

# News from Congressman Les AuCoin

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## DeFAZIO, AuCOIN INTRODUCE LEGISLATION MAKING UPPER KLAMATH A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

WASHINGTON --- A 19-mile stretch of the Upper Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California would be immediately designated a National Wild and Scenic River through legislation proposed today by Oregon Representatives Peter DeFazio and Les AuCoin.

"This is a simply outstanding stretch of river, with resources unmatched in the west, and we're ready to give national recognition to this tremendous area," AuCoin said.

"The spectacular whitewater and outstanding wild trout fisheries on the upper Klamath attract recreationists and fishing enthusiasts from throughout Oregon and across the nation. These irreplaceable assets should not be lost forever beneath the sterile waters of a reservoir," DeFazio said.

The DeFazio/AuCoin legislation would add the river segment, including a quarter-mile corridor on either side of the river itself, to the list of 74 wild and scenic rivers in America. The 19 mile segment begins after the John Boyle Dam and runs southwest to the Copco Dam reservoir.

It would join segments of the Snake, the Illinois, the Rogue and Owyhee Rivers as Oregon's National Wild and Scenic rivers. The Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management would manage the area. Nearly 75 percent of the river corridor in Oregon is already in public ownership.

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and subsequent amendments set management guidelines for public land agencies to follow in designated river corridors.

Wild and Scenic Rivers must be kept free flowing, and impoundments such as dams, reservoirs, and hydroelectric facilities are proscribed from them.

AuCoin said the bill "is good business for southern Oregon. Adding the Upper Klamath as an attraction to Crater Lake and the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland creates a 'golden triangle' that attracts visitors, keeps them there for a while and will draw them back again."

"The Oregon tradition is to protect its best resources for all its citizens and for the future. Oregon has led the nation by protecting the Columbia Gorge, the Oregon coastline and its pristine forests. The free-flowing Klamath will now be added to the natural gifts that will be passed from this generation to the next," DeFazio said.