.

Left to right: A darlingtonia fen; bog asphodel; a rare variety of indian paintbrush; coneflower; the darlingtonia flower; the hollow darlingtonia leaf, which attracts insects that are consumed by the plant.

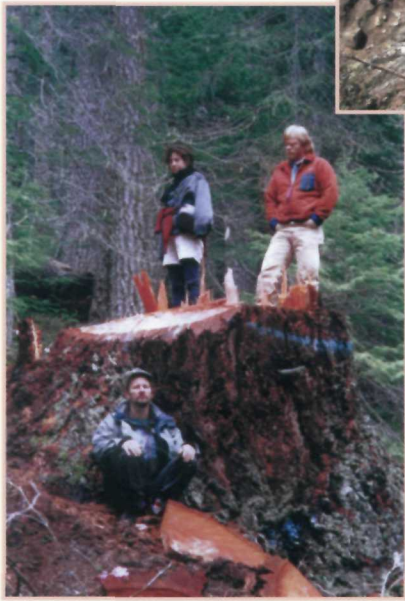




# THREATS & SOLUTIONS

## THREATS!

**LOGGING:** The Northwest Forest Plan (1994) lowered the annual sale quantity on the Siskiyou National Forest from 166 to



Lou Gold



Lou Gold

Left to right: A four-hundred-year-old tree cut in the Sugarloaf timber sale; a storm triggered landslide caused by roads and clearcuts; off-road vehicle damage to a botanical area; a large gold mine on Josephine Creek; a nickel strip mine at Riddle, Oregon, 60 miles to the north.

24 million board feet of timber. Despite this reduction in logging, ancient forests are still being cut. These forests are important to threatened salmon and steelhead, to endangered species such as the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet and to numerous other old-growth dependent species such as the Del Norte salamander.

**MINING:** Mining is a serious threat to rare plants and salmon. In a given year, the Siskiyou National Forest may receive from 125 to 200 Notices of Intent to mine. Gold mining along streams uses heavy equipment to create mine pits, tailing piles and settling ponds for mine wastes. Suction

dredge gold miners congregate along low gradient stream reaches where gold is most likely to settle out. These same low gradient reaches are critically important spawning habitat for wild salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout.

Impacts from the exploration and mining of nickel threaten rare plant habitat and wetlands, and are considered irreversible. The nickel is in ancient soils, up to a million years old. A large nickel mine is proposed at Rough & Ready Creek in the South Kalmiopsis. The Oregon Natural Heritage Program named the West Fork Illinois River and its tributary, Rough & Ready Creek number one out of fourteen hundred watersheds in the state of Oregon for botanical diversity.

**ROADS:** Continued logging within the proposed National Monument requires the maintenance of an extensive network of logging roads. The aging road

system is a serious threat to watershed integrity. The 1997 New Year's Day Storm triggered numerous landslides and road and culvert failures, sending thousands of tons of forest soils and road fill into rivers and streams. Future and more severe storm events could irreparably damage the salmon and steelhead habitat of the area. Besides logging roads, there are miles of old bulldozed mining tracks, many in roadless areas and wilderness.

**INVASIVE WEEDS AND DISEASE:** Growing use of old mining roads by off-road and 4-wheel drive vehicles threatens Port Orford cedar, rare plant

populations and watershed integrity. Invasive plant species, such as gorse, scotch broom, tansy ragwort, star thistle and knapweed, are spreading along forest roads, threatening the area's native plants. A fatal non-native disease carried by vehicles is killing off whole populations of Port Orford cedar—a tree species unique to the Klamath-Siskiyou region.

## SOLUTIONS!

A Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument, by Presidential proclamation, will address the threats listed above by creating a salmon and botanical refuge and by providing cohesive protection for the watersheds of five National Wild & Scenic Rivers and nine candidate rivers, all on public lands. As proposed, the monument will end commercial logging, restore damaged watersheds, restrict ORV travel and withdraw the area from further mining.

## YOU CAN HELP SECURE A LEGACY — THE SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

**Don't ignore this brief moment in history, in which permanent protection is possible for the Wild Rivers, Native Salmon and Rare Plants of the Siskiyou Mountains.**

SOUTHWEST OREGON'S ECONOMY IS STRONG. Employment is at an all time high in most of the region, despite a significant reduction in logging on public lands. The Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument is a conservation proposal whose time has come, but this one-of-a-kind opportunity will be lost without your help.

