



Community Engagement Upper Rogue River Report

Oregon's Kitchen Table
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Portland State
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NPCC

INTRODUCTION

This project began in the fall of 2023, when a group of state agencies came together to learn more about community values, hopes, and concerns related to the Upper Rogue River. The Upper Rogue River, and specifically the stretch of river between the former Gold Ray Dam site (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157), is used and enjoyed by a variety of recreation enthusiasts. There are eight primary waterfront parks on this 31-mile section of the Rogue River operated by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, Jackson County, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Like many other rivers in Oregon, people use various stretches of the river differently depending upon river features and conditions. Recreational activities include fishing, kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddle boarding, drift boating, commercial jet boat tours, swimming, and wildlife viewing.

Over the past few years, controversy related to jet boat use, access, and activities at TouVelle State Recreation Site spurred larger discussions about the use of the river in and beyond the park. There are currently no special state rules specific to jet boat operation on this stretch of the Rogue, but comments received by the state have revealed that people are concerned about current and future uses.

In response to those conflicts and with the goal of learning about community perspectives more broadly, four state agencies – Department of State Lands (DSL), the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – partnered with Oregon’s Kitchen Table (OKT) to develop a community engagement process to hear from Jackson County residents and visitors about their values, beliefs, and expectations regarding outdoor recreation and natural resource protection along this stretch of the river.

Each of these four state agencies is responsible for a different aspect of managing this stretch of river. The Marine Board serves Oregon’s recreational boating public to support safe and enjoyable experiences. ODFW is responsible for managing the state’s fish and wildlife populations for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations of Rogue River enthusiasts. DSL regulates removal and fill activities in waters of this state, which includes the Rogue River, its tributaries and wetlands. Finally, OPRD manages TouVelle, a 59-acre state recreation site on the Rogue River near White City that serves people who want to boat, wade, fish, picnic, and take short walks, among other things.

Of course, state law requires that agencies solicit official public comment from the public related to some of their decisions, and the community engagement process and this report are not a substitute for those processes.

In May 2024, OKT launched a community engagement process with the goal of reaching a wide range of community members who live in or visit Jackson County. Community members participated through completing online and paper surveys, by attending one or more OKT-hosted community conversations, by attending a Kitchen Table Conversation hosted by a local

organization and/or County officials, by talking to OKT staff at community events, and by writing letters sharing their experiences and opinions. Between mid-May and early July, more than 2,600 people participated across all forms of engagement.

Throughout this process, we met knowledgeable and engaged community members from a wide variety of perspectives. There was significant interest in the process, and sometimes emotions ran high. Many community members have been sharing their experiences and concerns with the state agencies and others over a number of years, and many of them have participated in other targeted engagement efforts related to controversies on the river and in the parks. There were large turnouts at each of the community conversations, sometimes five or ten times the number of people who registered. Because some people have been involved for a long time, they came to community conversations already angry and frustrated by what they saw as many years of inaction.

And, we also heard from many people who hadn't participated in this conversation before and who weren't aware of the conflict or controversies. A third of the people who responded to our survey had not personally experienced or heard about conflicts related to jet boats – or any conflict — and still chose to share their hopes and ideas for this stretch of river. Similarly, some people who attended community conversations were participating for the first time. One OKT staff person heard a middle-school student ask his mother if he could stay for a community conversation because he “knows a lot about the river.” In addition to survey responses, OKT received over 25 letters from individuals, and we heard that people also reached out directly to the state agencies. There were multiple front-page news articles in the local papers.

As you will read in more detail below, residents and visitors to Jackson County care deeply about the Upper Rogue River, and some of them have very specific ideas about what they believe the state agencies should do—or not do—next. And though there are a wide range of ideas for specific next steps, there was a widely held vision that the Upper Rogue River be safe, accessible, and healthy for future generations and for the fish and other wildlife that live on and near the river.

This report consists of an Executive Summary followed by the full report, which includes the following sections:

- Engagement Goals and Participation
- Current Connections and Future Hopes
- Conflicts and Concerns
- Addressing Conflicts and Concerns to Realize Hopes
- Recommendations for Future Engagement

There are also a number of appendices that provide annotated survey results and background materials. The purpose of the report is to give a snapshot of where community values, hopes, and ideas overlap and where they diverge. It lays out themes and points out conflicts. It also suggests places where more information and engagement might be helpful.

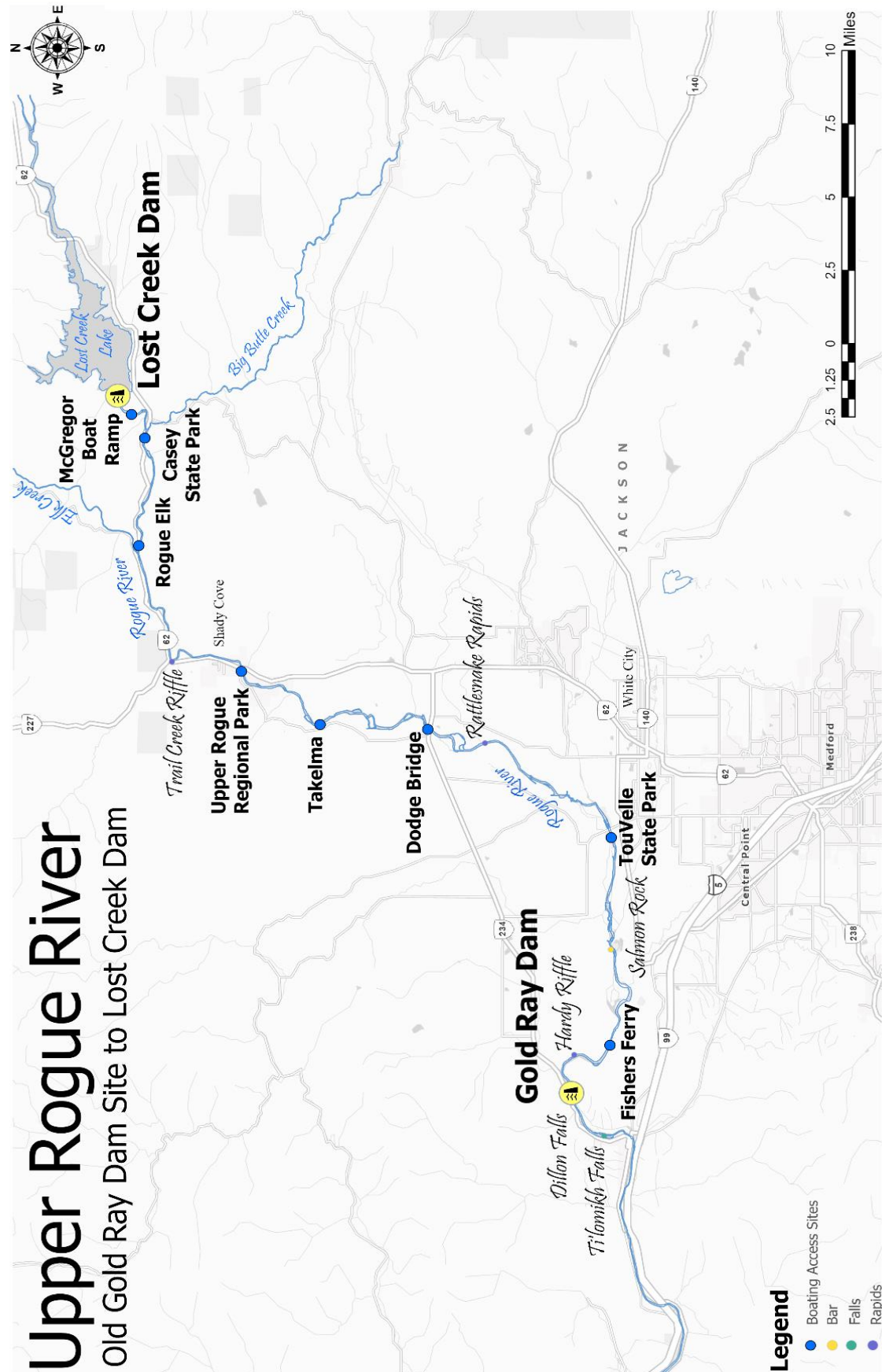
This report is not a scientific study, nor a presentation of the facts about issues facing the river, but rather a recounting of a community conversation over a particular period of time

related to an important and beloved public resource. It does not offer a comprehensive list of every comment shared; however, meeting summaries from community conversations, letters written to OKT, and all responses to open-ended comments were shared with OPRD, DSL, OSMB, and ODFW. In the report, we do include a selection of quotes or comments we heard in different engagement settings. Quotes and comments included in the report either illustrate a particular point in someone’s own words or echo what other people shared. Comments submitted through surveys are not altered or edited by Oregon’s Kitchen Table except for length. They are presented as written by participants, in their own words. For quotes or comments in languages other than English, we have provided a rough translation.

This report is now in the hands of the agencies and the community to be used – alongside other data, information, experiences, and ideas – to decide what is next for the Upper Rogue River and the people that cherish it.

Upper Rogue River

Old Gold Ray Dam Site to Lost Creek Dam



Map: This map shows the section of the Rogue River that this engagement focused on, between the former Gold Ray Dam site (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157). Map provided by the Oregon Marine Board.

Executive Summary

Four state agencies – the Department of State Lands (DSL), the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – partnered with Oregon’s Kitchen Table (OKT) to ask people how they use, protect, and feel about the stretch of the Upper Rogue River between the old Gold Ray Dam site and Lost Creek Dam. Over 2,600 people who live in and visit Jackson County shared their thoughts and feelings about the river and their ideas about how to keep the river safe and healthy into the future.

This is a summary of what people said and how we reached people during the process. There are also suggestions for future opportunities for the agencies to engage people.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

OKT used the following methods to reach people and hear their thoughts about and ideas for the river:

- Interviews with 31 people representing 22 organizations (community connectors)
- Four community conversations (three in-person; one on Zoom)
- Online and paper surveys in English and Spanish
- OKT tables at cultural and community events
- Partnerships with community organizers to increase participation
- A community conversation with high school students
- Three conversations hosted by community organizations and a local government

WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE RIVER

The following commonly held perspectives emerged across various community conversations, interviews, and responses to survey questions:

Overall Themes

- This stretch of river is special to many people. It is also important to the state and region, now and in the future.
- The things people love about the river should be protected for future generations.
- People should enjoy and share the river and should respect what matters to people who visit and live near the river.
- People (and agencies) should do what they can to keep the river and the fish and wildlife that live in and near it healthy.

- No single group should “take over” control or use of the river, including homeowners, commercial users, conservationists, fly fishers, jet boat operators, or anyone else.
- This stretch of river has many parts. It includes a variety of areas that are suited for different activities. There is a desire for any future decisions to account for the physical variation, current and past uses, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Conflicts and Concerns

- Over the past few years, there have been conflicts between people who use the river in different ways. Many people have either experienced those conflicts themselves or have heard about them. Other people have not seen or heard about any conflicts, and some feel these reports are exaggerated
- Many different river activities occur at TouVelle State Recreation Site. Many people feel there are significant conflicts there.
- There is disagreement about what activities can safely co-exist and about the impacts that some activities—particularly jet boats and other commercial operations—have on the health of the river and the fish and wildlife that live on or near the river.
- There is broad concern about the enforcement of current rules and regulations and what that might mean for enforcement of any future rules.
- There is interpersonal conflict among community members related to the river, and that conflict came up in many ways throughout the process.
- Many people feel that people experiencing aging, disabilities, or limited mobility have fewer ways to access the river.

Preferred Actions

- People disagree about how best to manage conflicts on the river, even those who have a shared vision for the future.
- Though most people want to see a river that is safe and healthy for people and wildlife, many people disagree about the specifics of that vision and how to achieve it.
- A majority of the people we heard from want action to limit or ban some activities. However, people disagree about what actions are needed. And, there is a significant number of people who do not believe that any additional limitations are necessary.
- There is strong interest in engaging with the agencies directly as part of any proposed new rules or regulations.

Information Needs

- Many people want to know more about the current rules and how they are or could be enforced.
- Throughout the process, people offered competing information related to the health of the river and/or the consequences of particular activities. There is a need and a desire for additional, consistent information.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Future Rulemaking

Among people who have been highly engaged in questions related to conflicting uses of the river, there is a strong interest in what the state agencies will do next. People want to give more input on specific proposals, and they want agencies to hear many different opinions before making decisions.

Information and Data

People also want agency decisions to be based on sound data and reliable information. They would like access to data about the health of the river, how the various uses affect the health and safety of the river, and how river use impacts the economy. They also want the data related to the impacts of any proposed changes.

Ongoing Relationship Building

Many people love this stretch of river and care about its future. Many of those people—particularly those who have been left out of traditional engagement processes—are unlikely to come to a large community meeting, especially if it is only in English or contentious. There are opportunities for the agencies and other decision-makers to build relationships with those community members in the places where they already gather and to use places like the picnic areas at TouVelle to invite culturally specific communities for events along the river.

Futures Thinking

Because the river, river use, and the area surrounding the river is always changing, the agencies have an opportunity to engage interested community members in thinking about the longer term future of the river. Tools like long-term planning or futures thinking may be helpful as people think about the consequences of changing conditions, current and future activities, and potential regulations.

Community Dynamics

Given that community and personal conflicts have simmered – and sometimes boiled over—around this stretch of river for many years, it is unlikely that any state government decision (or non-decision) will resolve those conflicts and resulting hard feelings. Therefore, alongside any action taken by state agencies, community conflicts and damaged relationships will need to be addressed at the local level.

ABOUT OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE

Oregon's Kitchen Table is a statewide community engagement program that invites all Oregonians to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. We particularly focus on reaching, engaging, and hearing from Oregonians that have been left out of traditional engagement processes.

Using culturally specific and targeted outreach, as well as community partnerships, we work with organizers, translators, and interpreters to assure that materials and online and in-person engagement activities are available for and relevant to all Oregonians. We honor and value the wide range of values, ideas, and lived experiences that community members share with us and with public decision-makers.

OKT is housed in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University.



ENGAGEMENT GOALS AND PARTICIPATION

ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The overarching goal of this community engagement project was to better understand a wide variety of community perspectives to inform and align agency actions related to the Upper Rogue River. The purpose of this community engagement effort was twofold: 1. To hear from a wide range of people who live in Jackson County and/or visit Jackson County about their beliefs, values, expectations and desires for the future of this part of the Rogue River; and 2. To hear from people who have not been part of this discussion or decision-making process in the past.

Appendix B provides the details of the process design and engagement activities.

PARTICIPATION

Between May 9, 2024, and July 5, 2025, over 2,600 people participated in a wide variety of engagement activities. A total of 2,101 people responded to the survey (either online or on paper), and approximately 330 people participated in an OKT-sponsored community conversation, some of whom participated in multiple conversations¹. In addition, over 50 people participated in a Kitchen Table Conversation that was sponsored by either a community-based organization or a local government. People who participated ranged from one-time visitors to the area to professional river guides, people with a background in resource management, and people who have been engaged with issues on this part of the river for many decades.

Here are some highlights regarding participation:

- Over 2,600 participants overall
- 2,101 survey responses (provided in 2 languages)
- 4 formally sponsored community conversations, 3 in-person in Jackson County and one on Zoom, in which over 330 people participated.
- 3 self-organized conversations including tourism and economic development professionals, conservationists, and river advocates
- OKT staff tabled at 5 community events (Juneteenth, Medford Pride, 4th of July celebration in Eagle Point, The Lantern storytelling event, and a Rogue jet boat Adventures concert at Discovery Park)
- OKT staff conducted a community conversation specifically for high-school-aged youth
- Before formal engagement began, OKT staff talked to 31 people representing 22 organizations to learn how and where this part of the river is being talked about and how people understand the issues. Those conversations also informed this report.

¹ Participants who participated in multiple conversations were counted only once.

Survey participants fell broadly in the following groups: (see **Appendix A** for specific categories):

- 71% of people who responded to the survey live in Jackson County.
- 11% of people who responded live in Josephine County.
- 28% live in zip codes that include this stretch of the river.
- 23% of people who responded are aged 60-69 and 24% of people who responded are aged 70 or older.

While we heard that the river is an important gathering place for Spanish-speaking families and we conducted outreach in English and Spanish, fewer than 1% of those who responded to the survey said their preferred language is Spanish. Spanish-speaking community organizers did have conversations with some Spanish-speaking people from the area, and there is room for additional engagement in the future.

CURRENT CONNECTIONS & FUTURE HOPES

Overall, we heard from many people that this part of the river is extremely important to them personally and to the region more broadly. People value this part of the river for different reasons, but there is general agreement that this part of the river is special, and that it is important to protect it for future generations.

