

SOUTH SANTIAM WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Santiam Basin | Linn County | Proposed Miles: 50.8 | Sweet Home District, Willamette National Forest

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Outstandingly Remarkable Values of South Santiam River and selected tributaries



Moose Creek Falls

The South Santiam River flows past many scenic features along the Over-the-River –and-Through-the-Woods National Scenic Byway, including Iron Mountain (famous for summer wildflowers) and the Menagerie Wilderness (popular with Western rock climbers), and much more.

RECREATIONAL: Nearby Sweet Home calls itself “The Gateway to the Santiam Playground.” The historic Old Santiam Wagon Road that follows the south bank has been converted to a well-trod trail accessing numerous fishing sites as well as old growth groves. Camping is available at five campgrounds. Fishing spots are available at numerous locations along the river, including an accessible platform at Yukwa Campground. The Walker Ranch, hosting a winter elk herd, has been designated for wildlife viewing. Birders enjoy traveling the *Over the River and Through the Woods National Scenic Byway* on the Mt Jefferson Loop of the Cascades Birding Trail in search of many bird species, year round.

SCENIC: The mainstem flows through a very scenic canyon with scenic vistas, old-growth forests, and cascading waterfalls. Easy access from the Over-the-River and Through the Woods National Scenic Byway is available to the Menagerie Wilderness, Rooster Rock and the Middle Santiam Wilderness. Overlooking the headwaters is the iconic Iron Mountain.

FISH: There is a high diversity of native salmonids and other species, including spring chinook, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and winter steelhead.

WILDLIFE*:** The South Santiam River corridor provides habitat for elk, deer, bear, cougar, and several species of snakes, frogs and many other woodland wildlife species. The old-growth dependent pine marten is found here.

BOTANICAL: Old growth Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, alder, cottonwood, rhododendron and numerous native shrubs and wildflowers. Nearby Iron Mountain is set aside for its spectacular summer wildflower display. Mainstem and tributaries are all in Late Successional Reserves.

GEOLOGICAL: Oregon Highway 20, (known here as the *Over-the-River and Through the Woods National Scenic Byway*), provides easy access and viewing of the unique Old Cascades geology, with examples of ancient lava flows, stream-cut courses and past glacial action.

HISTORICAL* **: The Old Santiam Wagon Road parallels the main stem and is now. Popular hiking trail.

CULTURAL*: The river and its environment is important to Native Americans.

<i>Segment Name</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>
Main Stem	13.2 miles	Recreational	USFS: Historic, cultural scenic, wildlife; NRI: fish, historic, scenic, wildlife
Sevenmile Creek	4.9 miles	Wild	Scenic, historical, fish, botanical, recreational, wildlife
Latwi Creek	3.9 miles	Scenic	Botanical resources, wildness, recreation, scenery, fish, wildlife
Sheep Creek	2.6 miles	Recreational	Recreation, scenic, fish, wildlife
Cub Creek	2.0 miles	Wild	Fish, geological
Boulder Creek	3.5 miles	Wild	Fish, geological
Little Boulder Creek	1.6 miles	Wild	Fish, geological
Elk Creek	2.9 miles	Wild	Fish, geological
Moose Creek	10.1 miles	Scenic	Scenic, wildlife, fish, geological
Falls Creek, Upper	3.0 miles	Wild	Scenic, wildlife, fish, geological
Falls Creek, Lower	4.0 miles	Recreational	Scenic, fish, geological
Total	50.8 miles		

* Forest Service-identified outstandingly remarkable value. ** Nationwide River Inventory

SUPPORT: The town of Sweet Home calls itself “the Gateway to the Santiam Playground”, indicating strong support for the recreational and scenic values of the South Santiam River.

THREATS/ISSUES:

PRIVATE LANDS: Our nomination contains little or no private property.

PRIMARY REFERENCES:

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recreation/recarea/?recid=80272>, **Willamette National Forest (website)**
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recreation/recarea/?recid=4321>, **Willamette National Forest (website)**
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recarea/?recid=82812>, **Willamette National Forest (website)**
- [Nationwide Rivers Inventory](#), National Park Service