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Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 7:29 AM

To: PUBLICCOMMENT \* OPRD

Subject: Jet boat at TouVelle State Park

This message is intended to comment on the proposal to make permanent a facility for a jet boat that gives rides on the Upper Rogue River.

I believe that a jet boat of this type has no place on the Upper Rogue for several reasons. Of course, the boat has been in operation for several years, but this certainly does not mean that it should continue to operate there.

First of all, as a wading angler I can attest to the large wake that trails the jet boat loaded with up to 16 passengers. In most cases, the boat operator ignores waders and does not slow the boat down as a courtesy or for safety. I can assure you that the wake of the boat is considerable and a wader can easily be knocked over by the wake if not prepared for it. I am not alone in this opinion as many other waders object to the presence of the boat.

It should be noted that in shallow water the boat cannot slow down because it must go fast in order to minimize the draft of the boat. These areas are typical of the places where salmon create redds for spawning. Our salmon have enough problems to deal with as it is. Why create more difficulties by having a jet boat destroy their nesting places?

The wake of the jet boat also causes increased erosion of the shoreline. The type of waves caused by the boat are basically parallel to the shore; these are not natural disturbances in a river. The Upper Rogue differs from the Hellgate area in that the shoreline in the upper reaches is soil, not rock, and is more easily eroded. The presence of jet boats also disturbs the beauty and tranquility that one experiences when visiting such a beautiful place. We have enough disturbances already in our society, why do we need them in places where one goes to escape for an appreciation of the natural world?

It is often claimed that the boat tours are primarily for historical education. To that claim I say "Nonsense!". One only has to watch the boat to see that the operator places a good deal of emphasis on creating excitement for the passengers by making high speed dramatic maneuvers. We don't need Hellgate type activity on the Upper Rogue.

We who live near the Upper Rogue value the river highly. Most of us would like to preserve the river in its natural state as much as possible. This is the only way that we can help the river to provide us with its benefits such as top notch fishing for salmon and steel head as well as for giving us the ability to enjoy nature unspoiled by man.

I don't believe that having jet boats on the Upper Rogue is beneficial to the river itself or for the people who appreciate the river for what it offers to us in the way of outdoor recreation.

Thank you.

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