“Born in Oregon, raised in Medford, the Rogue River has always been a part of my life. It's an integral and iconic part of the valley - a precious resource that I treasure whether floating, fishing or walking along the banks.” (Comment from the community conversation in Medford)

CURRENT CONNECTIONS

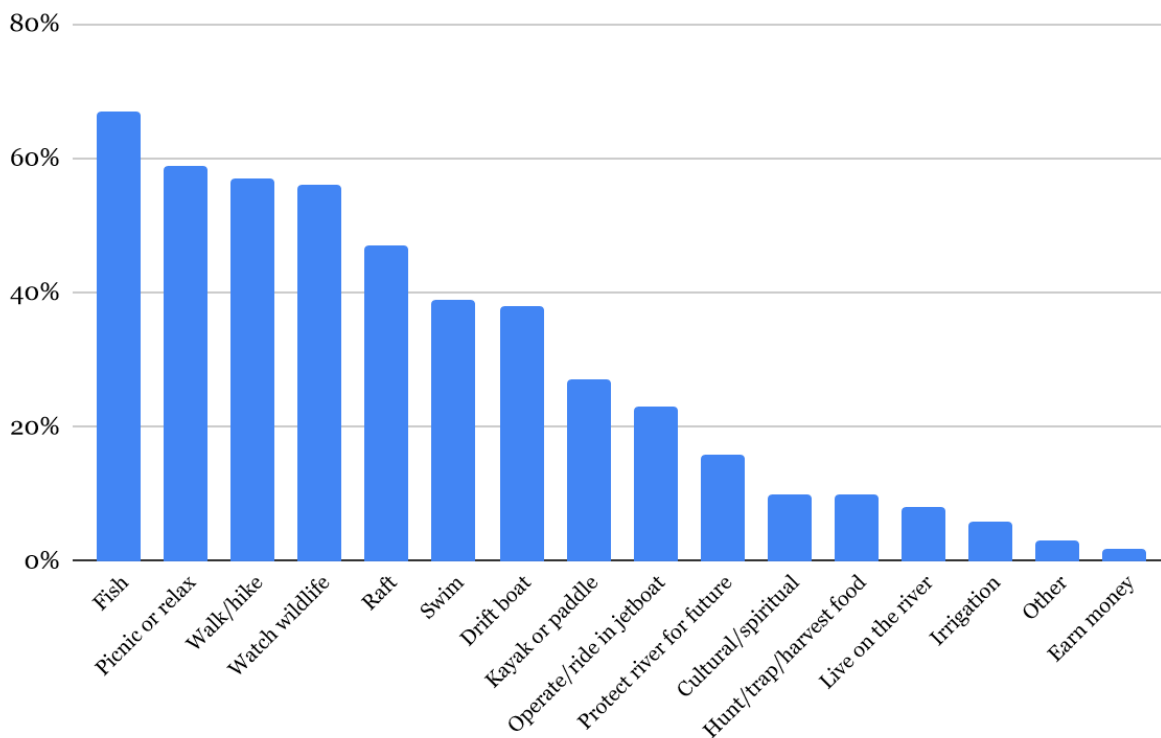
We heard from people who have a wide range of connections to the river, from professional to recreational to historic. In terms of peoples’ current connection to this part of the river, responses fell into three main categories: 1) using the river for recreation, 2) living or working on or near the river, and 3) valuing a multigenerational relationship to the river. Throughout the process, we heard that the connections to the river differ depending on the stretch

of river. On the survey and in the community conversations, people talked about the activities they do on different parts of the river.

Recreation

This stretch of river is used for a wide range of recreational activities. The chart below shows the activities selected by people responding to the survey:

Activities that people do on/near the river (Survey responses)



While they weren't listed on the survey, many people wrote in additional activities that they do on this part of the river, including: camping, bicycling, hosting family or company gatherings or taking school groups or visitors, gold prospecting, horseback riding, walking with their dog or taking their dog swimming, monitoring fish or plant populations, photography, snorkeling, berry picking, and picking up trash.

We also asked people in the community conversations about how they connect to the river. At the community conversation in Shady Cove, almost everyone raised their hands when asked about rafting and watching wildlife; many people also indicated that they kayak/paddleboard, swim, and fish or hunt; and fewer than 10 people indicated that they use

powerboats². At the community conversation at TouVelle State Recreation Site, about half the group indicated that they fish and/or raft; and about a third of the group raised their hands to share that they operate a motorized boat, swim, operate a business that relies on the river, and/or have a multi-generational relationship with the river (i.e. that their family has lived in the area and used the river for many generations). A slightly smaller group indicated that they live on the river.

Participants in Kitchen Table Conversations said that they serve as fishing guides, are recreational users (fly fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding), attend concerts at Discovery Park, work in tourism and economic development, live on the banks of the river and in Shady Cove, and lead advocacy and stewardship organizations.

Many people we heard from identified with multiple or all of these activities.

Not surprisingly, what people value about the river is connected to the activities that they do there. They focused on the ways that the river is uniquely suited for or enables their activities, such as the channeled rapids and natural features like Rattlesnake Rapids. Similarly, many people, particularly people who enjoy non-motorized recreation, value and describe this area as “relaxing,” “tranquil,” “quiet,” “safe,” and “beautiful.” Other people describe this stretch as “accessible” and “fun.”

We also asked people in various ways where they do the activities that they do. In community conversations and at tabling events, we had large maps for people to mark with color-coded markers. On the survey, we asked people where they do the activities they identified; and, even when we didn’t ask directly, people often shared the specific places that they have connections to and what they do there. The two maps below reflect what we heard from people who responded to the survey.

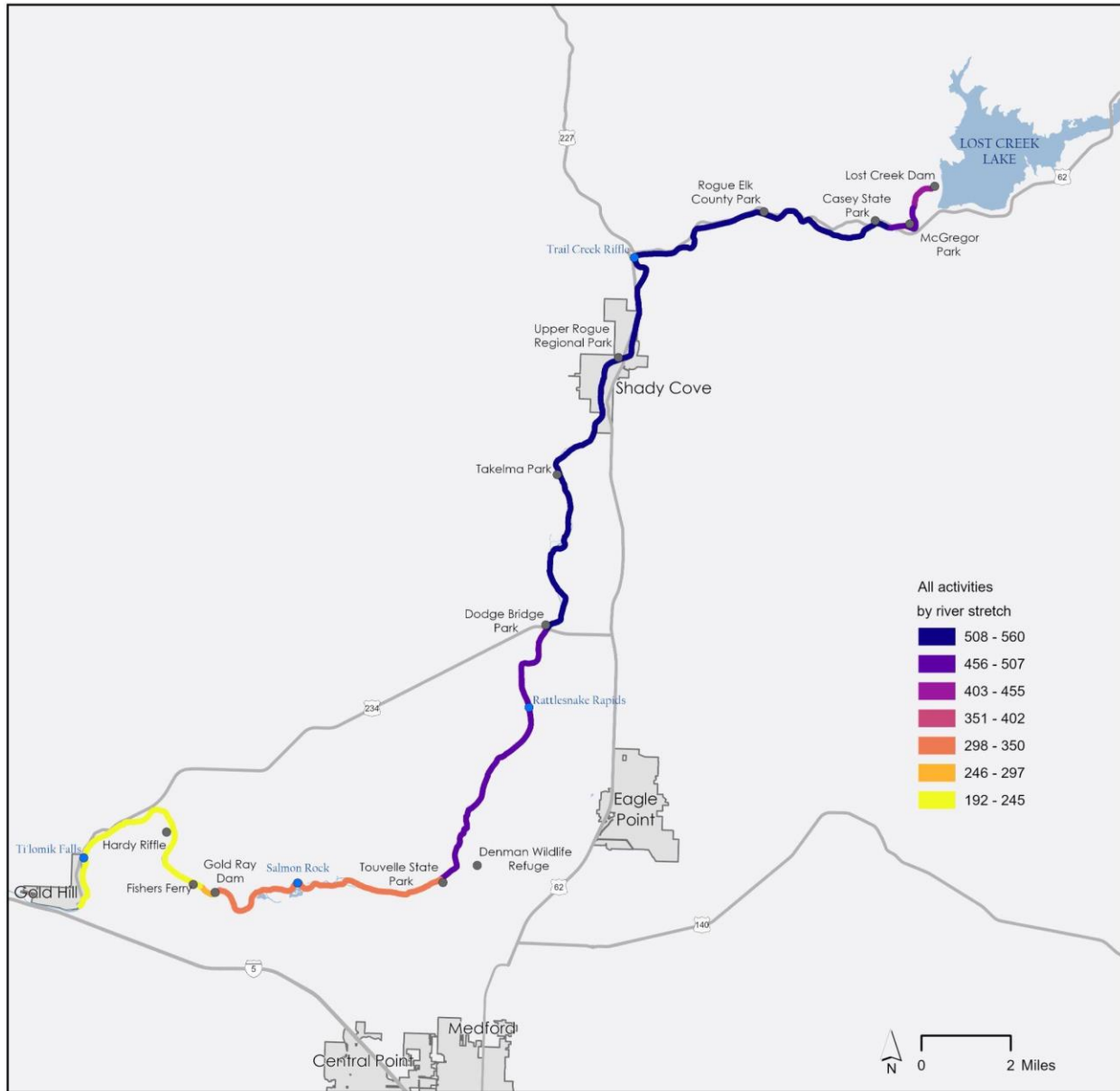
“I am an avid kayaker, rafter and swimmer. This section of the river is paradise for this. This is due largely to the rural setting, quiet and safety, channeled rapids.” (Comment from the community conversation at TouVelle State Recreation Site)

² We refer to powerboats, motorized boats, jet boats and mini-jet boats throughout this report. These were often used interchangeably across the community conversations. In many cases, it was not entirely clear whether people were referring to all motorized boats (including drift boats that use small outboard motors) or only jet boats, commercial jet boats but not personal jet boats, etc.

We have tried as much as possible to repeat the framing that was used in the moment, to reflect the ways people spoke or understood the categories as they shared them. Again, some people have highly clear, technical awareness of the difference among types of boats; whereas many others who participated do not. This leads to some ambiguity in the text.

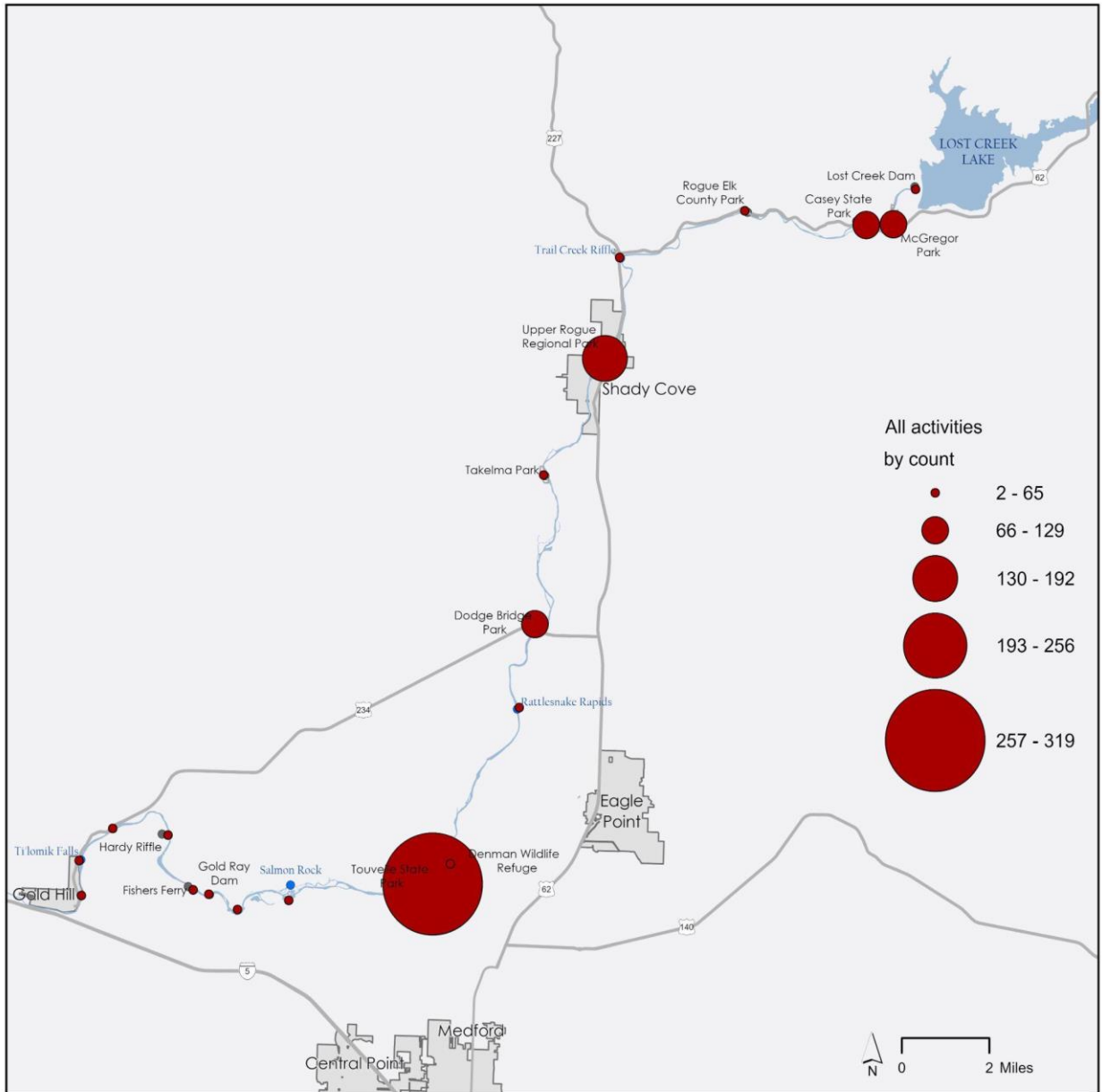
Merriam Webster defines a motorboat as “a boat propelled usually by an internal combustion engine.” A powerboat is synonymous to a motorboat. A jet boat is defined as “a boat propelled by an engine which expels a powerful jet of water.”

Map A1: Where people use sections of the Upper Rogue River for any activity, between river mile 126 and 157



All activities on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A2: Where people use specific locations on the Upper Rogue River for any activity, between river mile 126 and 157



All activities on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A1 shows where people marked a *stretch* of river on which they engaged in a particular activity—such as boating from point A to point B, or referring to using several locations within those stretches. Map A2 shows where people marked a *fixed spot* for their activity, such as going to TouVelle to go swimming or camping, or fishing at a specific place. For a more detailed description of how these maps were created, see **Appendix C**.

Of course, we do not offer this as scientific—or even observational data— related to river usage, but rather as a snapshot of where the people we talked to connect with the river. It also suggests places where river usage might be heaviest. Map A1 suggests that the heaviest usage is between Dodge Bridge Park and Casey State Park. In Map A2, people most frequently mentioned TouVelle State Recreation Site specifically; people also frequently mentioned Shady Cove and the area around Lost Creek Dam. (See Appendix C for maps related to the location of specific activities.)

In describing their connections to the river, people often used landmarks to distinguish different stretches of river. For example, we heard about several popular rafting runs that included: from TouVelle to Gold Ray, Shady Cove to Rattlesnake Rapids, Lost Creek Dam to Shady Cove, and McGregor Boat Ramp or Rogue Elk launch to Shady Cove.

In addition, several people stated that jet boats primarily operate between Gold Ray Dam and Rattlesnake Rapids. A few people also suggested that it is difficult for jet boats to run upstream of Rattlesnake Rapids, but that a few do. The commercial jet boat tours currently run from TouVelle State Park to Dodge Bridge. Some people mentioned that they no longer use that section for fishing or rafting.

“Above Rattlesnake Rapids and below Rattlesnake Rapids are different - above rapids, there are fewer recreational boaters. The rapids were a natural barrier before the dam was put in place, because the water was low. People would walk or boat around the rapid - it’s passable but you need a significant amount of water to go past it.” (Comment from the community conversation on Zoom)

People also told us about running rescue boats above Dodge Bridge to the Dam and floating the entire section in a drift boat.

People shared that they fish around Table Rock Road, near the hatchery, and between Dodge Bridge and TouVelle State Park. People mentioned drift boat fishing in particular between Shady Cove and TouVelle State Park; and bank fishing at Casey State Park, McGregor, and Gold Nugget Falls.

People also talked about hiking, birding, relaxing, and walking dogs at TouVelle, Denman, and other parks.

Many people said they use the entire stretch for rafting, kayaking, and other activities. We also heard from some people that there are sections they used in the past that they no longer use because of conflicts with other river users.

Live or work on the river

The majority of the people we heard from live in Jackson County and many of them live or work on the river - whether they own property adjacent to the river, spend significant time on the river, or make their livelihood on the river. It was clear that the Rogue River is the heart of this valley. Some people moved here in order to live on the river. Other people make their living from being a guide, a jet boat operator, a boat manufacturer or from running a business that relies

on river tourism. We consistently heard that the river supports the economies and people of Shady Cove and significantly contributes to the Rogue Valley and Jackson County as a whole. People had a lot of pride in their relationships and connections to the river and most people connected with the river in many ways.