Please flood the White House, Oregon's Governor's office and congressional offices with letters and cards urging the establishment of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument by presidential proclamation.

The following organizations thank you for your letters and phone calls on behalf of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers: AMERICAN LANDS ALLIANCE, AUDUBON SOCIETY OF PORTLAND, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, FRIENDS OF THE COQUILLE, HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL, KLAMATH-SISKIYOU WILDLANDS CENTER, NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON, OREGON CHAPTER OF SIERRA CLUB, OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION, OREGON NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL, OSPIRG, OREGON WATERWATCH, OREGON WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PACIFIC RIVERS COUNCIL, SISKIYOU AUDUBON, SISKIYOU REGIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT, SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS COUNCIL, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. HOW WILL THE SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT BE MANAGED?

The lands within the proposed monument would continue to be managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, guided by proclamation language and a management plan developed with full public participation. The National Park Service, as managers of the Oregon Caves National Monument, would coordinate with the Forest Service and BLM.

### 2. HOW WILL THE NATIONAL MONUMENT AFFECT RECREATION AND ACCESS TO THE LAND?

All of the recreational activities that people now enjoy, such as hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking and biking will continue as before, except that there would be restrictions on off-road vehicles. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect rare plant habitats and watersheds from degradation and to prevent introduction of noxious weeds and the deadly Port Orford cedar disease.

### 3. WHAT ABOUT PRIVATE LAND WITHIN THE MONUMENT BOUNDARY?

No private land or valid existing rights of access to private land would be affected in any way by the change in management.

### 4. HOW WILL THE PROPOSED MONUMENT PROTECT RARE PLANTS AND FISH HABITAT FROM SPECULATIVE MINING OPERATIONS?

An example of the possible outcome of monument designation is found on the adjacent Smith River National Recreation Area. With the passage of protective legislation in 1990, the number of mining claims on the NRA has declined from 2776 to approximately 297, primarily from the requirement that the claimants possess a valid right to mine under the 1872 Mining Law. The reduction of mining operations on the NRA has not adversely impacted the local economy nor affected any valid rights of mining claimants.

### 5. WILL COMMERCIAL LOGGING BE ALLOWED? HOW WILL CUT BACKS IN LOGGING AFFECT LOCAL EMPLOYMENT?

As proposed, there will be no commercial logging on the National Monument. The monument designation would further reduce the annual timber cut on federal lands by about 21 million board feet. Of this amount, only 12 million board feet was used

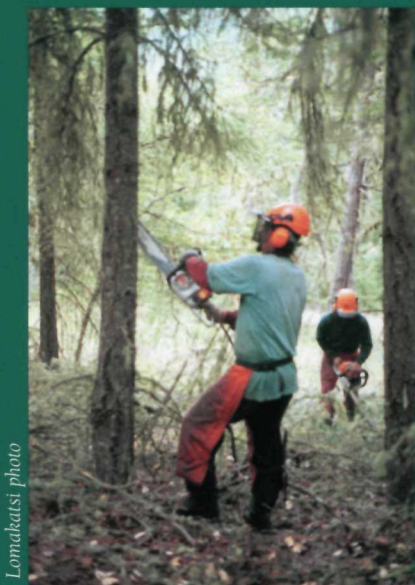
in local mills in 1998, representing a mere 2.3% of the total timber flow to mills in southwest Oregon. An economic impact study of the proposed monument projects hundreds of new jobs in watershed restoration and the visitor industry. To view the study, visit [www.siskiyouivers.org](http://www.siskiyouivers.org).

### 6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSED MONUMENT AFFECT FIRE CONTROL?

Designation of the monument could reduce the risk of forest fire by ending new road building and forest fragmentation from logging. The Forest Service has determined that the average size of a large wildfire is greater on lands outside of roadless areas and fire is nearly twice as likely to occur outside of roadless areas. Fires in cut-over land often burn more severely because the forest is drier and has more small fuels. The monument management plan would include a fire management plan. Special attention would be paid to monument lands adjacent to residential areas, with local residents involved in the planning process.

