

Wild and Scenic Rivers

October, 2018



Present by: Brian Bauman

Wild and Scenic Rivers

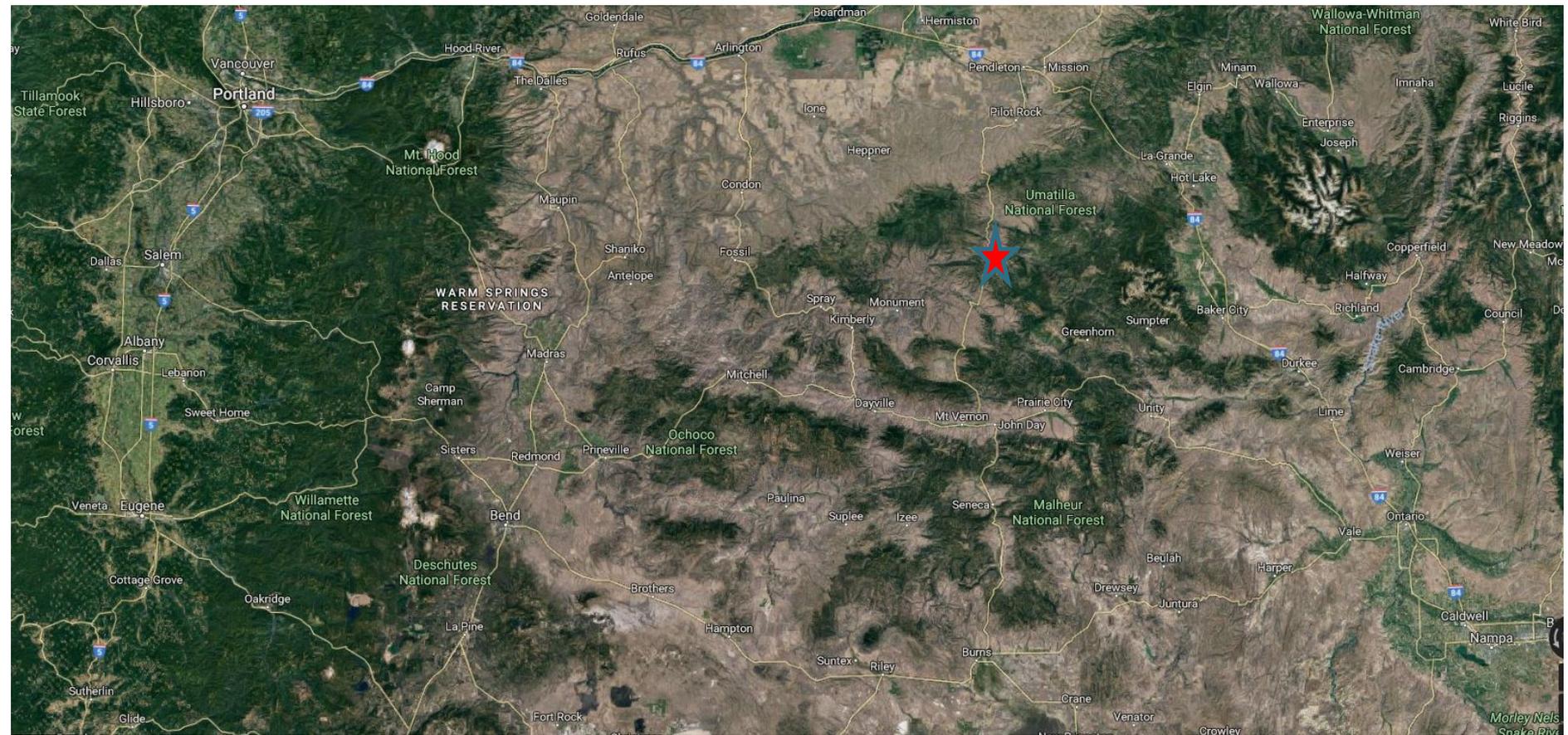
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North Fork John Day River

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US 395: North Fork John Day River Bridge

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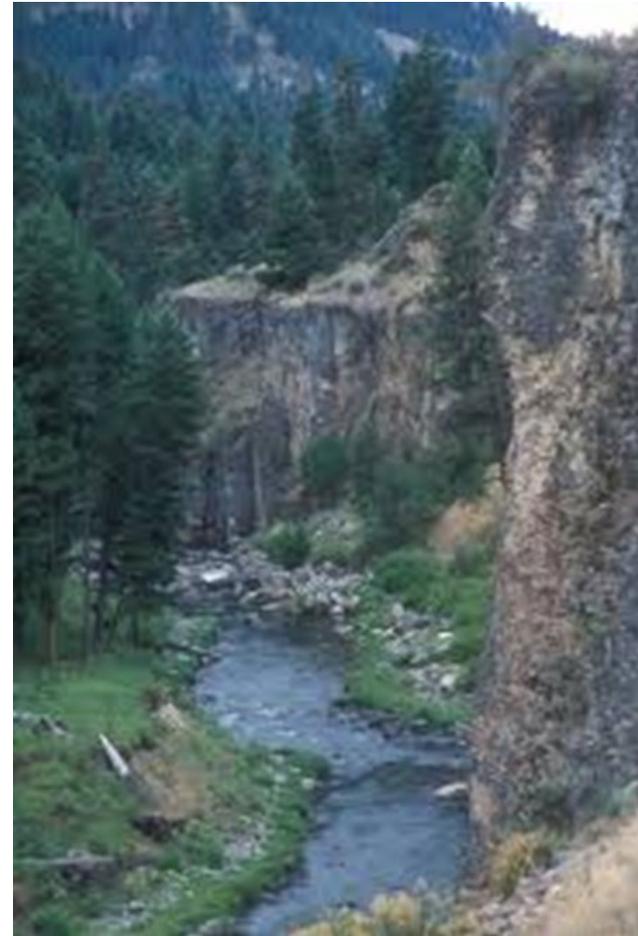
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Congress designated the North Fork of the John Day a Wild and Scenic River in 1988 to protect its free-flowing condition and to protect and enhance its Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs).