“I grew up at the foot of the Table Rocks and have vast memories of fishing and boating that stretch of the Rogue River. My father and grandfather were both jet boat operators. I know 1st hand that only true professionals can navigate that stretch and care about the river more than most.” (Comment from the community conversation in Medford)

“My connection with the river is that it is my home and I love it. And this part of the river, it holds memories.” (Comment from the community conversation in Shady Cove)

Lifelong and multigenerational relationships

Another major theme that emerged was the relationships people have with the river across many generations. Many people value that they can do the same activities that their grandparents did, and hope that future generations can relate to and enjoy the river in the same ways that they currently do.

“I am a 6th generation in the Rogue Valley. My family grew up and lived on the river across from Discovery park @ Rogue Jet Boat. We love and respect wildlife and the waters. My grandfather enjoyed the jetboat rides and we the family think all should have access.” (Comment from the TouVelle State Recreation Site community conversation)

“I grew up on this river, since I was a kid I've always had it in my heart. I grew up rafting, fishing and tagging along with guides with my dad. There are already very valid laws to the river that have been followed to keep the river how it is. I hope future generations get to experience the fun and historical parts of this river.” (Comment from the community conversation in Medford)

FUTURE HOPES

We also asked people in various other ways about their hopes and visions for this part of the Rogue River. These were the themes that emerged.

Safety

Safety was a major theme across all forms of engagement. People want the river to be a safe place to recreate, fish, and swim, and many of them see the heavy use of the river for a wide variety of activities as contributing to safety risks. People also shared that this section of river is an important place for amateurs or first-time river experiences; many people told us about having their first experience boating, fishing, or rafting on this river.

People also want the river to be a safe place for fish, geese, turtles, and other wildlife. While people have different ideas and understanding about how their activities do or do not impact wildlife habitat, many people shared a vision for this to continue to be a place for salmon to spawn and where wildlife continues to thrive.

[My hope for the future of this part of the river is...] “For it to remain safe for anglers, rafters, swimmers and fish. To remain quiet and preserved for future generations.” (Comment from the community conversation in Shady Cove)

Accessibility and Mutual Respect

Many people want to be able to continue to access the river for recreational and other uses into the future. People want future generations to be able to do the same activities that people currently enjoy, which vary widely. People want the river to continue to accommodate multiple uses and to have sufficient public access points to do the things they enjoy doing. Many people shared a vision of this part of the Rogue as a multi-use river where multiple user groups can continue to use and access the river without undue conflict. For some people, this vision relies on removing powerboats; for others, they imagine mutual respect among different user groups. The latter perspective was connected to a desire for current uses to continue and the idea that everyone could share the river.

“do not shut down jet boats. it's an important part of our future. And being a fishing guide it will take away from my family and the enjoyment of the people I fish from all over the world.” (Comment from the community conversation in Medford)

While people do not agree about the path to get there, most people would like to see respect among river users, respect for the river, and public access for many different user groups. (For instance, at the community conversation at TouVelle, three quarters of people raised their

hands in support of the vision of maintaining access for lots of different users.) In several different community conversations, someone shared a vision of respect among river users and nearly everyone in attendance raised their hands in agreement.

“Share the water with jet boats. Have mutual respect of jet boats and fisherman. Both are beautiful ways to enjoy the water.” (Comment from the community conversation in Shady Cove)

Some people also shared specific visions of how this part of the river could be made more accessible to people experiencing disabilities and shared among people with a wide range of experiences and physical abilities, such as creating a paved path along the bank. We share more specific suggestions related to access and disability in the sections that follow.

“My hope is that everyone can find a way to use the river, keep open to all users.”
(Comment from the community conversation in Shady Cove)

Healthy Ecosystem and Environment

Nearly everyone’s visions for the future included protecting the health of the river ecosystem and riparian zones, including fish and wildlife. In fact, the vision of a healthy, thriving environment was shared by nearly everyone, though people had different ideas about how to ensure that future. Across all the community conversations, this vision was voiced and nearly everyone in attendance raised their hands in agreement.

Some people framed this as limiting further harm, while others focused on maintaining or protecting the current environment; while yet others talked about restoring the river to previous/historical health (such as talking about fish runs returning to prior higher levels). In particular, people mentioned stable river banks and preventing further erosion; water clarity; plentiful native fish populations and spawning habitats; presence of algae and noxious weeds; spawning and nesting seasons; water quality and levels; aquatic and semi-aquatic species.

[My hope for the future of this part of the river is...] “Thriving native plants, space for wildlife, hiking, & enjoying nature.” (Comment from tabling at Medford Pride)

“I would like the Rogue to attempt to set an example for sustainable recreation and resource management. A healthy river is a profitable river and the Deschutes is an example of that. Restoring NATIVE fish populations, protecting habitats, restricting motorized use, banning jet boats, educating the public, creating access for all ability types, limiting access during nesting season / spawning season etc can be a legacy project for this area. It is our responsibility to steward this waterway.” (Survey response)

“Protecting water quality and fish habitat in this section of the Rogue should have priority but "protection" does not necessarily equate with less access or more difficult access. In the future, I would like native fish habitat and spawning areas to be sustained in perpetuity.” (Survey response)

Many people felt that the wellbeing of the environment should be the highest priority for management. The impact of powerboats, as well as of people wading into the water and walking on salmon redds, was a common topic of discussion and source of disagreement. Some people would like to see additional studies specifically focused on this section of the Rogue to inform decisions that prioritize environmental wellbeing.

Another topic that came up was the impact of agricultural runoff and private landowners’ practices. Some people felt that home/outbuilding location, riparian vegetation, riverside decks or docks, and/or chemicals or products used on lawns or gardens should be regulated to protect the river ecosystem.

In imagining a thriving river, many people referred to the river’s historic, “original,” “natural” or “traditional” use. There was some perception that some uses of the river are more aligned with that state than others, although people had conflicting ideas about whether powerboats and motorized boats are part of that “traditional” usage or past remembered state.

“I want the ecosystem to be as vibrant and healthy as possible. Well-managed, diverse, pristine, quiet, sovereign. A place for all to find peace and well being, returned to its original state as closely as possible.”
(Comment from tabling at The Lantern in Ashland)

Quiet, Peaceful, Tranquil

Many peoples’ vision for the future of the river is that it is quiet, peaceful and tranquil, which is central to their current experience and which they want to protect. To most people, that means allowing “passive recreation” like kayaking, floating, etc. but absent from powerboats that are loud. Many people also connected this sense of tranquility and peace to environmental health. People felt that there are fewer and fewer places that they can access peace and quiet, and that therefore it is important to reduce or prevent things that are loud, noisy, or disruptive that could interrupt that experience. They spoke about how quiet and tranquility allows them to commune with nature or recharge from a noisy world. We heard this vision clearly articulated in the community meetings and between one-third and three-quarters of each group raised their hands to indicate agreement with this vision for the future.

“My wife and I moved to our home on the river because it was a beautiful, peaceful area. We enjoy watching rafters and fishermen drift by. It's a serene atmosphere enjoyed by a variety of users of all ages.” (Survey response)

“In the future I would like the Rogue to be in the same or better condition than it is now. And by condition I am referring to the water clarity, the river bank quality, the abundance of nature, the peacefulness and quiet of the river normally. It’s wonderful to be able to float the river peacefully and enjoy the river and nature at its best.” (Survey response)

Keep things the way they are now

We heard from many people that their desire for the future is for the river to be as it is now. At the same time, it was clear that peoples’ understandings and perceptions of what the current situation is differ widely based on their perspective and experience.

We heard from a few people who were not aware that powerboats currently operate on this section of the Rogue because they hadn’t seen or experienced them. Their understanding is that jet boats are currently not allowed and state agencies are considering allowing them. For them, things “staying the way they are” meant limiting powerboats or mini-jet boats from operating.

Other people have had positive or neutral interactions with the river and feel that the level of current regulations is working fine. Some people are concerned about governmental overreach or additional regulations, so while they may want to see something change, they don’t believe that that change should come from the state. This will be discussed in more depth in the next section.

“If you want to ride a jet boat on the Rogue there are already two places for this to be done. We do not need a third on the upper Rogue, that should be dedicated to wildlife, fishing and swimming as it was originally designated to be.” (Survey response)

“We want the river to be safe and beautiful. We haven't seen evidence that jet boats ruin it. We don't think changes are needed.” (Survey response)

CONFLICTS & CONCERNS

CONFLICTS

The original impetus for this community engagement effort was that there have been conflicts among river users. Those conflicts include everything from times and places where people get in one another's way all the way to shouting matches and obscene gestures. Those conflicts certainly spilled over into this community engagement process. The community conversations were large, passionate, and often raucous! We had high turnouts of engaged people, many of whom were upset or angry before they ever arrived. Similarly, two-thirds of survey respondents have either experienced or heard about a conflict. (34% said they had personally experienced a conflict, and 29% said they had witnessed or heard about a conflict.)

And yet, a third of the people who responded to the survey had not personally experienced, witnessed, or heard about a conflict.

The conflict has often been framed as jet boats vs. no jet boats, but once people had an opportunity to share their experiences, we heard about many different types of conflicts among river users, along with some people disagreeing that there is any conflict at all.³ We heard about conflicts between people fishing and other river users; we heard about conflicts between landowners and people fishing, hunting, or rafting. We heard about conflicts among different types of fishermen. We heard about conflicts between locals and nonlocals and complaints about rafters and rafting companies.

And, we also heard about conflicts between jet boats and people fishing, swimming, taking their dogs for a swim, or landowners. We heard stories about people who were afraid that a jet boat would hit their child or dog, and about having to dive underwater to avoid being hit by a jet boat. We heard from fly fishers who were knocked over or afraid of being knocked over by jet boat wake. We heard from people who no longer fish or raft in part of the river because of commercial jet boat tours.

It is also clear that conflicts either on the river or about the river have also led to short fuses and escalating behavior. We heard stories about people flipping each other off, yelling, cursing, or throwing rocks. We heard from people who have been threatened by other people because of behavior on the river, and even from people who felt concerned for their safety because of the perspective they shared in the community conversations. We also heard from jet boat operators and from people who enjoy jet boat rides and Discovery Park that they feel misunderstood, unjustly targeted, and threatened.

In addition to the stories that were shared with us in the engagement period, groups shared hundreds of pages, such as from the prior TouVelle survey in 2022, documenting past conflicts and disagreements.

³ By conflict, we mean uses that get in each others' way or uses that impact others later (such as pollution or trash). Those conflicts may or may not escalate into interpersonal disagreements or confrontations.

At the same time, some people told us that these conflicts are being falsified, exaggerated, or the same stories were being recycled or reused. They were concerned that decisions or regulation would be made based on these allegations of conflicts without good documentation or proof.

Conflicts people shared fell into a few categories:

- Someone unable to do their activity safely or perceiving they couldn't do their activity safely because of someone else's use of the river
- Frustration or anger at other peoples' impact on the river itself
- Disagreement escalating into name calling, yelling, etc.
- Different understandings of what is allowed/allowable, how people should interact
- Aggravation related to lack of enforcement

Here are some examples of the types of conflicts we heard about. These are just examples among many stories of different types of conflict that we heard.

"I've almost been hit by them [jet boats] multiple times. I've been in the process of netting a fish only to have one drive closely by me and lose our harvest. Not only was it rude, but illegal. Over the past 4 or 5 years the weeds have been getting terrible. The jetboats break the weeds up and spread them all around the river. The eddies around fishers ferry get absolutely inundated with weeds to the point where the fish cant even spawn in those areas anymore." (Survey response)

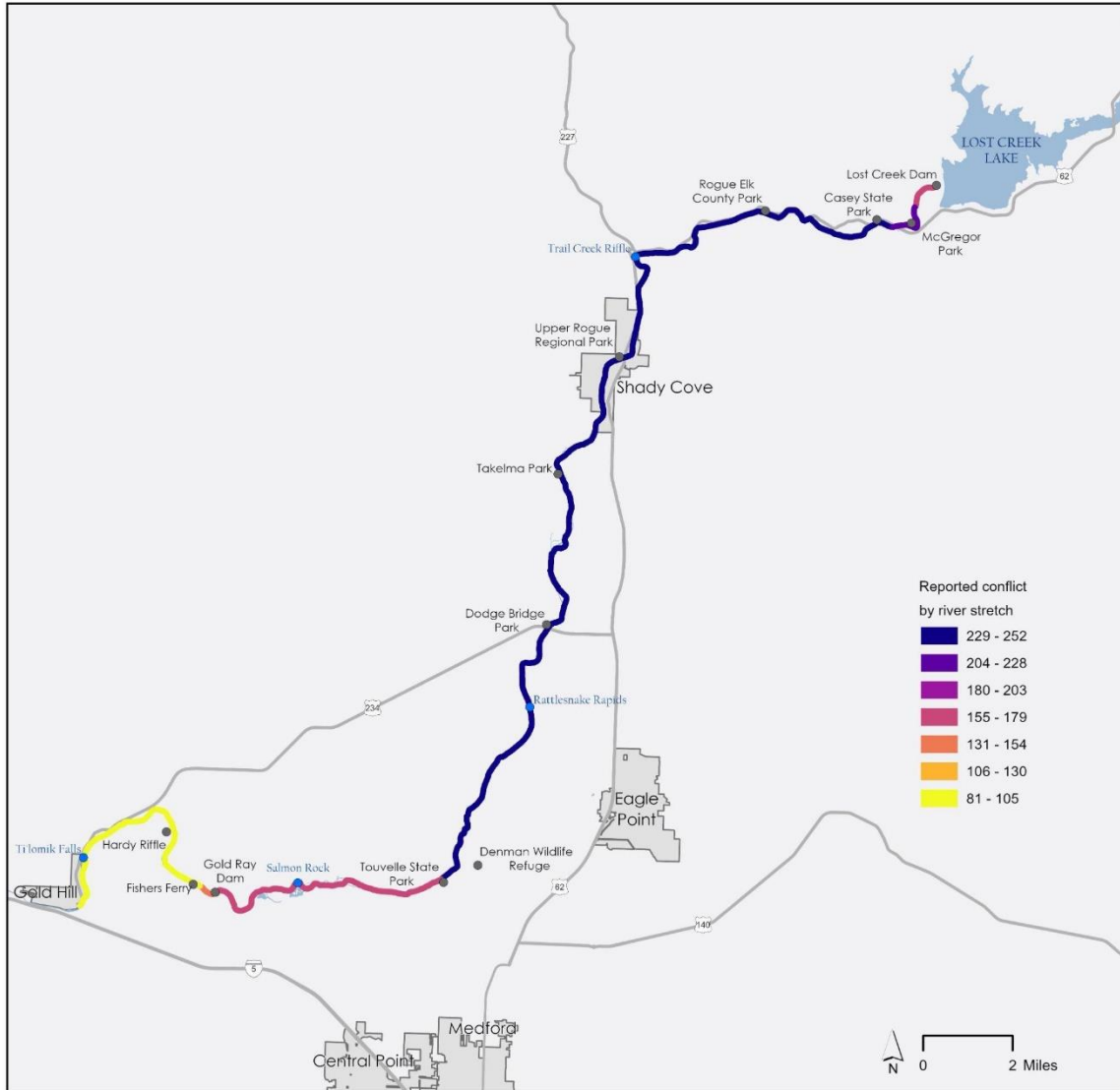
"I have experienced rude and disrespectful behavior from people that live on the river, and fishermen using it over the years. My husband and I enjoy fishing, spending millions of hours in a drift boat and our sled boat. People on the banks often yell harsh words and use obscene gestures when we are passing through. I was on a jet boat tour with a bunch of school children when a man flipped the boat off and was yelling things not appropriate for young children to hear. The same things have happened to me when rafting from the hatchery to Shady Cove." (Survey response)

"Some people that live on the river feel they are entitled to dictate all the activities people enjoy on the river. It's not fair to let them enjoy the river and not the rest of the population. The money made in state parks and recreational facilities is used for maintaining the river we love. As a child I can remember swimming out at touvelle park and just waiting for a boat to pass by and create waves. That brought a smile to my face every time. We may not all enjoy every activity that the river provides but it is a public navigable river and should remain accessible to all." (Survey response)

“I’ve guided, run small jet boats .. I don't hate them. They, too, are part of my heritage, but this use, with boats that big, in this section, isn't use of the river, it is abuse of the river. As our population grows we have to manage our impacts. What was a recoverable per-capita impact no longer is when the population doing the impact increases.” (Survey response)

