



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

04/07/2020

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Bishop:

I am pleased to transmit to Congress the *Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Wild and Scenic River Study*. The study was completed by the National Park Service (NPS) pursuant to Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act through Public Law 113-291 (December 2014). The purpose of the study was to evaluate five creeks in the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) system.

Wild and Scenic River studies evaluate eligibility and suitability for designation. The segments evaluated in this study include Lake Creek (3.6 miles), Lower Cave Creek (2.6 miles), No Name Creek (0.6 miles), Panther Creek (0.8 miles), and Upper Cave Creek (0.2 miles). The NPS also studied Waterfelt Creek (0.8 miles) in accordance with Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act. The WSR Act provides for three possible classifications of eligible river segments: wild, scenic, or recreational.

The study determined that Lake Creek and Upper Cave Creek are eligible and suitable for WSR designation. The other segments were found to be ineligible.

Given that the NPS is already managing Lake Creek and Upper Cave Creek, the Department of the Interior recommends designation under the WSR Act (Lake Creek for recreational and Upper Cave Creek for scenic).

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service. A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Joe Manchin III, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; and the Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives. The affected Oregon delegations will also receive a copy of the report and this letter.

Sincerely,

David Vela
Deputy Director, Operations
Exercising the Authority of the Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Peter DeFazio
Honorable Ron Wyden
Honorable Jeff Merkley



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The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

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The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Manchin:

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