PL 2.0 phone call 9-6-19

Congressional intel updates: He’s conversed with both Wydens and Blumenaeur’s offices last couple days. They say it is on the forefront of their minds; they are working on it actively. (That said, it is Aug recess they are in district, which makes their lives chaotic. ) Monday or Tuesday they head back to Washington. They are figuring out who they need to talk to do due diligence.

Blum. & Wyden’s goals seem to match up with ours: RNA, Wilderness, etc. They’ve had more transportation thoughts. They are happy to hear we are getting our specifics organized so we can bring them to them by the end of the month.

How aggressive are they looking at NRA? Of all parts, in this one there is interest in geographic scope plus adding in conservation side boards and sustainable conservation, access issues. How aggressive? Eric is not sure. Is it 1,000 acres vs. 500 acres; don’t know. No map yet. That is probably the part (NRA ) that needs more refinement. We need to see what our mtn. biking friends think. Hints from Mtn. bikers are that they are looking at a slightly different map (Timothy lake and Trillium lake). We could include those. Ski areas and ODOT will want to weigh in. A bigger level of complicated when you cover two big Highways (26 and 35). How do we allow for active ski area maintenance? Start with a map. Some have put pencil to paper with concepts. Erik thinks we can go fairly big.

Faith Briggs – worked for Soul River. No longer with them. OR Wild hired her to do some work on Mt. Hood Wilderness/National Rec. Area part time for 6 months. Hopes she will bring some energy and capacity of the ground game. She starts Sept. 17.

Wild and Scenic Rivers. Background. Got many in 2009. Sandy, Ziz Zag, Middle and East of Hood, Fifteen Mile Creek , White River, Salmon, Clackamas, Collawash

Wild and Scenic – designation is a bit tricky to define. Varies more than wilderness. Identify river, (headwaters to a certain point?) Can include private lands. In 80’s this was more common. More recently, Congress have tried to avoid private land designation plus you don’t get any conservation gain (cause they can still do what they want on their land) and you get public anger. Could be on areas that have had logging, burn, etc.

Wyden looking to do more wild and scenic around the state (behind the scenes). How does this fit into Mt. Hood? Maybe they should not be in the statewide proposal but handled separately. This will be more public by fall. What do they look for? “Scenic-ness”, Wildness, Botany, Fish, etc. many characteristics. Are these typical characteristics or are they “outstanding” chatracteristics. It does matter what characteristics you use to get designated, because the corridor gets managed to those characteristics. Congress designates. Scenic qualities – in eyes of beholder. Fisheries – based on science, etc. Whatever values are ident. Those can’t be degraded within the river corridor. (1/4 mile alongside). So can’t cut trees, willy-nilly, for example

Courtney – can’t we suggest the middle of the Sandy where the Marmot dam went down 12 years ago. It is on private land. Is it “eligible” Erik – doesn’t qualify if there’s a dam. Sometimes they have done the whole river except where the dam is. His hunch is that if proposed, Blumenaeur and Wyden would ask, “who are the land owners and bring me letters of support from each land owner or a lot of them along the way”.

**Suggested Rivers:**

Tributaries to Sandy could be looked at.

White River below the highway after the bridge washed out – already in.

Bull Run River – already in Wilderness

Cold Springs Creek – starts in wilderness, feeds Tamanawas falls, Further down, goes to Hood River. Just the stretch outside the wilderness or more?

Oak Grove Fork of Clackamas – has PGE infrastructure so probably not

Erik’s list.

Still Creek – starts above Hwy 26, comes behind Ski bowl/Mirror lake, heads to Zig Zag.

Zig Zag River – has fish, scenic, FS cabins – cabin owners are a high maintenance collection of people. A number would be within that ¼ mile corridor. “burdens placed on me by the FS.” Courtney thought part of it is ineligible. Keep on list for now. Some report said agency study said most of it was not “outstanding”

Clear Fork of the Sandy River. Along Lolo Pass Road. Clear Fork follows road. All public land. Wildlife folks say Bull Run has no disturbance so its is great habitat; as those populations grown, they spread wildlife to other areas, this could be one area, a protected “middle lane” between Bull Run and the Wilderness. “integrated resource project “is proposed for area (Courtney) that could impact the characteristics. Keep it in and wait and see what the proposal is.

Lake Branch of the Hood River –

Five Mile Creek – north of Badger Creek Wilderness, near Mill creek. Has fish, in area without a lot of protections. Walden’s District.

We need to be thinking about who these proposals bring in as potential supporters and who they might bring in as opposition.

He told Liv we’d be ready to talk to her with a proposal within one month. Next call in two weeks.