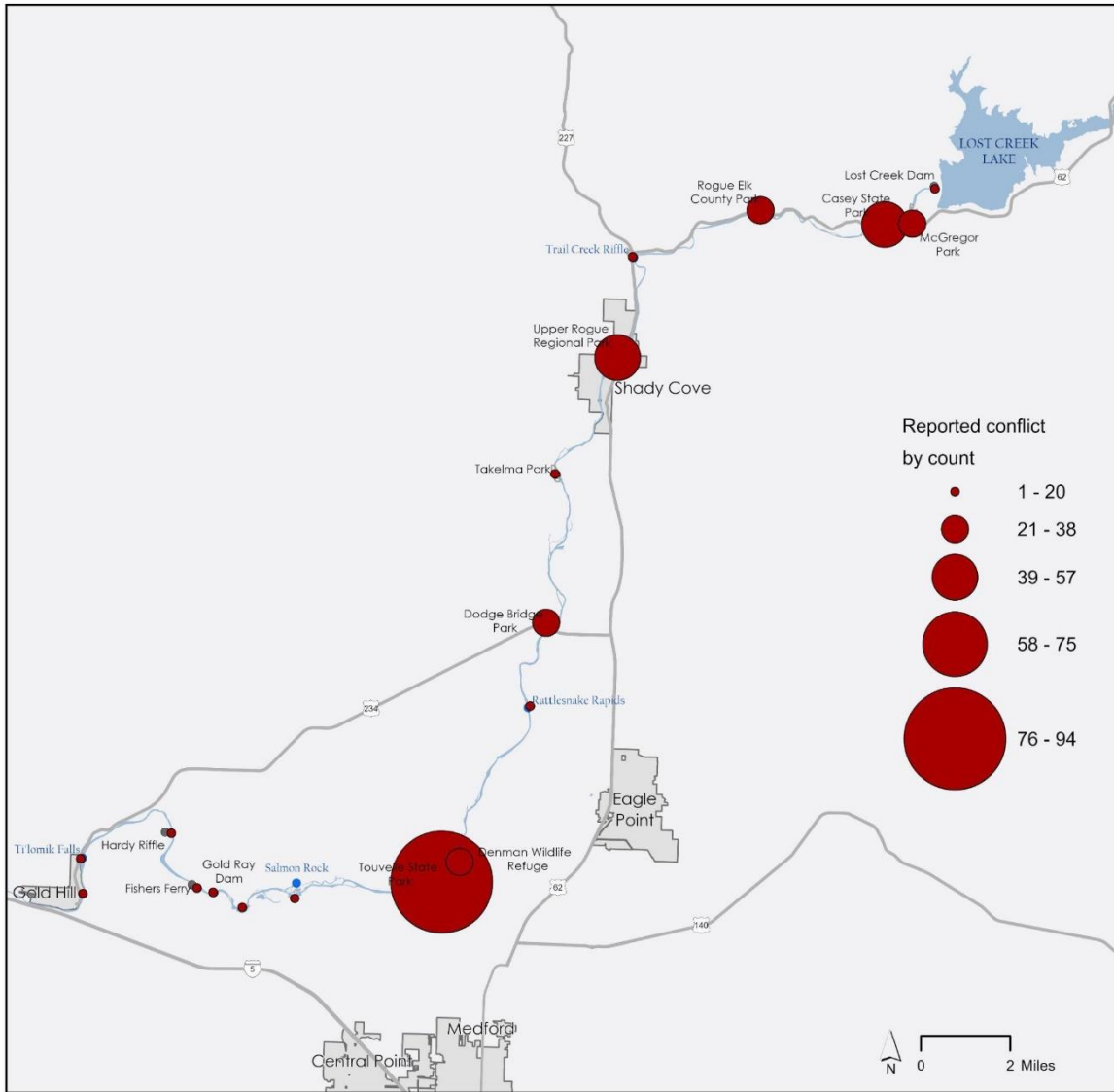
The maps on the next two pages show where people who reported having conflicts shared that they use the river on the survey and in community conversations. Generally, they are similar to the maps of overall river use. Many people who have experienced conflict on the river told us that they use areas between TouVelle State Recreation Site and Casey Park; and particularly mentioned TouVelle State Recreation Site and Shady Cove.

Map C1: Reported conflict on the Upper Rogue River (by river stretch)



Reported conflict on the Upper Rogue River.

Map C2: Reported Conflict on the Upper Rogue River (specific locations)

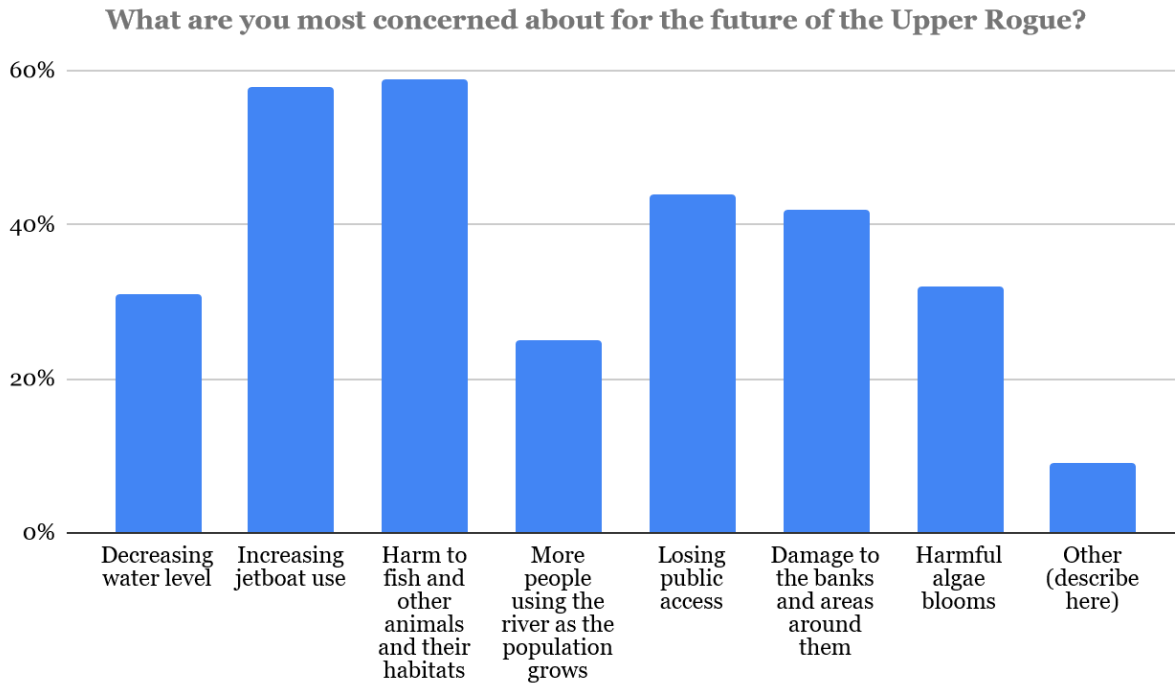


Reported conflict on the Upper Rogue River.

CONCERNS

In addition to outright conflicts, many people have concerns about the current and future well-being and use of the river. People shared a variety of concerns, depending both on where they live, what they perceived the current situation or possible future decisions to be, and whether they had personally experienced conflict. In the survey, we asked people “What are you most concerned about for the future of the Upper Rogue? Please mark all that apply.”

These are the top concerns were heard about from people who responded to the survey:



In addition to the themes of safety, wakes, and potential collision in the conflicts already listed above, many people also identified the following concerns:

- Lack of enforcement of current rules
- Decreasing fish runs
- Restrictions to recreational usage
- Commercial use
- Agricultural runoff from homes/lawns on or near the river (including dumping leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizer runoff) increasing river weeds/vegetation
- Overly prioritizing human needs over nonhuman needs
- Trash, litter, pollution – including plastic pollution, human waste and camping along banks
- Increasing costs of licenses, tags and park passes
- Jet boats churning up milfoil, weeds, and moving rocks
- Government inaction
- Water temperatures' rising
- Drunk rafting or boating

In addition, there were a few trends we heard that cut across these concerns, including: Increasing population; people moving to the area from urban areas; climate change and

dangerously hot conditions in nearby cities; and movement of commercial operations from the Klamath River because of the recent undamming.

Environmental Impacts

Decreasing Fish Population

Many people are concerned about fish and wildlife habitat, particularly decreasing fish populations such as trout, wild steelhead, and salmon.

“Fish population is 1/10th of historical levels. We must restrict activities that disturb fish redds with large wakes and sedimentation disturbance.” (Survey response)

This is the place that community members were most likely to offer competing scientific or observational data. For example, people would argue that jet boat wakes and turbidity are disturbing fish spawning areas (redds) directly as well as indirectly, by

breaking up weeds and spreading them around so that fish cannot spawn. While some people feel that the science is clear or have firsthand experience of witnessing significant change, others are drawing on contradictory studies. Many people felt that this is an area where reliable information is needed and that decisions should be driven by scientific information.

There was also significant anger and frustration voiced about the management of the Cole River hatchery; some people felt that it was being mismanaged, wasn't living up to the promises or expectations of how many fish would be produced, and/or there were infrastructural issues, such as with the electrical system and algae in the holding tanks. We heard many comments about the fishery in the survey and written comments; this also came up in the TouVelle community conversation, and half the group at that conversation agreed that there are issues with hatchery management.

“All spring chinook salmon spawn in the Upper Rogue River as do significant numbers of "threatened" coho salmon, and summer and winter steelhead. The State has invested millions of dollars in the Rogue River Basin to protect and enhance the Rogue River fishery. Jet boat use in the Upper Rogue River and predictable future proliferation of jet boat use in the Upper Rogue River compromises these investments and poses a risk to salmon and steelhead.” (Survey response)

People also cited overfishing, rising water temperatures, ocean predators, people disturbing spawning areas by wading, and invasive/nonnative fish populations (particularly the Northern Pikeminnow) as reasons for decreasing fish runs.

[I'm most concerned about...] “Decreasing salmon population due to lack of hatchery maintenance/improvement and ocean predators. Including commercial collateral.” (Survey response)

Decreasing Population of Other Species

We also heard significant concern about disturbance of nesting habitats and decreasing waterfowl populations; and disturbance of other aquatic species, including turtles. People were particularly concerned about frequent wakes and loud noise disrupting these creatures' habitats.

“There are hundreds of acres of public land along this section of river, including the Denman Wildlife Area which was deeded to the State by the federal government to manage the lands for wildlife conservation and boats with gas propelled motors are prohibited in the wildlife area. Yet noise exceeding 90 decibels have been measured at Denman from passing jet boats, and the wakes, erosion and dislodging of aquatic vegetation from the operation of commercial jet boats in this stretch of river adversely impact the public’s use of these lands and the wildlife that inhabits them.” (Survey response)

Bank Erosion and Channel Widening

There are also factual disagreements about bank erosion and widening channels and what causes them. While there was some disagreement about the extent of change or damage that has occurred to banks along the river, many people attribute eroding banks and widening channels to the impact of jet boat wakes. Others believe that erosion is caused by a variety of factors, not just jet boats.

“Jet boats cause very little if any bank erosion. Numerous studies have been conducted regarding this issue. The same with wild life and fish - very little affect. Jet boats cause very little disturbance to salmon and steelhead spawning beds. Jet boats need to stay in the deepest and swiftest part of the river channels. Not in the calm or riffle areas of the spawning beds.” (Letter submitted at the Medford community conversation)

Other Environmental Concerns

The community also identified a number of other concerns about the environmental health of the river. Many people raised a concern about increased vegetation and moss that tangles fishing lines, inhibits other recreational activities, and clogs up boat intakes and property owners' pipes. Again, the cause was in dispute. People attributed the cause of increased vegetation to a variety of causes, including: increased turbidity in the water because of jet boats; runoff of chemical fertilizers from private homeowners and agriculture; nutrients from wastewater treatment; jet boat wakes uprooting vegetation.

“Algae blooms are deadly to dogs. Mine became critically ill from toxins we did not see. We need more monitoring of this toxin.”
(Survey response)

People also expressed concerns about how property owners manage their riparian area and that they are using fertilizer or other chemicals on their lawns or dumping grass clippings which are causing environmental issues in the river. Many people would like to see more regulations to protect the environment and expressed concern about the lack of enforcement of current rules regarding riverside habitat.

People also raised concerns related to litter and trash, sewage and human waste, toxic algae blooms, and noise pollution. They suggested that those all had negative consequences both for humans and wildlife in and near the river.

“Since I continually use this section of the river from TouVelle to Rattle Snake Rapids I have noticed over the years many home owners have cut most of the willow trees and other shade trees from the river banks for better views. Shade for the river and home for the bugs has been eliminated. Some home owners have planted grass lawns down to the river edge with fertilizer from their lawns leaching into the Rogue River.”
(Letter submitted at the Medford community conversation)

“My biggest concern is certain people losing their right to enjoy the river, no matter what activity they participate in.”
(Survey response)

“Yes, I have lived in Shady Cove for over 20 years, during this time I have seen bank access for fishing decrease tremendously. This needs to change. Fishing is increasingly becoming a boat only show.” (Survey response)

Losing Access

We heard from people who are concerned about potential restrictions to their access to the river. Some people are concerned about any additional regulations that might limit their ability to use the river in ways that they enjoy or that affect their livelihood. Some of those people see potential regulation as part of a trend of government overreaching to restrict individual rights. Other people talked more about limited access spots for fishing, swimming, and putting in and taking out of the river, which contributes to overcrowding in some areas.

We also heard concerns from people about the economic impact of potential regulations or limiting access. Some people shared that maintaining as many uses as possible is advantageous for economic development and tourism.

“I live on the Rogue near Savage Rapids. I use kayaks, drift boats, swim and bank fish. I see jet boats, rafts, drift boats, and kayaks throughout the warm season. I do not see conflict between any of these craft. The Osprey, geese, cranes, eagles are used to our presence. Salmon, trout, and steelhead are plentiful. Let's stress, courtesy, caution if power boating, and don't regulate the stretch of the Rogue. Regulation is a disease not easily cured. The high water mark allows for public use throughout the river.” (Survey response)

Safety

Safety was a significant concern for many people that we heard from and human safety was a shared priority across the spectrum of river users. Many people feel that this section of the river is too narrow, is shallow, and has limited navigation channels, making the use of jet boats or other fast-moving powerboats unsafe for other recreational users. As detailed above, many people also brought up concerns about wakes knocking over fly fishermen or rafters. Many people felt that interactions between powerboats and swimmers/rafters/dogs/fishermen are dangerous and that collisions or accidents are inevitable.

We also heard some disagreement about the risk that jet boats pose to humans. Some jet boat operators shared that modern boats navigating in this section can stop easily and that a collision or accident is very unlikely; whereas many participants in the conversation feel that jet boats pose a significant safety risk because they have to maintain a certain speed in order to operate, particularly through shallow stretches, and that the limited visibility in this section (compared to the Lower Rogue) makes accidents highly likely. In the community conversation at the Jackson County Library, someone shared a vision that both humans would be safe from dangerous accidents and that individual jet boat users (but not commercial jet boat tours) could continue to operate their boats - and nearly everyone in the room raised their hands in support.

Other people brought up that certain parts of the river and certain boat launches (particularly the boat launch at TouVelle) are particularly challenging, require a high level of skill from boat operators, and where swimming and boat use conflicts in ways that create unsafe situations.

We also heard from people who were concerned about the safety of rafters in general. We heard a few stories about scary first-time experiences on the river and some frustration with the rafting companies from boaters who frequently find themselves having to rescue rafters.

We also heard concerns about rafters who may be inexperienced and drinking alcohol; and about how alcohol can create a higher likelihood of dangerous situations. People also brought up that interactions between amateur or drunken boaters or rafters and others, even experienced boaters, can create a higher likelihood of dangerous situations. We also heard concerns about alcohol being served at Discovery Park and how that might impact other river users' safety.

“This section of river is just too narrow and shallow and has limited navigation channels which make jet boat use or other high horsepower watercraft use unsafe for other recreational users. The speeds and the wakes that jet boats throw also make it unsafe for other boaters, waders, fisherman, and swimmers.” (Survey response)

“Our biggest concern is mini jet boats. They go 35-40 miles per hour, interrupt tranquility, and need to go fast in order to keep speed. The major concern is safety.” (Notes from individual conversation)

Some people felt that the current situation where people would have to call 911 to report a boating violation or conflict was not working to address conflicts. Overall, the role of law enforcement and how existing or new regulations would be enforced was a theme in these conversations about safety.

Other safety concerns raised were more about issues in parks, including vandalism or theft. People also shared some concerns about trash like human waste or needles that made them feel that the place was unsafe for children/families. We also heard concerns about people shooting shotguns from boats.

“My kids are growing up on the beautiful Rogue River - we love to float, fish, clean up trash & photograph. The safety of the river has continued to be a concern to me with them. When we waded in the river with friends & my kids the wakes from the huge jet boats knock us over & I've decided not to guide clients any more because my clients are too nervous when the [commercial jet boat tours] ride by - multiple times in the day. It's scary, disturbing, and a real turnoff.” (Comment from the community conversation in Medford)

Commercial use

People had strong feelings and concerns about commercial use of the river and/or public lands and its impact on individual users. Some people feel that commercial businesses should not be allowed to use public lands to conduct business for profit. People were also concerned about commercial businesses having what they see as outsized impact or special access to public resources, such as public parks or boat ramps. We also heard from people who felt that the commercial jet boat operation at TouVelle was “intimidating.” People complained about parking lots being overly full, jet boat customers parking illegally in handicapped spaces and limiting access for disabled park visitors, and long wait times at boat launches.

