

# CRABTREE CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

## As proposed in the River Democracy Act of 2021

Santiam Basin | Linn County | Proposed Miles: 4 | Northwest Oregon BLM District

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Originating in Crabtree Lake (a designated Outstanding Natural Area), the headwaters of Crabtree Creek are sheltered by some of the oldest trees in Oregon and include Carolyn's Crown-Shafer Creek Research Natural Area. The area's unique geology in the western Cascades, remnant ancient forests and wildlife habitat, and the fact that this proposed segment is the only federal public land in the watershed make it an important addition to the Wild & Scenic Rivers system.

### What makes Crabtree Creek special?

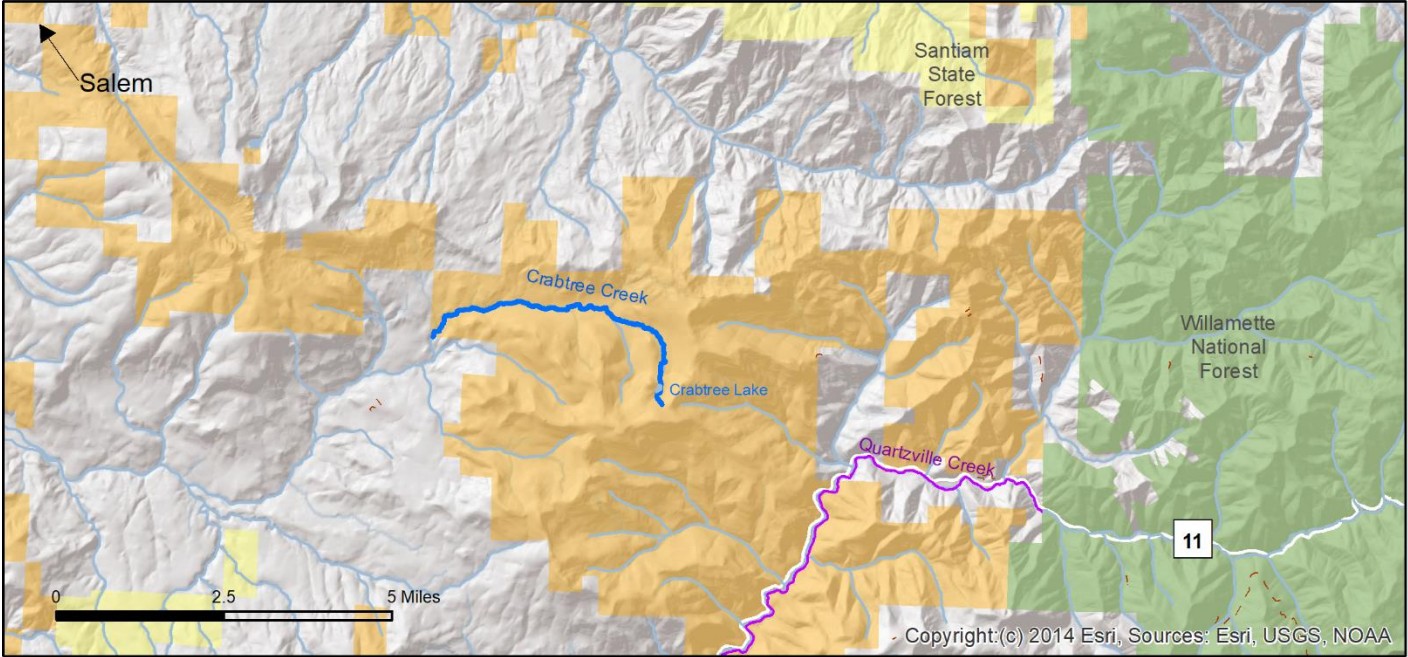
**RECREATION:** The Crabtree Valley area surrounding the lake offers hiking, whitewater paddling, fishing, and nature study opportunities. Under the BLM's management plan, the surrounding area is classified as a Recreation Management Area, with long-term plans to better develop trails and offer other recreational opportunities in line with the values of the ACEC and Outstanding Natural Area.

**SCENERY:** The glacially-carved Crabtree Valley, with steep headwalls, cliffs, rock outcroppings, wetlands, and lake is visually stunning. Views of the valley from surrounding high points, of the towering old-growth trees, and the forest cover along the stream corridor are the nicest in the otherwise heavily logged area.

**WILDLIFE:** The remnant old-growth forest, unique wetlands complex, and geologic features make for diverse habitat important for northern spotted owls, goshawk, peregrine falcons, harlequin ducks, and rare mollusks and amphibians. A protected corridor along Crabtree Creek that encompasses this habitat also forms an important connection to the Quartzville Creek basin and additional habitat there and farther east.

**ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY:** The area at the headwaters of Crabtree Creek is well-recognized for its ecological value. It is part of the Crabtree Complex Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which includes the Carolyn's Crown/Shaffer Creek Research Natural Area. Unique geological features including bogs and wetlands offer scientific interest. Diverse tree species are found here, including Alaska yellow cedar, which is fairly uncommon in this area. The forest surrounding Crabtree Lake is one of the oldest in Oregon - trees from 600-900 years old are found in the proposed WSR corridor. In fact, most of the old forests in the Crabtree Creek watershed are found on BLM land within this proposal. These types of forests are exceedingly rare, and the relatively undisturbed nature of this area's forests, wetlands, and lake make it ecologically important.

Proposed Crabtree Creek Wild and Scenic River Segments



Segment Name	Length	Proposed Classification
Crabtree Creek	4.0 Miles	Scenic
Total	4.0 miles	

Oregon Wild, American Whitewater, and Friends of the Douglas-fir National Monument are supportive of this proposal, along with the Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Coalition.