

QUARTZVILLE CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

As proposed in the River Democracy Act of 2021

Santiam Basin | Linn County | Proposed Miles: 15.0 | Willamette National Forest, Northwest Oregon BLM District

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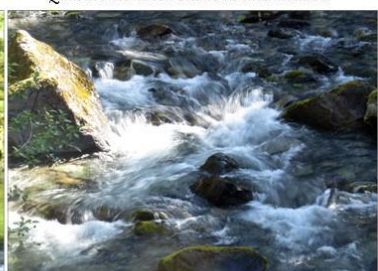
Lower Protected section



Quartzville Creek starts in this meadow



Upper Unprotected section



The lower portion of Quartzville Creek was designated as a Wild & Scenic River in 1988. The upper portion proposed here is even wilder – it has been deemed eligible by the Forest Service, and would complete the protection of the outstanding recreational and fisheries values of this stream. Yellowstone Creek, a tributary of the currently designated WSR, adds protections for outstanding and rare low elevation old growth forest habitat.

All photos © David Stone

What makes Quartzville & Yellowstone Creek special?

RECREATION: The existing Quartzville Creek WSR's Outstandingly Remarkable Values includes recreation, and the upstream addition also provides excellent opportunities for whitewater paddling, camping, swimming, and fishing. In the upper reaches, the corridor provides access to trails on north side of Middle Santiam Wilderness.

SCENERY: Quartzville Creek follows the Quartzville Road Backcountry Byway through a gorgeous canyon into the proposed section in the Willamette National Forest. This popular and beautiful route brings many visitors who enjoy seeing a unique, colorful combination of old-growth stands, cascading whitewater, water clarity, rocky outcrops and diverse vegetation of conifers and hardwoods.

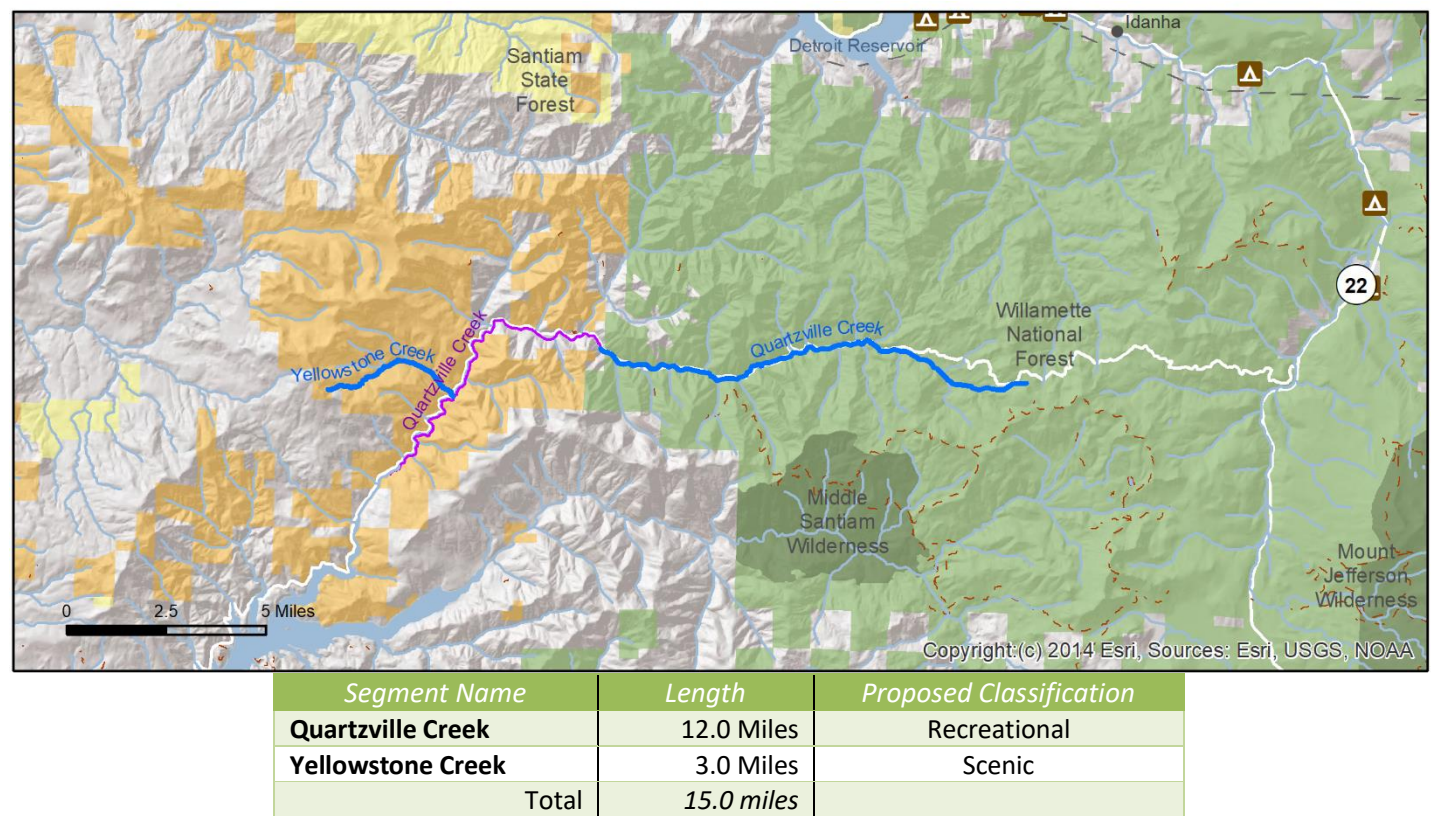
FISH: Building on this existing Wild & Scenic River's Outstandingly Remarkable Value, fish habitat and stream structure upstream are worthy additions to benefit native cutthroat trout and other fish populations.

WILDLIFE: This proposed addition will connect vital habitat throughout the watershed, including for osprey, northern spotted owl, and pine marten. In the Yellowstone Creek area, Oregon's largest breeding population of Harlequin ducks finds sanctuary. Quartzville Creek is an Audubon Important Bird Area.

ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY: The proposed additions to the Quartzville Creek WSR in the Willamette National Forest include vital forest and stream habitat and natural processes that are outstanding for this region. The upper reaches of the stream are bordered by unroaded forests contiguous with the Middle Santiam Wilderness. The Quartzville Creek tributary of Yellowstone Creek flows through a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern for fish, wildlife, and

natural processes that is undisturbed by logging - rare in this low elevation area and supporting a broad diversity of tree species. The entire proposal is designated as Late Successional Reserve.

Proposed Quartzville Creek Wild and Scenic River Segments



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. The town of Sweet Home calls itself “The Gateway to the Santiam Playground,” new designations in the watershed would be beneficial to this billing. Unfortunately logging projects are planned near this proposed Wild & Scenic River.