People also disagree about what role the state should play in regulating commercial access; some people feel strongly that public land should not be utilized for private access, whereas other people feel that commercial and personal use have and can coexist.

“Commercial use of the river needs to be regulated. This includes jet boat tours, fishing guides, jet boat races, etc” (Survey response)

“My town, Shady Cove, depends on customers who come to raft and fish. This needs to be maintained without the environmental imposition and safety issues created by jet boats.” (Comment from Kitchen Table conversation hosted by the Upper Rogue Guardians)

[My concern is...] “River water out-takes for home and commercial use by quickly growing population in the valley.”

Access for People with Limited Mobility

Many people who experience – or whose family members experience – disabilities, who are elderly, or who otherwise have limited mobility shared that motorized boats are the primary way for them to experience the river. Some people had rafted or kayaked in the past but as they have aged or because of injury, jet boats or other motorboats are the best or only option.

However, we also heard from a few people who feel that jet boats make it unsafe for them or their family members who are experiencing a disability, elderly, or otherwise have limited mobility to use the river. They shared that wakes from larger boats make it unsafe for them to fish from a drift boat or raft, because they are not able to get out of the way quickly or because it is difficult to maintain their balance.

In addition, many people told us about limitations that affect their or their family’s ability to walk far, on uneven ground, or handle steep slopes, and noted there are not enough access points for them to sit by the river or get down to the water safely. People also reported issues with boat ramps and shared that they avoid certain boat ramps, such as the ramp at Fisher’s Ferry.

“The jet boat rides are a great option for people who don't own rafts or kayaks, don't have enough people and vehicles in their group to arrange a river shuttle, or aren't familiar with get-in and take-out spots on the river or dangerous areas with rapids. I have also taken my dad, who is in a wheelchair, on jet boat rides when he visits from out of state and it's a great way to recapture the days when he could kayak and raft before being paralyzed.”
(Survey response)

Tenor of the Conversation

Because there have been escalating disagreements in the community about this stretch of river, many people came into the conversation with strong ideas and opinions. We often heard that other peoples’ perspectives were dominating the conversation. Various people argued that commercial interests, jet boat tour operators, environmentalists, newcomers, private landowners, or fly fishermen were all trying to take over the river. These accusations showed up in the survey, in various forms of written comment, in formal public meetings, and in community conversations.

In particular, we heard a perception that landowners along the river who are new to the area have a different value system related to the river than long-term residents. People expressed concerns about private property owners not being aware of the historic multiple uses of the river and trying to assert or control the river to the exclusion of other users.

“A lot of property owners insist on no trespass on the riverbank abutting their property. Wrong! A navigable river has public access to the winter high water line. More courtesy and better understanding of legalities might smooth the interaction of river users and land owners.”
(Survey response)

In addition, there was often open hostility between people who held different positions on use of the river. In one conversation, some people booed at a person who spoke (which the facilitators quickly interrupted). Someone reported being threatened by someone else because of what they said; and another person

expressed fear about losing his livelihood for speaking his perspective. In various ways, people accused other people of trying to ruin or take away the thing that they need or enjoy—whether that was the state agencies, or another user group; or of not valuing or caring about the river to the same extent or in the same way that they did. While we did also see people with very different opinions sit down and talk, we heard—and continue to hear—about a contentious and high-conflict environment.

“Over the years, we have seen significant changes in the utilization of the river by the many people who can use and live on it. Because people have discovered more ways to get out, they want to create a single use recreation spot for their own “country club”. I strongly disagree with this attitude, as the fly fishermen have already created their special designated season. This has created an elitist attitude by a single use group. All jet boaters can portray an elitist attitude as well. I believe every fisherman should be considerate to everyone else who enjoys fishing. This divisiveness is the wrong attitude for everyone.” (Comment submitted by email)

ADDRESSING CONFLICTS AND CONCERNS TO REALIZE HOPES

GENERAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICTS AND CONCERNS

In both the survey and the conversations, we asked people about what approaches would help achieve the future they would like to see. In response, we learned that many peoples’ vision for the future is tied to their hope for or fear of state regulation. When asked to take a position, people fall into two broad categories – 1) ban or limit some activities in some places and 2) continue without additional regulation but increase education and enforcement related to existing rules.

Overall, a significant majority of the people we heard from across all engagement activities would like to see either some type of ban or limitation on some activities, particularly

jet boats and mini-jet boats. For example, in the survey, two-thirds of the people who responded believed that bans (39%) or limitations (28%) on some activities is the best way to address conflicts on the river and other concerns about river safety and health. Similarly, in community conversations, a majority of participants also favored either a ban or limitation on some activities.

Across engagement activities, we heard a particularly keen interest in protecting fish and wildlife, even if that means restricting some human activities. That was reflected in the survey in the response to the statement “I believe that the fish and animals that live in and near the Upper Rogue should be protected now and in the future, even if that means that some human activities are restricted,” (62% of people who took the survey agreed whereas 26% disagreed, and 12% favored a balanced approach.) In community conversations, nearly everyone raised their hands when asked questions related to promoting a healthy river and thriving fish and wildlife.

Suggested restrictions in response to conflicts between recreational uses tend to be more polarizing. The responses to the question: “I believe that everyone should be able to use the Upper Rogue, including jet boat and rafting companies that make it easier for more people to enjoy the river” were clustered in “strongly agree” (39%) or “strongly disagree” (25%). Those strong disagreements were reflected in the community conversations and were often the sources of the sharpest conflicts. Still, 60% of respondents to the survey disagreed that jet boat and rafting companies should be able to use the river regardless of their impact on others.

Nonetheless, there is a significant number of people who believe that current regulations are sufficient to reduce conflicts and keep the river safe for people and wildlife and that no further regulatory action is either necessary or advisable. Across several questions in the survey, approximately a third of those participating responded that there should not be any additional bans or restrictions on activities on the river. People in community conversations took similar positions. They suggested that increased education about existing regulations, rules, and norms and consistent enforcement would support their vision of a safe and healthy river. One person in the community conversation at TouVelle said: “we all need education about what the laws are” and that focusing on educating users about their impact would be most effective. Another person noted that if you ban something, “the rebels will be fierce” and that an agreement-based approach would be likely to work better than a regulation-based approach. Some of the high school students we heard from shared that they wished they had more opportunities in school to learn about how to steward and care for the river; many students felt that education and norms could help shift culture in the long term.

It is worth noting that a perception of lack of enforcement or skepticism about future enforcement heavily informs people’s attitudes toward current and potential future regulation. Many people felt that current rules and regulations are not being consistently enforced, and therefore gravitated toward a ban on some activities rather than trusting that existing rules or more narrowly tailored limitations could create a safe and healthy future for the river.

Many people stated that the current system of enforcement, which requires people to call 911 to report rule violations, is not working to address ‘bad actors’ and curb behavior that

negatively impacts other users. Many people sent us videos or told us about witnessing or documenting activities they believed were illegal, and then stated that law enforcement was not able to follow up. We also heard from local law enforcement that there are few or no documented conflicts or unsafe incidents, which is significantly different from what we heard from participants in this process. People referred to this area as “the Wild West,” reflecting a culture of lawlessness.

In addition, the community conversations revealed that the lines between the two broad positions—ban/restrict and enforce existing rules—were not as fixed as they might seem. In community conversations, although overall the majority of participants favored bans or restrictions, there was significant conversation and disagreement about whether education and norms could be effective to change peoples’ behavior. Some people felt that education and norms might be a place to start and then enact regulations if needed. In the Zoom community conversation, there was some discussion about how the public’s sense of safety might be tied to their perception of how well norms/education are working. We also saw peoples’ ideas shift over the course of conversations. In the Zoom community conversation, one person in a small group initially wanted a ban but became open to the idea of restrictions based on what they heard in the conversation. In the TouVelle State Park conversation, people who strongly disagreed with each other sat together during the breakout group activity. We heard from someone who was strongly anti-jet boat that she had not been aware before the conversation of the existing Oregon State Marine Board boating regulations; she felt that her perspective had shifted and that perhaps limitations or norms might be an adequate approach, and she wanted to learn more about the existing regulations. In several instances, community members asked to learn more about the existing regulations and how they are enforced.

That openness to balancing interests was also reflected in the trade-off question in the survey that asked people to decide between a river that is highly accessible or one that is heavily protected. When asked to choose how they would like the river to be in the future, from “easy access” --in other words more and more diverse activity on the river– to “most protected” --in other words, more restrictions on river activity—nearly two-thirds of respondents fell somewhere in the middle, preferring a balanced or somewhat balanced approach, rather than “most protected” or “most easy access.” (62% of respondents chose a balanced approach or somewhat more access or somewhat more protected.)

“I’d like to see motor boats regulated to protect the wildlife and ambiance of this stretch of river. I feel on outright ban is unrealistic, but a restriction on speed and/or motor size is fair. I also think regulation of businesses is in order to make sure that there isn't over use. Daily commercial and private powerboat permits? restrict to certain sections?”
(Comment from the community conversation in Shady Cove)

SPECIFIC IDEAS PROPOSED TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS

People offered a range of ideas and suggestions for how to resolve or prevent conflicts and to address the concerns and needs they have. Here are the suggestions we heard echoed across the survey and other forms of engagement.

1. Limit motorized boats on certain parts of the river to protect fish and wildlife and reduce conflicts.

Throughout the process, we received many specific suggestions for regulations that would not ban any particular activity outright but that would impose limitations that would increase the ecological health of the river and would reduce conflicts among users.

A majority of survey respondents (54%) supported prohibiting boats in places that they harm fish or wildlife. In response to the statement, “I believe that the fish and animals that live in and near the Upper Rogue should be protected now and in the future, even if that means that some human activities are restricted,” 62% of people somewhat or strongly agreed and 26% of people disagreed. There is broader support for regulations that are specific (vs generalized) and which protect the health and wellbeing of the river ecosystem.

People suggested regulations that might limit boats by season, time of day, speed, number, etc. to minimize negative impacts on salmon habitat, waterfowl runs, etc. Other people suggested a horsepower limit between 9 - 15 HP, which would effectively ban larger powerboats and commercial jet boats. Enforceability will be a critical consideration.

“There are already protections in place to limit human activities in order to protect wildlife. For instance, fishing regulations exist to limit specific types of fishing tackle to protect sensitive populations of spring Chinook salmon, which have experienced significant declines with the construction of William Jess Dam. Flows out of the Lost Creek Reservoir are regulated to help support salmon spawning and migration in the upper river. Jet boat use activity should be monitored and brought in congruence with the other existing activities where existing safeguards and regulations are already in place to protect sensitive fish populations, such as seasonal and time-based opportunities to operate that do not jeopardize spawning habitat, boat and engine size regulations to minimize loss of riparian habitat, and slow speed regulations to safely operate around users in smaller watercrafts, wade anglers, swimmers, and blind corners to share the river with other users.” (Survey response)

In particular, we heard that there was a historic norm or “gentlemen’s agreement” that jet boats would not operate upstream of TouVelle State Recreation Site, which is reflected in the

usage maps in earlier sections. Many people suggested that jet boats should continue to be allowed to operate on the lower section of the river but not the upper section, based on the geographic features of the river. There were several suggestions for where that dividing line should be: Rattlesnake Rapids, TouVelle State Park/Table Rock Road, Dodge Bridge, Powerhouse Falls, Takelma Park, or Shady Cove. Another suggestion was to require additional education or certification for jet boat operators to run on this section of the Upper Rogue.

One version of this suggestion would include separating motorized and non-motorized boat use by season or by section, to prevent conflict among users. There was less support on the survey for this idea but it did come up frequently in conversations.

2. Increase regulation of mini-jet boats.

Many people were specifically concerned about mini-jet boats, which are relatively new and do not fit into the same regulatory category as jet skis. 11% of people who responded to the survey supported making rules specifically about mini-jet boats. Some people suggested that the Marine Board could edit the description of “personal watercraft” to include mini-jets. Others suggested increasing fees and enforcement to crack down on “bad actors,” who are breaking rules around noise, wake, and operating in tributaries, rather than banning the activity outright.

“Why would jet skis be banned, but mini jets are okay to use on the river?” (Letter submitted at the Shady Cove community conversation)

3. Limit commercial operations.

Many people made suggestions related to regulating commercial use of the river to ensure that commercial or for-profit use doesn't displace other users. Some people felt that only jet boat tours are the issue; other people are concerned about commercial operations in general (including fishing guides, rafting companies, and jet boat tours) and their interactions with each other and with individual users. The suggestions included regulations related to differentiating segments of the river for commercial use, limiting days and hours for commercial use, and limiting how public parks may be used to access the river.

“I believe some conflicts could be reduced if rafters were not allowed a start time until drift boat fishers were ahead of them. That probably can only pertain to commercial rafters as individuals will do what they want. Drift boats with small outboards to refish a fishing hole should be limited by hp. Jet boats blasting upstream as fishers are drifting downstream doesn't work. Maybe jet boats could be limited to certain days of the week.” (Survey response)

4. Ban some types of boats, including jet boats and mini-jets, for both personal and commercial use.

At the most extreme edge, some people would like to see all gas-powered boats banned from all or part of the river. Others suggested that only jet boats and mini-jet boats be banned because they are incompatible with other uses, including rafting, swimming, and fishing. People made different distinctions around horse-power, size, speed, and the boundaries of such a ban. For instance, in the community conversation at Shady Cove, many people felt that motorcraft of

“Why do we have 5 mph limits to protect swimmers and other boaters in every lake, but the river is wide open for 30 to 40 mph? Do rafters and jetboat owners abide by the navigational rules of the road?”
(Letter submitted at Shady Cove community conversation)

15 horse-power or more should be banned at TouVelle State Recreation Site and above. In other instances, people suggested that jet boats should be banned upward of Rattlesnake Rapids, Dodge Bridge, or Shady Cove.

Some people in the community conversations brought up that emergency vehicles should be excluded from this ban and allowed to operate on any section of the river.

5. Increase enforcement and awareness of existing rules, including appropriate use, rights, and how to interact with other people who are accessing the river in different ways.

People suggested that the existing rules relating to river use, including boating and fishing, as well as other recreational activities, should be clearly posted so that users are more aware of existing protocols and avenues for reporting abuse or violation. In particular people mentioned: salmon snagging, drunken rafting/boating, not wearing a life vest, theft in the parking lot, rules/norms about waiting in line or behavior at boat ramps, private land use zoning and regulations about riparian area management, and current rules for motorized boats around speed, wake, and noise. Some people suggested increasing the fees for breaking these rules as a way to crack down on “bad actors.” People also suggested educating landowners about rules and norms about river access to reduce conflicts between river users and landowners; and about how the use of their land affects fish and wildlife habitat. As mentioned above, there are ongoing questions about enforcement, including who would be responsible for increased enforcement and where the funding would come from.

“We are very happy with the way it currently is, just want to make sure that motorized boat usage above Shady Cove is fully enforced to protect fish, wildlife, and property owners in this area.”
(Survey response)

6. Implement changes with hatchery and dam management to increase fish populations.

People suggested keeping Lost Creek Dam in place and maintaining water levels and temperatures to support fish populations. We also heard a lot of frustration about the hatchery conditions and fish populations. People expressed frustration about the removal of Gold Ray Dam and how pikeminnow are impacting salmon and steelhead populations. Half of the participants in the TouVelle conversation agreed that there were issues with the hatchery that needed to be addressed.

“I’m most concerned about the lack of a strong trout population; I’d like to see the hatchery efforts ramped up to support that.”
(Survey response)

7. Improve or increase infrastructure, such as bathrooms, trails, camping areas, and boat ramps, to increase accessibility.

Many people focused on the boat ramps as sites of conflict. These suggestions included making boat ramps easier to use for powerboat users and disabled river users.

At the community conversation at TouVelle State Park, people brought up concerns with the boat ramp there. One issue is that it gets a gravel bar in front of it in the late summer that only expert boaters can safely navigate. Many of the people in attendance were in favor of moving the boat ramp; we also heard suggestions that the boat ramp should be made deeper so that boats can launch more easily.

In addition, we heard that the Fisher’s Ferry ramp is unsafe for some users experiencing disabilities or limited mobility.

People also suggested generally creating more places to access the river, both to support disabled users’ access and to spread people out more and reduce the likelihood of conflict.

“I am disabled and have difficulty with steep banks, would like a couple of easy access places for wheelchairs, and walkers for handicapped only areas.”
(Survey response)

8. Have fewer or no rules; eliminate existing rules.

There was a sizable minority of people who felt that there should be fewer rules. Many people suggested reducing existing regulations and relying instead on courtesy and education, rather than regulations. Some people felt that it is primarily an issue with rude individuals, rather than any particular activity, and are concerned about the activity being regulated or limited

because of a few individuals. They would prefer that people are able to access and use the river freely and that people who want a different river experience should go to a different place.

