

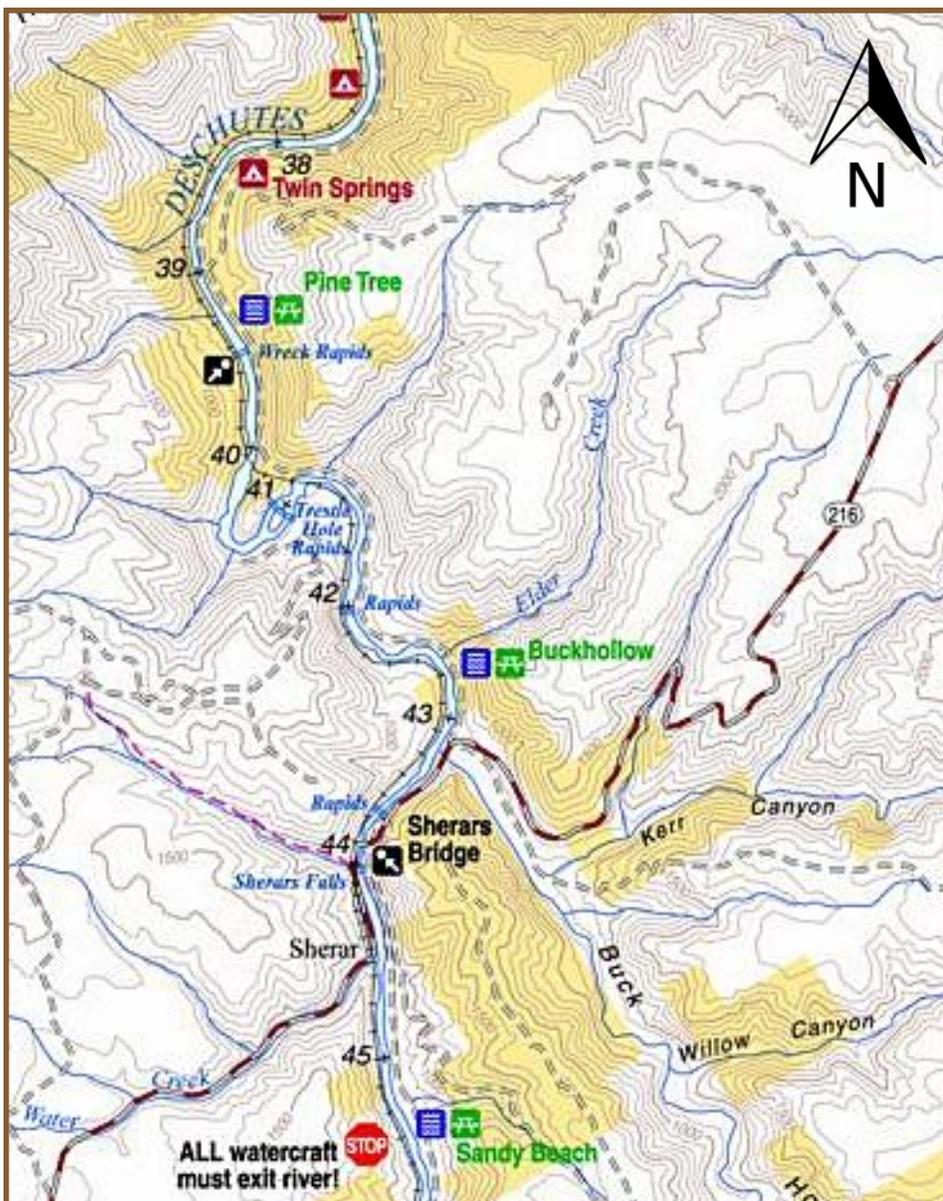
Lower Deschutes River Segment 3 Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2013-0039 (S