### 7. CAN A MONUMENT DESIGNATION HAPPEN IN THE SHORT TIME THAT IS LEFT BEFORE PRESIDENT CLINTON LEAVES OFFICE?

Yes. Under the Antiquities Act, the President has the power to proclaim a national monument at any time. Only 0.5% of Oregon is protected in parks and monuments (Washington has 3.8% protected). It is up to us to convince the President that there is overwhelming popular support for the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument.



A crew from Lomakatsi Restoration Project removes small diameter fuels from the forest near people's homes in order to reduce fire hazard.

Lomakatsi photo



# Siskiyou Wild Rivers



The view from Bald Mountain—a blanket of fog creeps in from the coast.

© Barbara Ullian

## A MONUMENTAL OPPORTUNITY

### PROTECTION FOR ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS

The people of the United States have preserved pieces of this nationally important landscape over the years. Wild & Scenic River Acts have protected the immediate corridors of five of the area's exceptional rivers—but not their watersheds, and not other nationally outstanding streams in the area and their native salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout populations.

The Northwest Forest Plan provides the most recent layer of protection. The Plan's conservation measures, however, are incomplete and vulnerable to changes in

the political climate. Most importantly, the Plan does not adequately address the threats of mining and off-road vehicles, and it allows the continued logging of old-growth trees.

### USE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT—VALIDATED BY HISTORY, APPLAUDED BY THE PUBLIC

We are now in an exceedingly brief period of opportunity in which great conservation achievements are being made using the Antiquities Act. With the 1906 Act, Congress gave the

President of the United States the authority to proclaim areas of historic or scientific interest, on lands owned by the federal government, as national monuments.

Since its passage, almost every president—Republican and Democrat—often in the midst of intense controversy, has used the Antiquities Act. In each case history and generations of Americans who cherish their public lands have validated presidentially proclaimed monuments, often through their addition to the National Park system. These include the Grand Canyon, Denali, Glacier Bay, Zion and Death Valley National Parks.

## WE NEED YOU!

Use the sample letters below to send your personal handwritten or typed letter to the key decision-makers today, or just clip the letters, sign and send them.

If envelopes and stamps aren't handy but a computer is, go to [www.siskiyouourivers.org](http://www.siskiyouourivers.org) and send a **FREE, INSTANT FAX!**

President William Jefferson Clinton  
Vice President Al Gore  
c/o George Frampton, Jr., Council on Environmental Quality  
772 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503  
Phone: (202) 456-6224  
Fax: (202) 456-2710

Dear President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore,

Please proclaim a Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument in order to preserve and protect the nationally important scientific and historic values of the wild rivers of Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains and their globally outstanding biodiversity.

If nothing is done, mining, off-highway vehicle use, logging and roads will continue to threaten the ecological integrity of these fragile watersheds and put wild salmon, rare plants and unique forest communities at risk of extinction.

Future generations will thank you for your judicious use of the Antiquities Act to provide permanent protection to the Siskiyou Wild Rivers, a rare gem in America's public lands legacy.

Sincerely,

Governor John Kitzhaber  
State Capitol Room 254  
Salem, OR 97310  
Phone: (503) 378-4582 (24 hour comment line)  
Fax: (503) 378-6827

Dear Governor Kitzhaber,

Please urge the President to proclaim a Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument in order to preserve and protect the nationally important scientific and historic values of the wild rivers of Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains and their globally outstanding biodiversity.

If nothing is done, mining, off-highway vehicle use, logging and roads will destroy the ecological integrity of these fragile watersheds and put wild salmon, rare plants and unique forest communities at risk of extinction.

Only 0.5 percent of Oregon is protected in national parks and monuments. Siskiyou Wild Rivers would be the nation's first monument to wild rivers, wild salmon and rare plants — a fitting legacy to your conservation efforts as governor of this state.

Sincerely,

Please send a copy of this letter to  
Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt

Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone: (202) 208-7351 Fax: (202) 208-6956

If you are an Oregon resident, please also send copies of this letter to your representative and Oregon's senators.

Oregon Senators Smith and Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Oregon Representative DeFazio, Blumenauer, Hooley,  
Walden or Wu  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to join the Siskiyou Project.

Please send me more information. Send to:  
Siskiyou Project, PO Box 220, Cave Junction, OR 97523  
or call 541-592-4459 or email: [project@siskiyou.org](mailto:project@siskiyou.org)