A few people mentioned eliminating or reducing rules around fishing, such as eliminating the “fly fishing only” rule.

9. Other suggestions.

A number of people also pointed to other examples of river management that they felt should be looked at as examples for this section. These included:

- Deschutes River (Bend)
- Willamette River (Portland area)
- Kenai River (Alaska)
- Smith River National Recreation Area, as a way of managing public land above the Lost Creek Reservoir (California)

Some people also pointed to the Middle and Lower Rogue as examples of what they would *not* like to see the Upper Rogue become.

A few people also suggested limiting suction dredge mining, limiting swimming to prevent drowning, and brought up concerns about aggregate ponds.

GAPS IN INFORMATION

“Knowledge is power and more data about the environment would be helpful to inform discussion.” (Notes from a breakout group conversation at Jackson County Library in Medford)

Many people who attended the community conversations shared or wanted to bring in statistics and studies to support their perspective and/or to educate the other people attending. Often those studies conflicted with one another. In particular, these were areas that we heard conflicting information and a desire for accurate information:

- Current use of the river, including how many powerboats operate, what kind, how often, etc.
- Existing boating rules and regulations
- Existing rules relating to commercial use of public parks and the rationale
- How peoples’ activities impact river health and fish and wildlife habitat, in particular how the environmental impact of jet boats compares to wading, kayaking, rafting, paddle boarding, etc. on this stretch of the river.

We also heard from a few people that the Endangered Species designation of the Western Pond Turtle would significantly impact this stretch of the river; most people we talked with were not aware of either the potential effects or of that conversation.

In considering future decisions, it would be helpful to share any technical studies that are being used with the community.

“Power boating the rogue is a tradition dating back to the 50’s. Impact studies conducted by federal and state agencies have concluded there is little to no impact on river health. I wish people would focus on the biggest impacts like agricultural/urban runoff and sewage treatment facilities.” (Survey response)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

1. Future Rulemaking

Among highly engaged residents, there is a strong focus on the state agencies and any future actions they might take. There is significant interest in further engagement with the agencies if any of them were to create additional rules, regulations, or formal policies. People hope to have additional input on the specifics of any future proposals related to this stretch of the Rogue.

There was also agreement from a variety of points of view that input should not come from just one set of stakeholders or interests, but that the agencies should seek to hear from people with a wide range of opinions before making any final decisions.

We heard a lot of frustration from people who feel they have been passed from agency to agency, that their input was not meaningfully heard, or their phone calls weren’t returned. For many people, the highlight of this engagement process was the opportunity to connect face-to-face with agency staff. As part of future engagement, people would like to see clarity and coordination among state agencies, in-person connection, and opportunities for dialogue.

2. Information and Data

People also hope that future decision making is informed by sound information and data about the environmental, recreational, and economic impacts of current activities, as well as any proposed changes. Community members would also like access to that data and the other information that underlies any future decision making. Many people from a range of perspectives also felt that decisions should be informed by first-hand experience and knowledge about the region. Some people felt that decision-makers should come to the area, ride in a jet boat, raft the river, or otherwise experience it firsthand before considering any regulations.

3. Ongoing Relationship Building

Many people love this stretch of river and care about its future. Even so, there were many competing priorities for community members and community organizations this summer, making it more difficult to hear from community members who were less steeped in the issues surrounding the river and the potential decisions that the agencies are considering. Many of those people—particularly those who have been left out of traditional engagement processes—are unlikely to come to a large community meeting, particularly one that is only in English and/or likely to be contentious. There are opportunities for the agencies and other decision-makers to build relationships with those community members in the places where they already gather and to use places like the picnic areas at TouVelle to invite culturally specific communities for events along the river.

4. Futures Thinking

This is a rapidly changing area, and the river and river use is also changing. Because of the nature of current controversies and difficulties in imagining what a longer term future might look like, many people’s vision of the future replicated their current experience or memories from the past. As the agencies plan for the long-term, it might be useful for them to engage community members in a more extended futures exercise. In order to grapple with changing conditions and long-term thinking, tools like foresight, long-term planning, or futures thinking may be beneficial to help people think about long-term impacts of changing conditions, current and future activities, and potential regulations.

5. Community Dynamics

Given that community and interpersonal conflicts have simmered – and sometimes boiled over—around this stretch of river for many years, it is unlikely that any state government decision (or non-decision) will resolve those conflicts and the hard feelings they have engendered. Therefore, alongside any action taken by state agencies, it is likely that community conflicts and damaged relationships will need to be addressed at the local level.

CONCLUSION

This engagement process was intended to provide OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL with a sense of what people value and want to see for the future of this section of the Rogue River. While this particular period of engagement has ended, we encourage state agencies to return to community members to share how their input will inform future decisions and/or next steps.. These future decisions will also call for additional focused engagement if any of the agencies were to undertake a formal rulemaking process. The shared passion and care for this river has been obvious in the community gatherings and we have been honored to get to meet and hear from such a wide range of people who care so deeply about this place. We believe that when everyone can come to the table, we can make better decisions about shaping our shared future. Throughout this process, nearly everyone we talked with expressed a strong desire that both visitors and local residents will continue to enjoy this stretch of the river and to ensure that future generations of Oregonians can continue to connect to the river in a variety of ways.



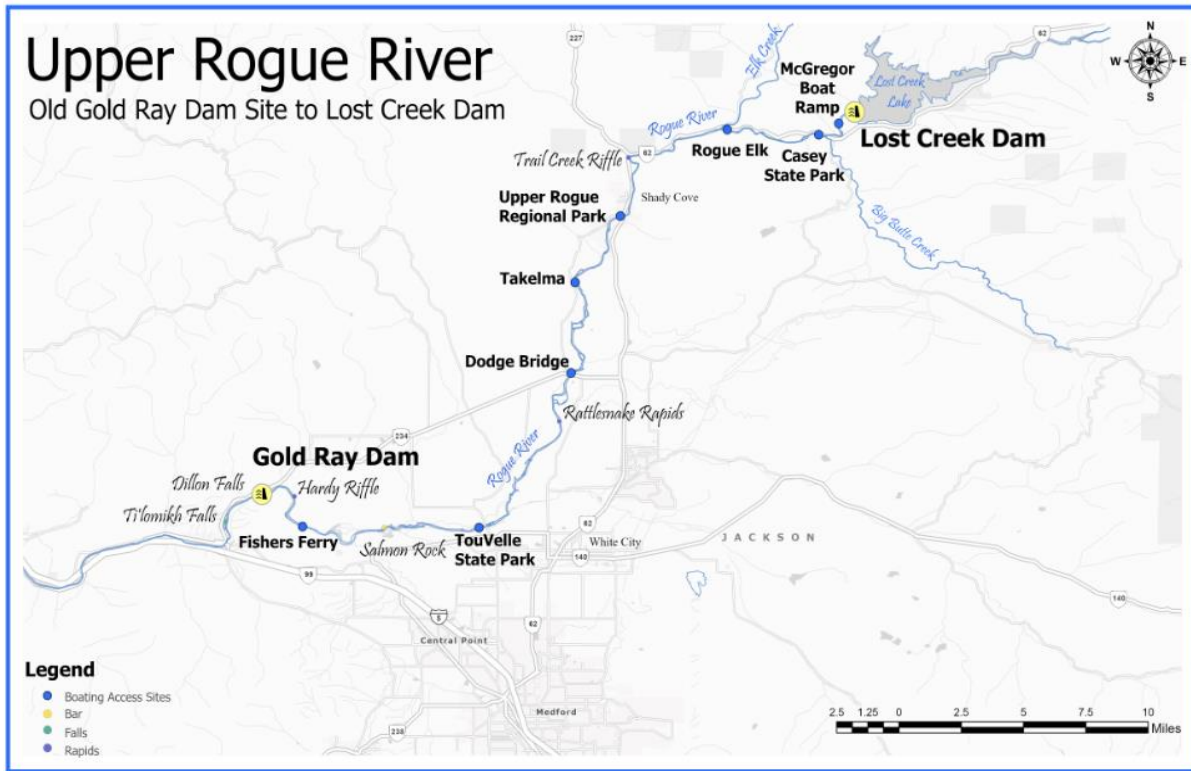
APPENDICES

- A. Annotated survey
- B. Description of project design & outreach
- C. Maps of recreational use
- D. Outreach flyers
- E. Community conversation design
- F. Slides from Zoom community conversation
- G. Kitchen Table Conversation Guide
- H. Community connector interview protocol

INTRODUCTION

Would you please answer some questions to share your hopes and desires for this section of the Upper Rogue River?

Many people use the Upper Rogue River (specifically between the old Gold Ray Dam site to the Lost Creek Dam) for a whole variety of activities. Some people fish and swim or want to protect fish and animals in the river. Some people enjoy the river using boats, either with paddles or motors. And there are several businesses that take customers up and down the river, some in rafts and some in power boats, like jet boats.



Over the past few years, there has been some conflict about how people are using and enjoying the Upper Rogue. Some of those people believe that increased use of motor boats, especially the businesses using jet boats, make those activities difficult or impossible. Some other people believe that everyone can enjoy the river together, including jet boats. The river is also changing over time because of things like lower water and more people wanting to use it at the same time.

The State of Oregon is considering making changes that some people have suggested related to the Upper Rogue. Before any decisions are made, we would like to know more about how you and others feel about that stretch of river and how you use it.

If you live in Jackson County or visit the Upper Rogue, please share your thoughts in this survey.

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

BACKGROUND

Who are we?

Oregon's Kitchen Table is a statewide program that works to help Oregonians share their thoughts and ideas to influence the decisions that affect them.

Why are we asking about the Upper Rogue River?

We are asking about this section of the Upper Rogue River because some people want state government to change how people use this section of the river. Other people don't want changes. A lot of other people haven't spoken up yet. So, state government wants to hear what more people think and feel about the river.

The state is hoping to hear from as many people as possible about how they use or would like to use the upper Rogue River. They would also like to hear about your hopes for the future of that stretch of river. The state is hoping to hear from all kinds of people, including people who live in Jackson County and people who visit the area.

What will happen with your input?

Your input will help several Oregon state agencies (Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) better understand your values and hopes for the river as they makes decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue River and the land around it now and in the future.

Later this summer, Oregon's Kitchen Table will give those state agencies a report with the results of this survey and what we learned at other community conversations and events. The report will also be sent to people who shared their ideas and shared their email address. We will also post it on Oregon's Kitchen Table's website. You will be able to see the report here: <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>

How can you help?

Please share your thoughts in this survey. Ask people you know who live in Jackson County or who visit the Upper Rogue River to take this survey.

You can also attend a community conversation. You can learn more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue-register>

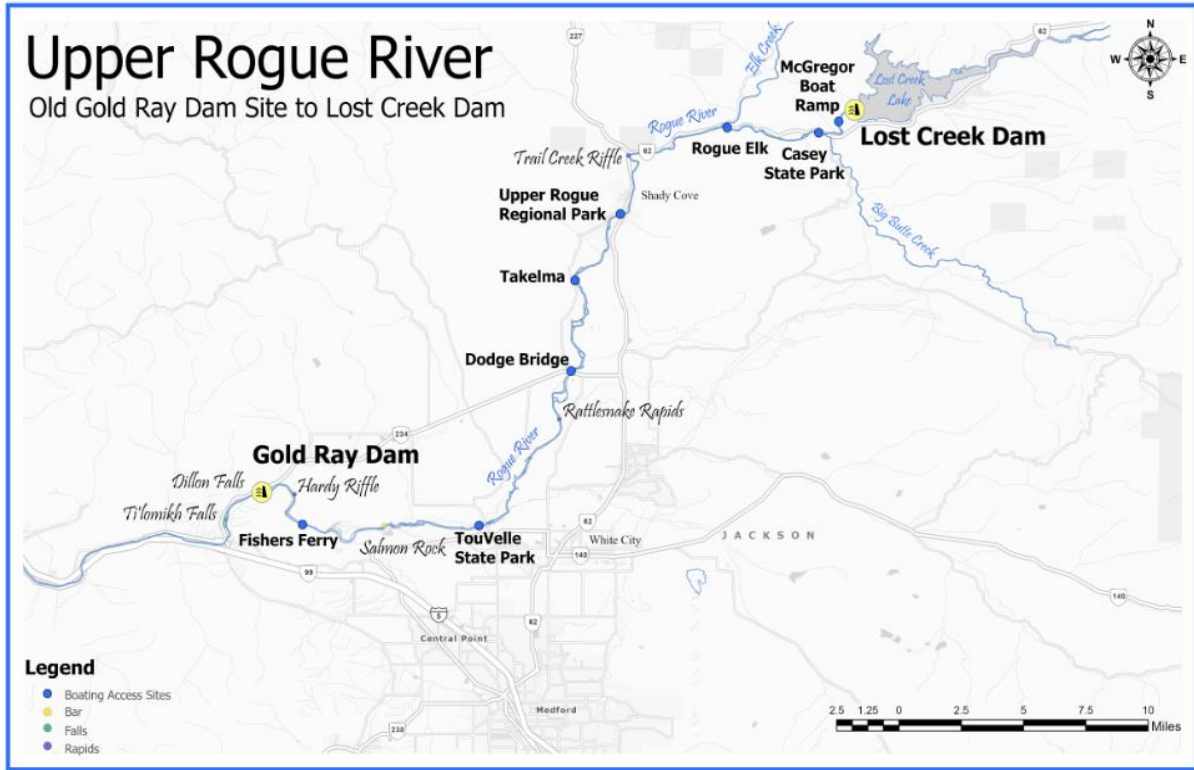
Are you part of a group that may want to hold a conversation about the Upper Rogue River? Contact us at (info@oregonskitchentable.org) if you have an event this spring where you think people would be interested in talking about the Upper Rogue.

To learn more, visit our website here: <https://tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue>.

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

QUESTIONS

First, we will ask about your own experiences on this section of the Upper Rogue River.



1. In the past three years, how many times did you visit this section of the Upper Rogue River? (If none of these fit, please choose the closest one.)

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2085
Never	3%
Once or twice over the past three years	11%
Once or twice per year	25%
Every month or so	32%
Once or twice per week	19%
Every day or almost every day	10%

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

2. Please select all of the activities that you do in or near the Upper Rogue River.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2074
Swim	39%
Watch the river while I picnic or relax on the bank	59%
Watch birds, salmon, or other animals	56%
Walk or hike near the river	57%
Raft	47%
Operate or ride in jetboats or other powerboats	23%
Kayak or paddle	27%
Drift boat	38%
Fish for myself or my family	67%
Draw water to irrigate crops or gardens	6%
Visit for cultural or spiritual activities	10%
Earn money from activities on the river	2%
Live on the river	8%
Hunt, trap, or harvest traditional foods	10%
Work to protect the river for the future	16%
Other activities (describe here)	3% <i>Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.</i>

3. We've heard that people use different parts of the Upper Rogue River for different activities. Where do you do the activities you selected?

Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

4. Some people have said they would like to visit or use the river more. If you'd like to use or visit the river more, what would make that possible? From the list below, please choose the one you like the most.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2058
I want more designated swimming areas	2%
I want changes that make activities easier for people experiencing disability	2%
I want more access to hunting, fishing, or food gathering areas	12%
I want more places to put in or take out a boat from the river	6%

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

I want more activities at the river that teach me about the cultural history of the area	1%
I want more activities at the river that teach me about the plants and animals of the area	1%
I want more jetboat rides or other adventurous activities	9%
I want less noise from loud or motorized activities	34%
I want more activities at the river that let me protect and improve the river	10%
I am satisfied with my experience of the river	15%
There is no change that would help me interact more	8%

Thank you for telling us about your experience with the Upper Rogue. Now we have some questions about your values related to that stretch of the river. Please mark how much you agree or disagree.

5. I believe that everyone should be able to use the Upper Rogue, including jetboat and rafting companies that make it easier for more people to enjoy the river.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2083
Strongly disagree	39%
Somewhat disagree	21%
Neutral	6%
Somewhat agree	10%
Strongly agree	25%

6. I believe that the fish and animals that live in and near the Upper Rogue should be protected now and in the future, even if that means that some human activities are restricted.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2087
Strongly disagree	15%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Neutral or Not sure	12%
Somewhat agree	17%
Strongly agree	45%

Some people say there is conflict between people using the river for different activities or between the way people use the river and what fish and other animals need. Now we will ask you about conflicts related to the river.