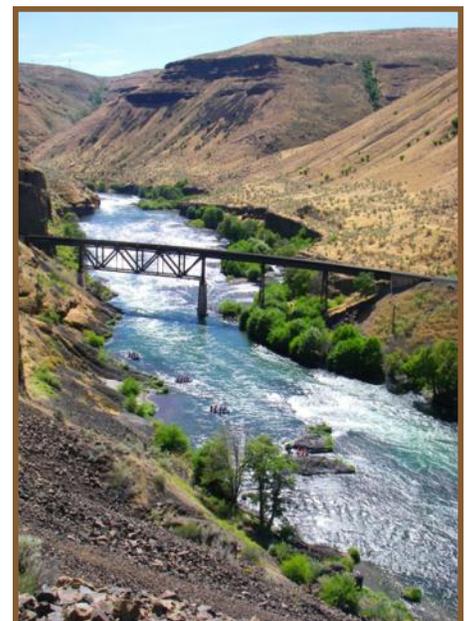
April 18, 2014

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Prineville District Office, along with our partners who share management of the Lower Deschutes Wild & Scenic River, is considering changes to boater use levels that are allowed in Segment 3 of the river (Sherar's Falls to Mack's Canyon), beginning about six miles north of Maupin, OR.

The Lower Deschutes River is designated as a federal Wild & Scenic River (WSR), qualifying as a Recreation River. The purpose of this project is to ensure the Lower Deschutes River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) are enhanced/preserved, while addressing the growing trend of commercial rafters extending Segment 2 trips into the first four miles of Segment 3; taking available Segment 3 boater passes.



The Lower Deschutes River Management Plan (1993) states that Segment 3 “will be managed primarily to provide moderate levels of dispersed use by boaters, anglers and overnight campers with vehicles,” and in 1997, a supplement to the plan added limits to the number of boater passes by segment.





Why is this action needed now?

Several commercial rafting companies have been extending their Segment 2 trips by adding the first four miles of Segment 3 (Buckhollow to Pine Tree). This leaves the remaining 15 miles (Pine Tree to Mack's Canyon) with very low use and takes most of the available Segment 3 boater passes from July to early September. The extended trips have also caused the seasonal limit on boater passes set by the Plan to be exceeded on an annual basis since 2008, and resulted in a 10 percent reduction in available passes each year since then on peak use weekends. Due to these reductions, the available boater passes for Segment 3 in 2014 are down from 250 to 183 on peak use weekends, decreasing the chances for "traditional" Segment 3 users who *begin* their day use and multi-day trips at Buckhollow or Pine Tree.

Who are our Partners?

The BLM manages the river with many partners including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon State Police, and local governments.

How can you comment on the Segment 3 EA?

The BLM and its partners will consider alternatives for this project to protect the river's ORVs. The "no action" alternative would continue to fully implement boater pass limits. Other alternatives may include: returning to the Limited Entry Allocation of 250, considering the Pine Tree boat ramp as a soft boundary between Segments 2 and 3 (for the purpose of boater allocation) and raising or lowering the total number of boater passes allowed in Segment 3.

We would like to hear from you. All comments and information are welcome as we develop alternatives and consider the effects of proposed changes. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on the potential effects to the user experience, fisheries, cultural and historical resources. You can also help by identifying individuals or groups that should be contacted, future actions that may have a cumulative effect when combined with the proposed project, and any other information that should be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Beaupre, Outdoor Recreation Planner at (541)-416-6776 or jbeaupre@blm.gov.

Comments can be sent or emailed to the following until June 6, 2014:

Prineville BLM
Attn: Segment 3 EA
3050 NE 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754

Email: BLM_OR_PR_Mail@blm.gov
(with Segment 3 in the subject line)

Fax: (541) 416-6798

Our legal disclaimer for comments:

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Prineville BLM
3050 N.E. 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754
Phone: 541-416-6700
Fax: 541-416-6798
E-mail:
BLM_OR_PR_Mail@blm.gov

[http://www.blm.gov/or/
districts/prineville/plans/
activityplans.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/activityplans.php)