Section 7(a) of the WSRA requires an analysis of potential impacts on the ORV's and free flowing nature of a river.

Better talk to someone....The USFS manages the Wild and scenic North Fork John Day River (Almost half way there.....now to hunt down the right person)



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North Fork John Day River is divided into 5 management Sections. The bridge is located in Segment E:

Segment E: The 8.3-mile segment from Texas Bar Creek to its confluence with Camas Creek as a **recreational river**; to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

From the Management Plan:

Recreation - Provides a combination of recreational activities including hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, and camping.

Dispersed camping and developed camping are dominant uses along the river. Other recreation activities include picnicking, mushroom picking, photography, and skiing. Rafts or boats float the river in the spring and are a growing use.

Don't be fooled. There is a need to determine/evaluate the impacts of the project to all the ORV's.

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Coordinated with USFS to determine the requirements to preserve the free flowing characteristics and Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic quality: possesses diversity in vegetation and topographic landform. Significant sections of the river had already been recognized through the 1984 (North Fork John Day) Wilderness designation. The paved road which parallels part of the river was administratively designated a National Scenic Byway

Recreational opportunities: Visitors are offered outstanding recreational opportunities along those segments of the river outside the Wilderness area through easy access via roads

Viable fisheries: The value of the only remaining genetically viable wild run of spring chinook salmon in the entire Columbia River Basin is incalculable. Wild populations of bull trout, redband trout, and rainbow trout are also extremely valuable as genetic Conservation pools of their species.

Wildlife habitat: The expanse of designated wilderness provides significant high quality habitat for species which require a large area for their survival.

Rich historic/prehistoric settlements: Early settlers' pursuit of this ore which makes the area so rich in history.

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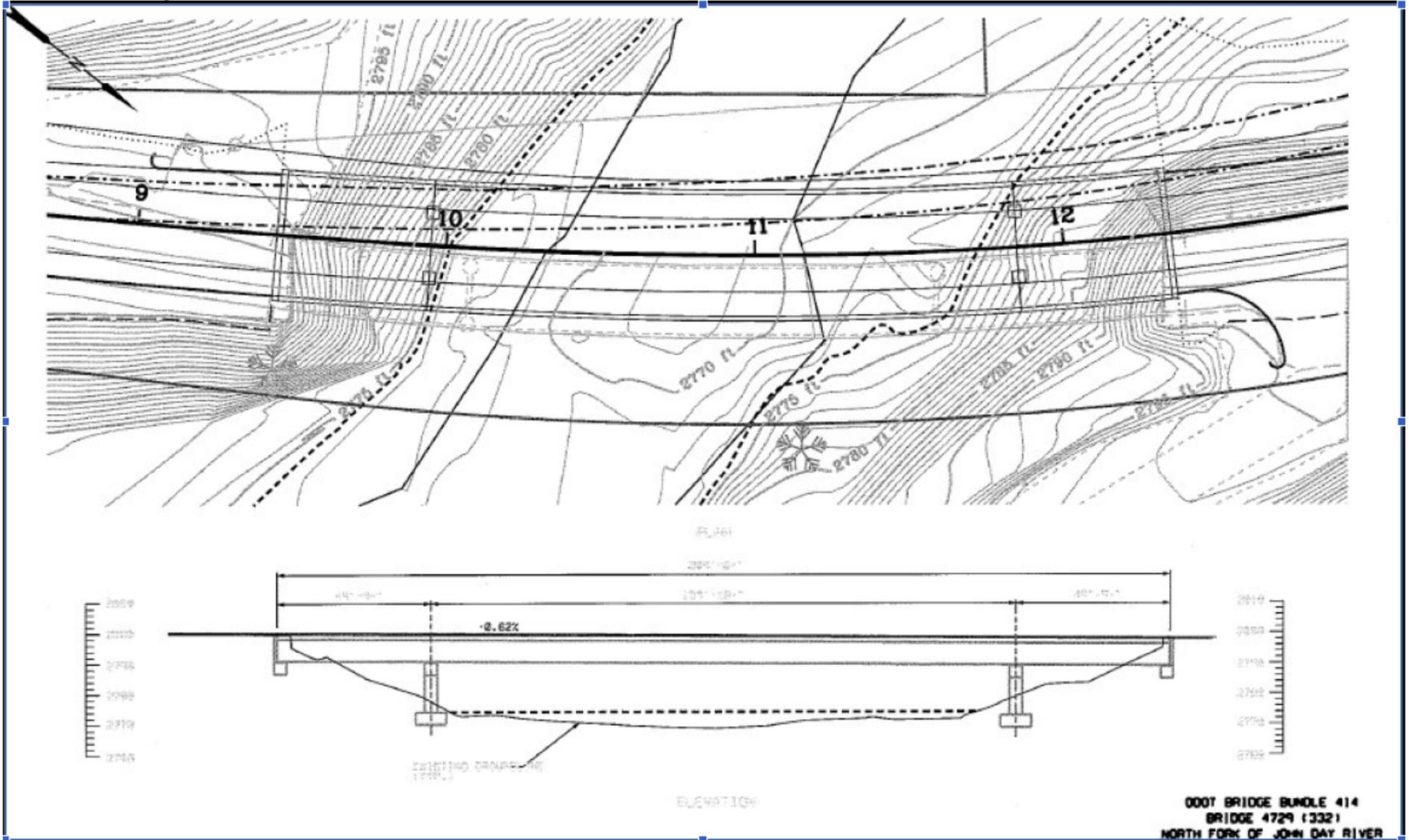
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Existing Bridge was a 285-foot (ft) long bridge. The approach spans consist of reinforced concrete deck girders and the center span is a 150-ft long truss and includes 1 bent within OHW and 1 partially within the OHW