7. Have you had a conflict or seen any conflict among people at the river? Choose the answer that best fits.

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2084
I have personally had or seen a conflict	34%
I haven't personally had or seen a conflict, but I've heard about one	30%
I haven't had a conflict, seen a conflict, or heard about any	32%
I'm not sure	4%

8. This part of the Upper Rogue River is used in many ways. Some people argue that some activities interfere with other human activities or with fish and animals. Please choose the *one* statement you agree with most. You do not have to agree completely.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2076
If some people use the river how they want to, it means other people or animals can't use the river the way they want to. Some activities should be banned.	39%
Everyone can share the river. Rules should limit some activities in some places to protect other activities or wildlife.	28%
There may be conflict among river users, but what we need is courtesy, respect, and awareness, not more rules.	34%

Please tell us more about your answer if you want to.

Responses provided separately.

9. Here are some suggestions people have made to solve conflicts about river use. Please choose the 3 that you like best. Please choose only 3.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2058
Designate more swimming areas.	9%
Create more places to access the river on foot.	26%
Add more places to put in and and take out boats.	18%
Make boats with motors and boats without motors use separate parts of the river.	15%
Make new rules about how people are allowed to use power boats, including jetboats.	35%
Prohibit use of certain types of boats on parts of the river where they might harm fish and other animals.	54%
Educate people about existing boating rules and courteous shared river use.	28%
Create rules specifically for mini-jetboats.	11%

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

Restrict how businesses use parks and other public spaces.	21%
Restore fish and animal habitat on the bank and in the river.	31%
Make no changes.	13%
Other (describe here)	6%

10. What are you most concerned about for the future of the Upper Rogue? Please mark all that apply

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2063
Decreasing water level	31%
Increasing jetboat use	58%
Harm to fish and other animals and their habitats	59%
More people using the river as the population grows	25%
Losing public access	44%
Damage to the banks and areas around them	42%
Harmful algae blooms	32%
Other (describe here)	9% <i>Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.</i>

11. This question asks you to think about what you want the Upper Rogue River to be like in the future. We list two very different ideas about how the river could be. Please mark how you want the river to be in the future, from “easy access” to “most protected.”

1. **EASY ACCESS:** All people, whether they live near the river or not, find it easy and welcoming to enjoy the Rogue from boats or the bank for a wide variety of recreation.
2. **MOST PROTECTED:** People who want to experience the river may have to travel short distances to places that allow the activity they want to do, with more general river access being limited to protect the environment.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2066
Easy Access	18%
Somewhat Easy Access	9%
Balanced	32%
Somewhat Protected	21%
Most Protected	19%

Or, you can write your own description of what you want the Upper Rogue River to be like in the future.

Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

12. Is there anything else you want to share about this part of the Upper Rogue River?

Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

Now we will ask some questions about you. The answers tell us if we are hearing from a wide range of people. You can choose to answer these or not.

13. What is your zip code?

If you live outside of the United States, what country do you live in?

Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

14. How old are you?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 2084
17 years old and younger	.2%
18 to 29 years old	5%
30 to 39 years old	12%
40 to 49 years old	15%
50 to 59 years old	18%
60 to 69 years old	23%
70 or older	24%
I prefer not to answer	3%

15. Which races and ethnicities do you consider yourself to be? Please mark all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 1898
American Indian, Alaska Native	7%
Canadian (Inuit, Métis and First Nation)	< 1%
Indigenous Mexican, Central American	< 1%
Indigenous South American	< 1%
Asian Indian	< 1%
Chinese	< 1%
Filipino	< 1%
Hmong	< 1%
Japanese	< 1%
Korean	< 1%
Laotian	< 1%
Vietnamese	< 1%

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

South Asian	< 1%
Other Asian	< 1%
African (Black)	< 1%
Black, African American	< 1%
Caribbean (Black)	< 1%
Other Black	< 1%
Mexican	1%
Central American	< 1%
South American	< 1%
Other Hispanic or Latinx	1%
Middle Eastern	< 1%
North African	< 1%
Native Hawaiian	< 1%
Guamanian or Chamorro	< 1%
Marshallese, Micronesian, Palauan	< 1%
Samoan	< 1%
Tongan	< 1%
Other Pacific Islander	< 1%
Slavic	1%
Eastern European	5%
Western European	30%
Other White	56%

If you want to, please share in your own words how you describe your race, origin, ethnicity, ancestry or Tribal affiliations, please use this space:

Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

14. Do you or one of your family members experience a disability that affects your use of or relationship to the Upper Rogue River?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Total answers to survey = 2101
Yes, I or one of my family members experiences a disability.	17%

If you want to, please tell us more about how disability impacts your use of the river.
Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB, and DSL.

Appendix A. Annotated Survey

15. What language do you prefer to get information in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 1723
English	99%
Spanish	<1%
Other language not listed here (please write the language)	<1% <i>Responses provided to OPRD, ODFW, OSMB and DSL.</i>

Thank you for sharing! Your input will help several Oregon state agencies (Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) better understand your values and hopes for the river as they make decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue River and the land around it now and in the future.

Appendix B. Description of Project Design & Outreach

Oregon’s Kitchen Table, in partnership with the state agencies, developed a multi-faceted set of engagement activities. Below please find a high-level description of the activities.

- Prior to formal engagement, OKT staff interviewed 31 people representing 22 organizations from different sectors including: guides and outfitters, nonprofits and advocacy organizations, culturally specific organizations, boat builders, commercial jet boat operators, local government, law enforcement, and tourism and economic development organizations.
 - The purpose of these conversations was to learn how and where issues around this part of the Rogue are being talked about. These conversations helped to inform the design and outreach for the community engagement process.
- In partnership with the four agencies, we hosted three in-person public meetings (called “community conversations”) in Jackson County and one virtual conversation between May and June 2024. All of the conversations were in English with Spanish interpretation available.
 - Staff from each agency were present at all conversations to provide the opportunity for direct dialogue and in-person connection.
 - One conversation was held in Zoom in English, with Spanish interpretation available, to provide an opportunity for people from different regions to connect. The other three conversations were held in Shady Cove, TouVelle State Recreation Area, and Medford.
 - The conversations were designed as opportunities to hear from a wide range of people about their connection to the river, their hopes for the river, and to consider which approach to managing conflict would best support the future they hoped for. The design for the conversations is attached as **Appendix E**.
- We also hosted an online survey in English and Spanish and made paper copies available at tabling events. The text of the survey is available in **Appendix A**. 2,101 people responded to the survey.
- We tabled, spoke with community members, and invited people to take the survey (paper version) or fill out a card about their connection to and hopes for the river at five different community and culturally specific events, including:
 - Juneteenth (Medford)
 - Medford Pride
 - Central Point 4th of July celebration
 - The Lantern (a storytelling event) (Ashland)
 - Rogue Jet Boat Adventures concert (Discovery Park)

- We also worked with community organizers and partners to support community members in giving input through interviews, paper or online surveys, and in community discussions. Community organizers connected with people through phone calls, text messages, in-person outreach, and tabling.
- We also partnered with the Civics Learning Project (CLP) to host a conversation with high school students from Eagle Point as part of CLP’s annual Law Day gathering at Southern Oregon University.
- We offered a Kitchen Table Conversation Guide (**Appendix G**) for any community group to hold their own conversation.
 - Rogue RiverKeepers organized a conversation
 - The Upper Rogue Guardians organized a conversation.
 - Jackson County organized a conversation to gather input from people working in the economic development and tourism sectors
- **Outreach:** Many organizations helped with outreach and distributing the survey. Oregon’s Kitchen Table, state agencies, and multiple partners conducted outreach, primarily through online channels, such as social media and emails. Some highlights include:
 - State agencies used their email lists and social media platforms to let people know about opportunities to participate.
 - Email outreach also included:
 - everyone in Jackson County who had a motorized boat or angler’s license
 - people who have reserved a campsite at TouVelle State Park in the past five years
 - people who participated in the 2022 input process around a jet boat concession at TouVelle State Park
 - a list of community leaders provided by Jackson County
 - State agencies and partners also distributed flyers to all of the parks along this stretch of the river.
 - We also placed flyers at community gathering locations along this stretch of the river.
 - Participants in the community conversations and people we talked with at community events were also invited to share the online survey with their networks.
 - Oregon’s Kitchen Table reached out through our own email list and social media channels.
- **Tribal engagement:** Agencies invited tribes to engage in direct discussions with them and to participate in the OKT process.

Content for engagement

Because this engagement was intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding this part of the Rogue River as well as the state agencies. It was our goal to ensure that people who didn't have a high level of technical knowledge could still respond and share what they believe and have experienced, as well as valuing the in-depth knowledge and technical expertise that many people hold.

We developed questions and prompts for the survey and community conversations that fell into several general areas:

- How people see themselves as connected to this part of the Rogue River
- What people would like to see for the future of this part of the river
- What approaches to conflict people feel will be most effective

Through the survey, participants were also asked where they live, their age, their race, ethnicity or Tribal affiliation, whether they or a family member experienced a disability that impacts their relationship to the river, and their preferred language.

The full text of the survey is available in **Appendix A**.

Appendix C. Maps of where people use the river

Technical notes about maps:

Most of these maps are based on survey responses only (not comments from community conversations, tabling, or other written input.) We asked people, “Where do you do the activities you selected?” Many people replied with specific locations (ex. “Touvelle State Park for hiking, birding and relaxing”); and many people replied with stretches of river (ex. “I recreate between fisher's ferry and lost creek dam.”)

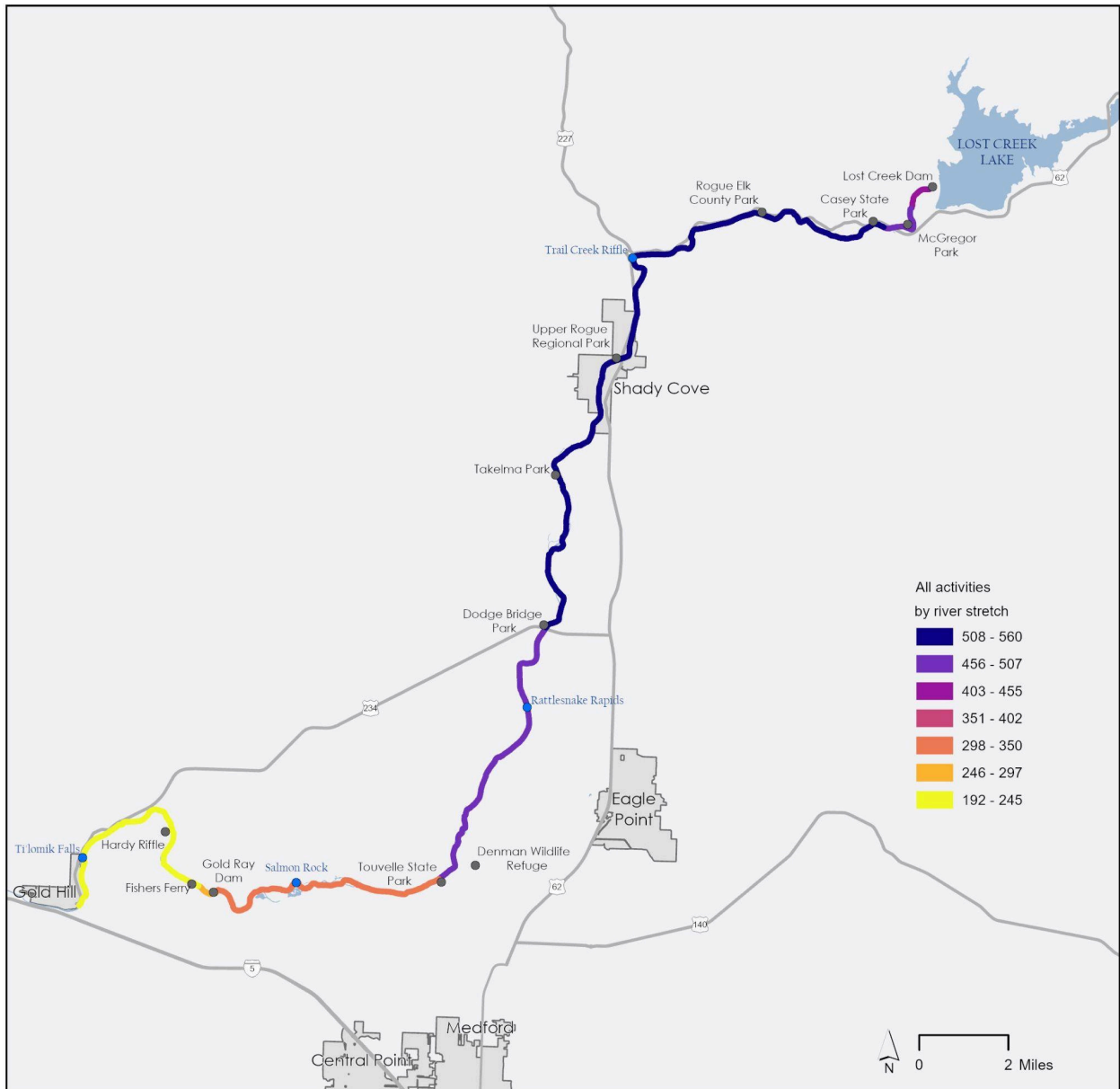
We created different maps to show both specific points and stretches of river/lines. If a person indicated a stretch of the river, it was only included in the line map. For example, Touvelle to Dodge Bridge would be shown in the line map. A single location or a list of locations is only included in the points map.

If survey responses include both a stretch of the river and single or list of locations, that stretch would be included on the lines map, while the single or list of locations would be on the points map. In some cases, people wrote locations or endpoints of a stretch of river that was ambiguous or difficult for us to locate. If one endpoint location provided in the line data is ambiguous, based on local knowledge, or unable to locate, the known location was included on the points map.. Responses that include variations of "the whole", "the entire", "all sections", "all parts", or "full length" of the river, the upper Rogue River or the Rogue are generalized to include the entire area of interest from Lost Creek Dam to Gold Hill.

Locations that include variations of the dam are generalized to Lost Creek Dam rather than Gold Ray Dam, as the former is the only intact dam.

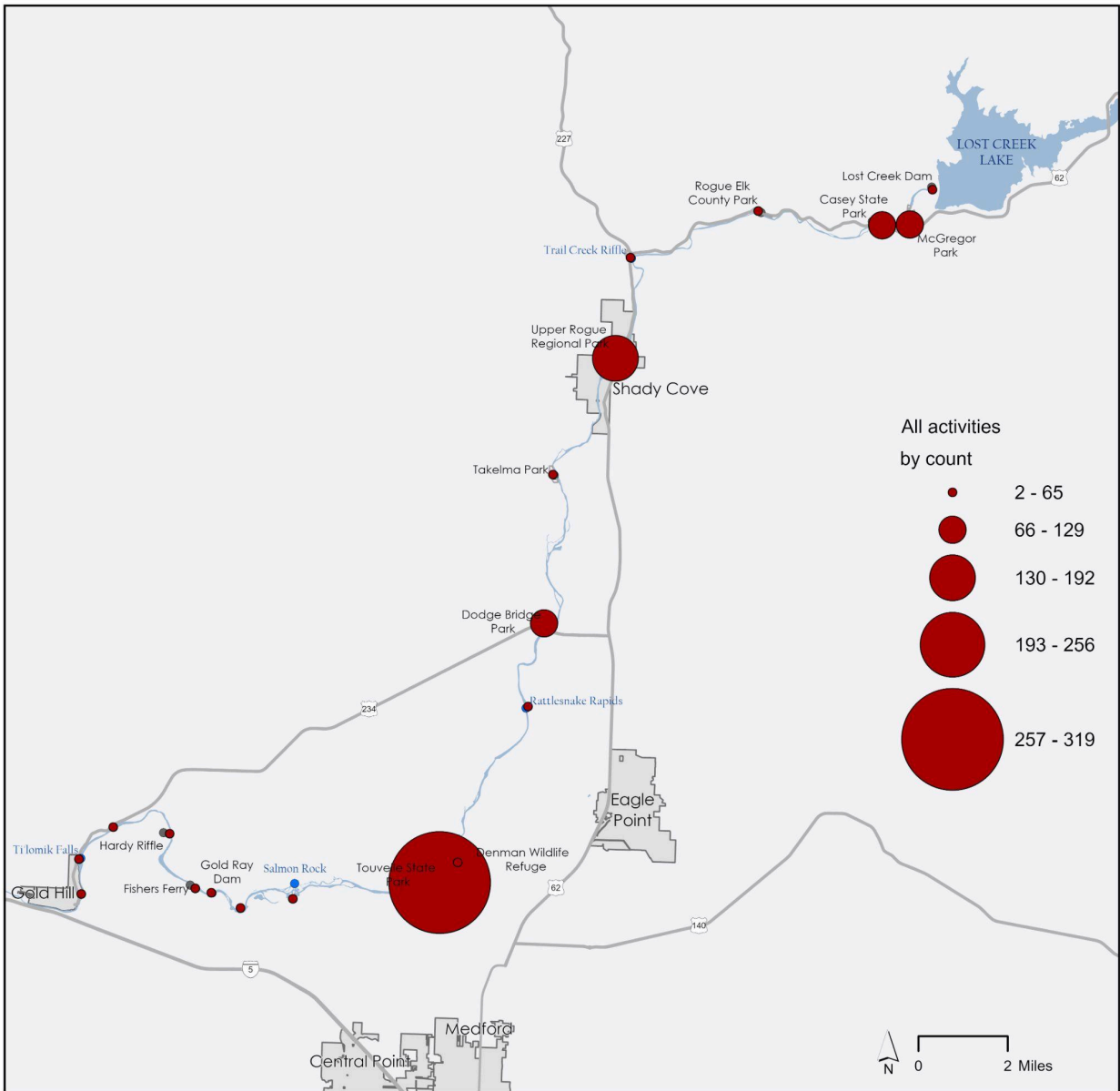
The area of interest includes the stretch of the river between Lost Creek Dam and the former Gold Ray Dam site. The reference map used in both the survey and in the community conversations inadvertently identified Gold Ray Dam downstream from its actual location. To compensate for this discrepancy, the area of interest was extended to Gold Hill. Endpoint locations that fall outside of the area of interest are generalized to begin or end within the area of interest. For example, Touvelle to Grants Pass is generalized as from Touvelle to Gold Hill.

