

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

October 24, 2023

Representative Val Hoyle
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jared Huffman
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act

On behalf of the human powered outdoor recreation community, we write to express strong support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act. This important legislation, which would expand the Smith River National Recreation Area into southern Oregon and protect more than 75 miles of new Wild & Scenic Rivers, passed out of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee earlier this year with bipartisan support. We encourage you to introduce the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act in the House, and to work towards its passage during the 118th Congress.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

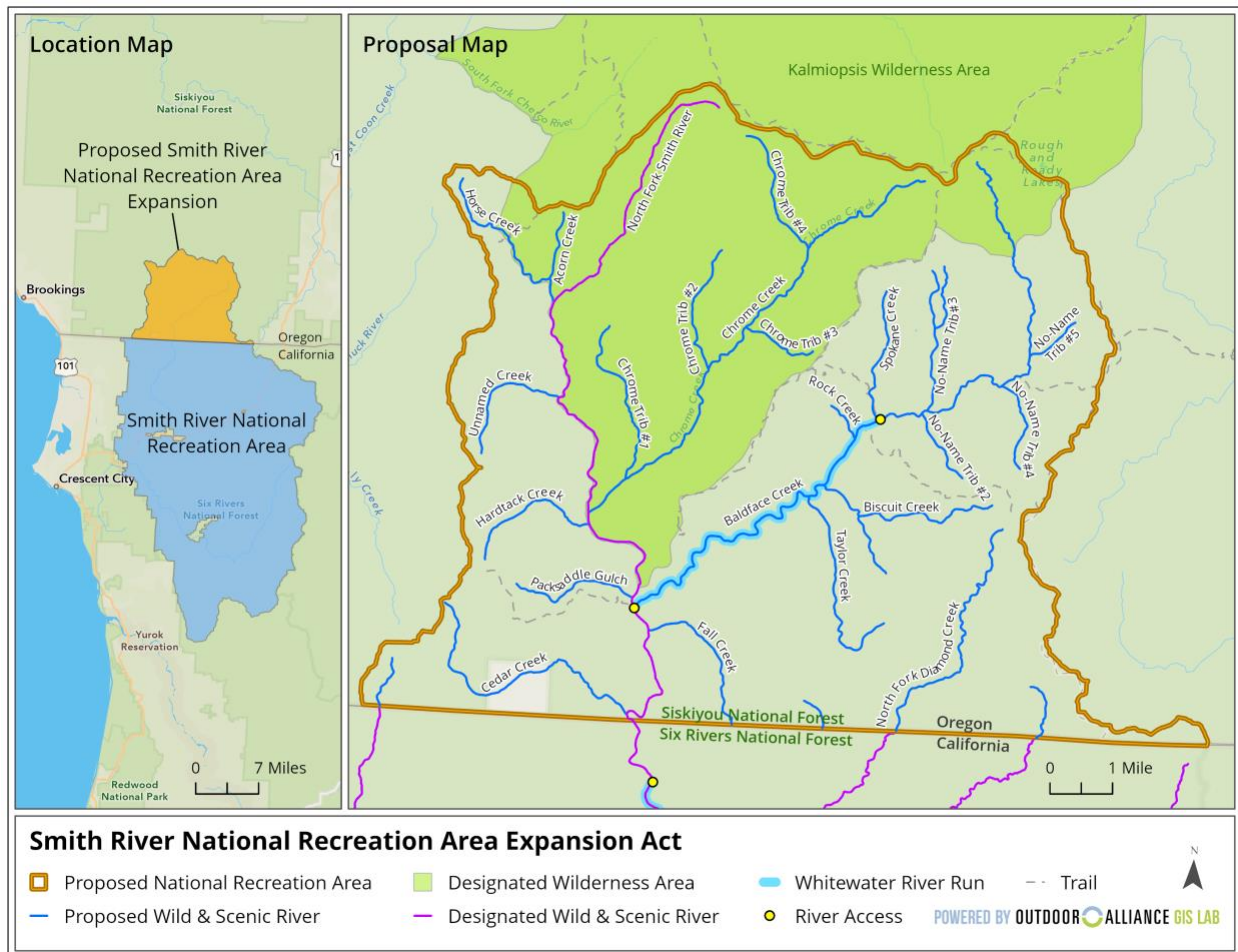
The Smith River is the largest entirely free flowing river in California. Unfortunately, the Smith River National Recreation Area currently does not include the portion of the North Fork Smith in Oregon. Although relatively small in area, the bill protects the northern headwaters of the Smith River, which support a unique landscape, miles of pristine rivers and streams, and priceless recreation opportunities.

Current trends show that proximity to natural beauty and opportunities for



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Outdoor recreation are tightly linked to increased desirability and economic development. The Smith River and its surroundings are already legendary in this regard, and the primary economic base for the region is its recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, whitewater paddling, cycling, hiking, backpacking, and surfing. Any damage done to the headwaters of the North Fork Smith has the potential to ripple down through all of these activities, causing significant harm to the region's economy. The legislation would protect the remaining 58,000 acres of North Fork Smith watershed, including at least 40 miles of hiking trails, a portion of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, and 75 miles of river and tributaries, which will be designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. These extraordinary river segments include three premier wilderness whitewater paddling reaches totaling 35 miles of rugged, remote, beautiful water of the highest quality.



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Thank you for considering our community's request. We look forward to continuing to work with you in support of recreation and conservation values on our public lands and waters.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Vice President for Policy and Government Relations
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Chief Executive Officer, Outdoor Alliance
Erik Murdock, Interim Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Clinton Begley, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association
David Page, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Ben Gabriel, Executive Director, American Alpine Club
Rebekah Phillips, Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation

