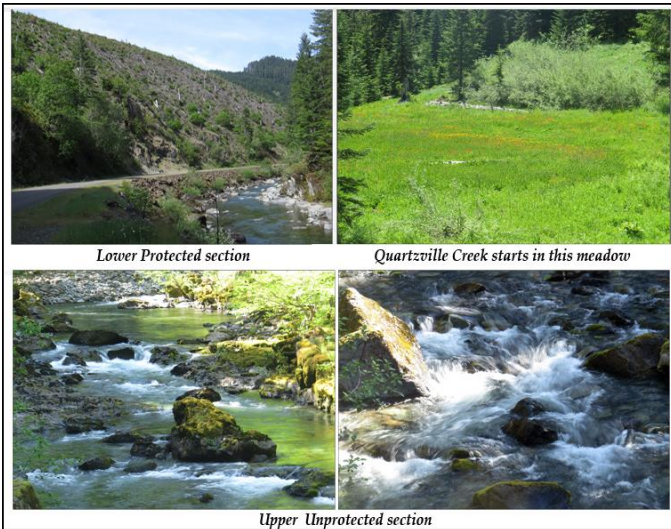


QUARTZVILLE CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Santiam Basin | Linn County | Proposed Miles: 15 | Sweet Home District, Willamette National Forest

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Outstandingly Remarkable Values of Quartzville Creek



The lower (BLM) portion of Quartzville Creek has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River since 1988. The upper, unprotected USFS portion is even wilder – steeper, thus more whitewater, and more windy and further from the road.

WILDNESS: Flows through mostly Late Successional Reserve designated land. No major highways follow Quartzville Creek.

RECREATION: The corridor offers a variety of recreational opportunities, such as fishing, camping and boating for skilled whitewater paddlers. Quartzville Creek offers a 'bucket list' experience for Class IV whitewater boaters (primarily kayaking) when flows are high. Recreational mining attracts visitors from within and outside of the region who can experience a part of Oregon's mining history as they pan for gold. Visitors can also camp and fish for small stream trout, as well. Nearby Sweet Home calls itself “The Gateway to the Santiam Playground”.

SCENERY: The Quartzville Creek Nation Backcountry Byway follows the creek. Visitors to Quartzville Creek enjoy seeing a unique, colorful combination of old-growth stands, cascading whitewater, water clarity, rocky outcrops and diverse vegetation of conifers and hardwoods. Much of the older forest along the byway is managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to provide habitat for plant and animal species that rely on old-growth forest characteristics. While the Backcountry Byway stays close to the creek along most of the protected section, along the upper, unprotected section, the road strays further from the creek imparting a wilder character and giving more isolation for wildlife.

FISH: Quartzville Creek is popular with fishers from around the state. It has wild cutthroat trout and is stocked with rainbow trout.

WILDLIFE: The largest breeding population of Harlequin ducks in Oregon finds sanctuary in this unprotected section. Numerous Northern Spotted Owl Reserves dot the surrounding landscape.

Geology: Many examples of Western Cascade geology are exposed along Quartzville Creek.

BOTANICAL RESOURCES: Old growth Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, alder, cottonwood, rhododendron and numerous native shrubs and wildflowers.

PRIMARY REFERENCES:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recreation/recarea/?recid=82813&actid=64>

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<https://www.bestfishinginamerica.com/or-quartzville-creek-fishing-oregon.html>