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N Bridge - The superstructure would be supported on piers located above the ordinary high water elevation and end bents at each end of the bridge founded on rock.

ORV: Viable Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat

RIGHT SIZE BRIDGE will ensure that normative fluvial processes within the stream-floodplain corridor are maintained by:

- promoting natural sediment transport patterns for the reach,
- providing unaltered fluvial debris movement,
- allowing for longitudinal continuity and connectivity of the stream-floodplain system.

Provides improved wildlife passage and greater connectivity with the riparian zone

Establish healthy native plant community

Provide stormwater quality treatment facilities and quantity (detention)

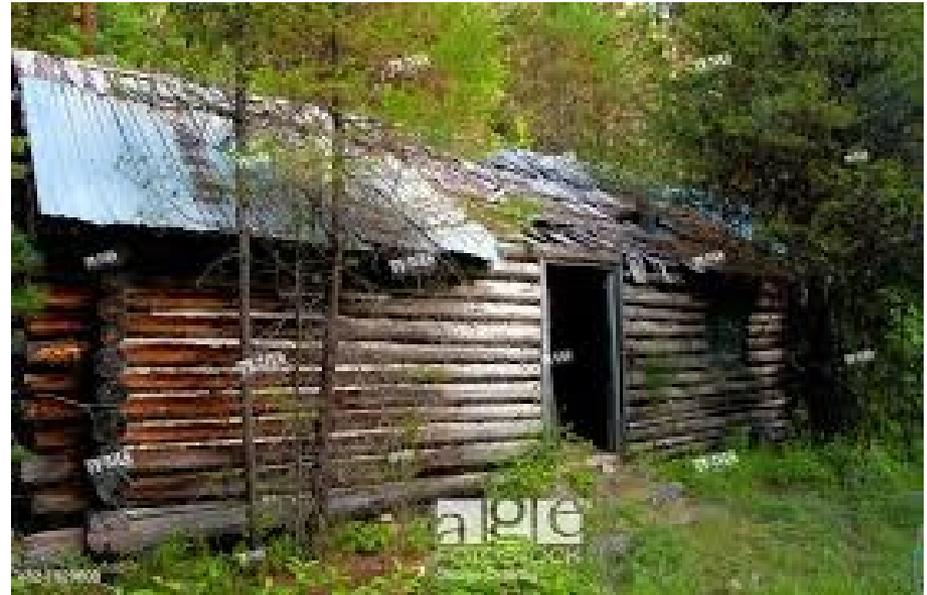
ORV: Rich historic/prehistoric settlements

Completed survey of the project impact area

Consulted with State Historic Preservation Office

Consulted with the Tribes

All concurred the action was not likely to adversely effect historic or prehistoric resources



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ORV: Recreational Opportunities

The new bridge will continue to allow free passage down the river and along its banks. The newly constructed bridge will not modify access opportunities to the river.

Bridge was constructed in stages to allow access across the river at all times

The dispersed camping site downstream remained accessible during and after construction

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ORV: Scenic Quality

The Existing Bridge was part of the baseline when the North Fork John Day River was listed.

The new bridge utilized neutral color and texturing, thin profile, aesthetic rail treatment (very similar to that used on the structure that crosses the Middle Fork John Day River on Highway 395) to be subservient to the environment.

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Findings:

The replacement of the US 395 Bridge over the North Fork John Day River will not have a direct and adverse effect on the North Fork John Day Wild and Scenic River. The recreational value will not be directly and adversely affected.... There is no unreasonable diminishing of the scenic, geologic, or recreational values associated with this project.