Map A1. Where people use the river for all activities (responses from survey only) - Line version



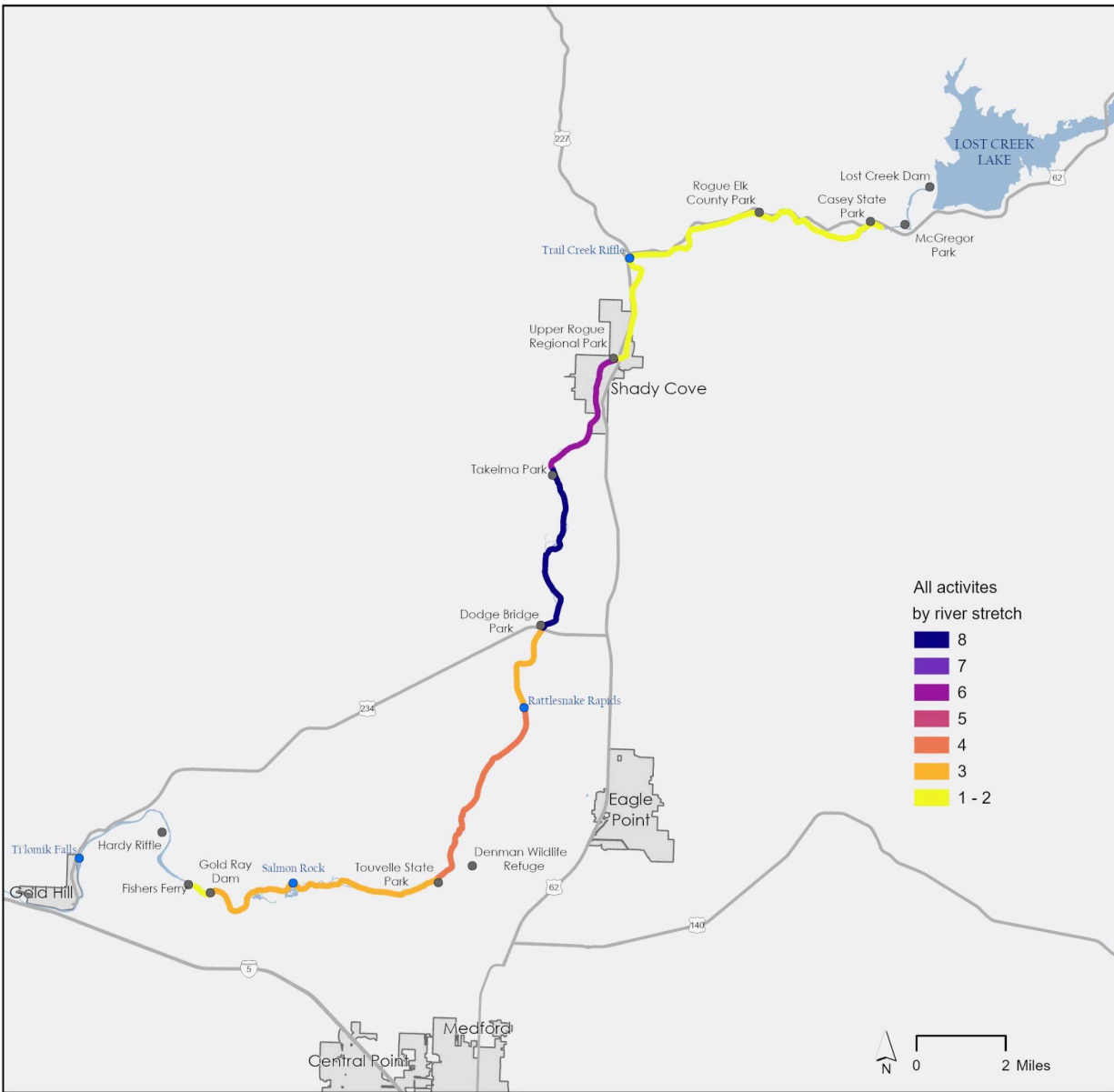
All activities on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A2. Where people use the river for all activities (responses from survey only) - Point version



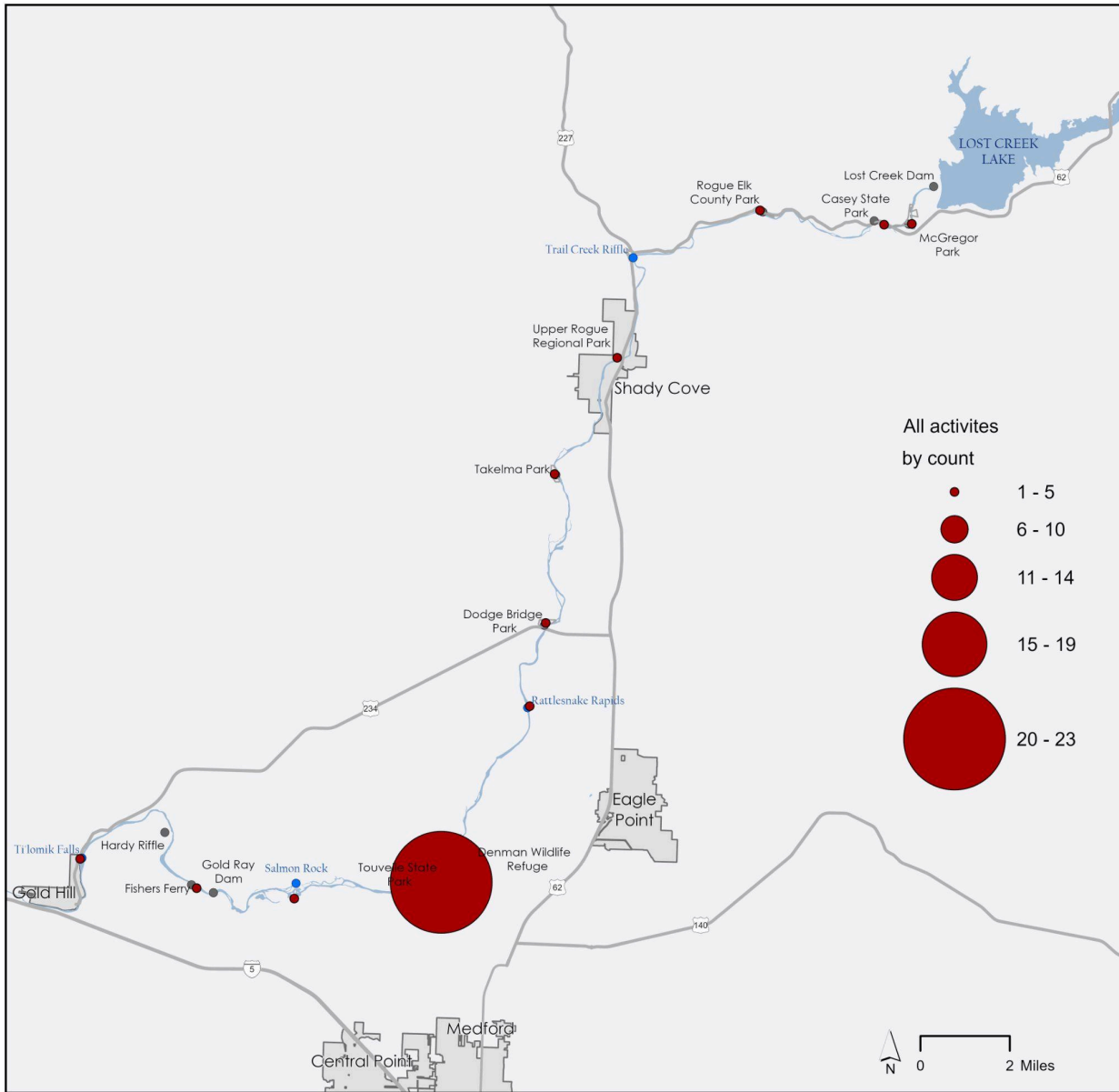
All activities on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A3. Where people use the river for all activities. (community conversation results) - Line version



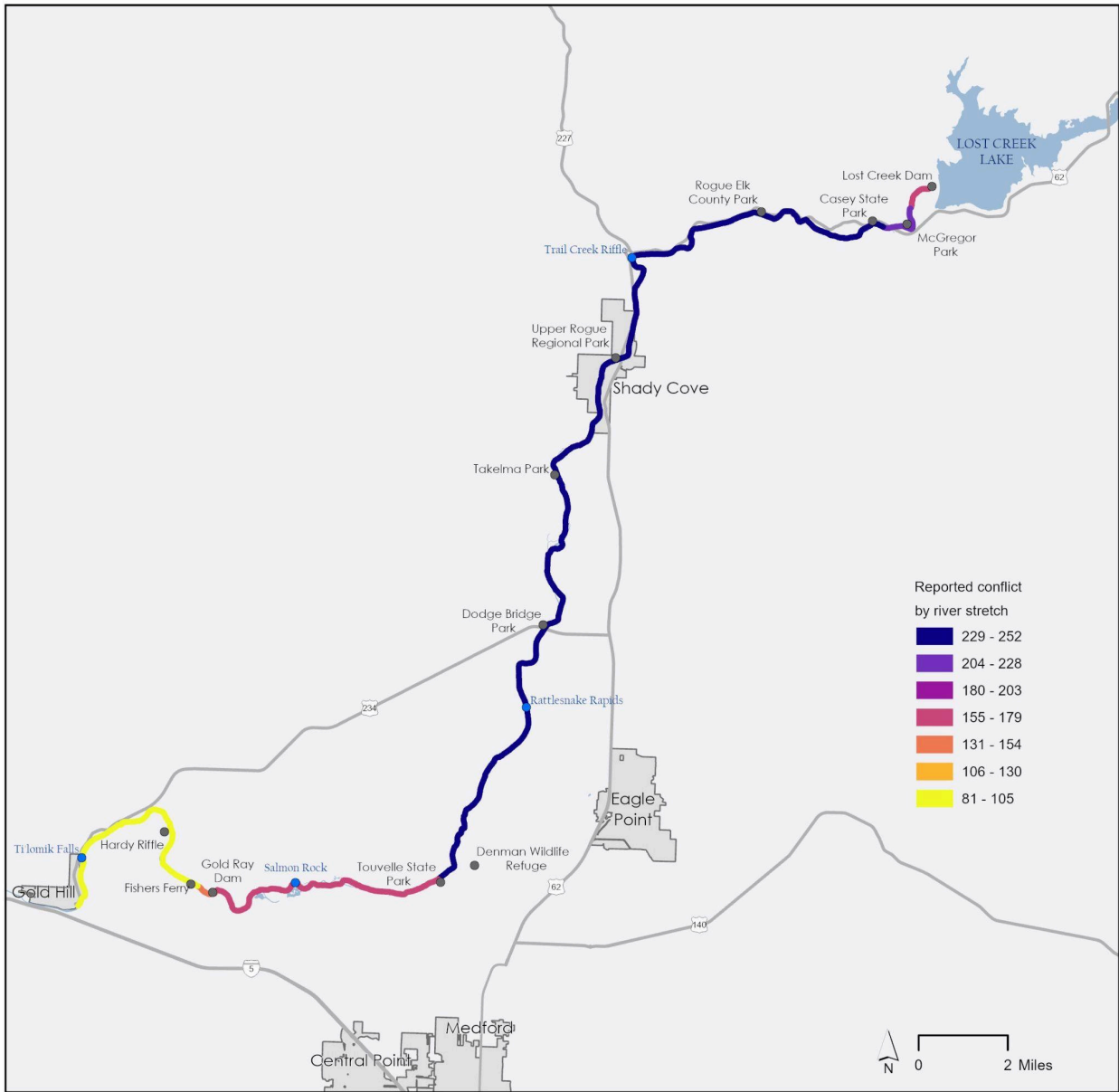
All activities on the Upper Rogue River from community conversations.

Map A4. Where people use the river for all activities. (community conversation results) - Point version



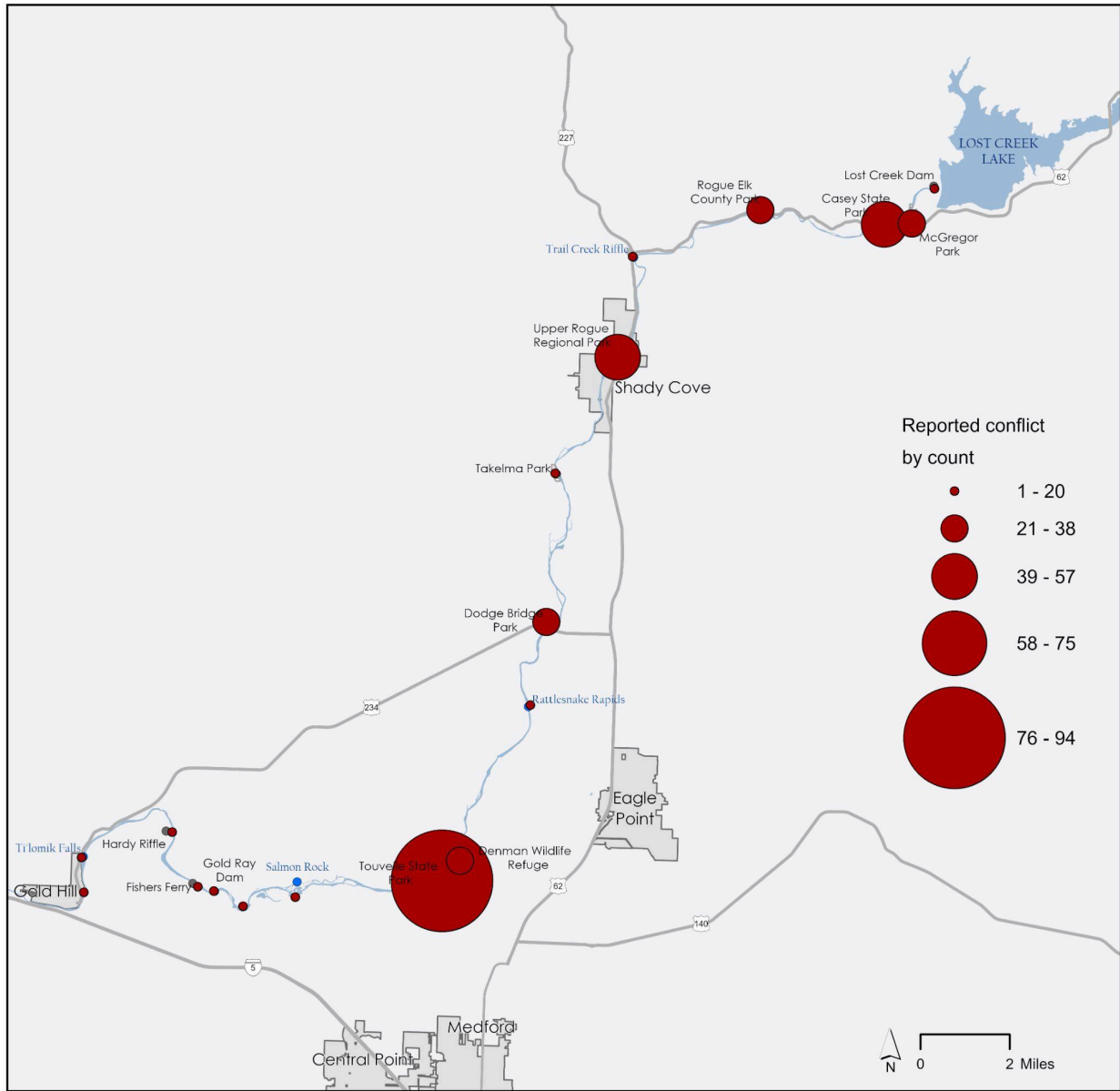
All activities on the Upper Rogue River from community conversations.

Map C1. Where people who reported experiencing conflict use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Line version



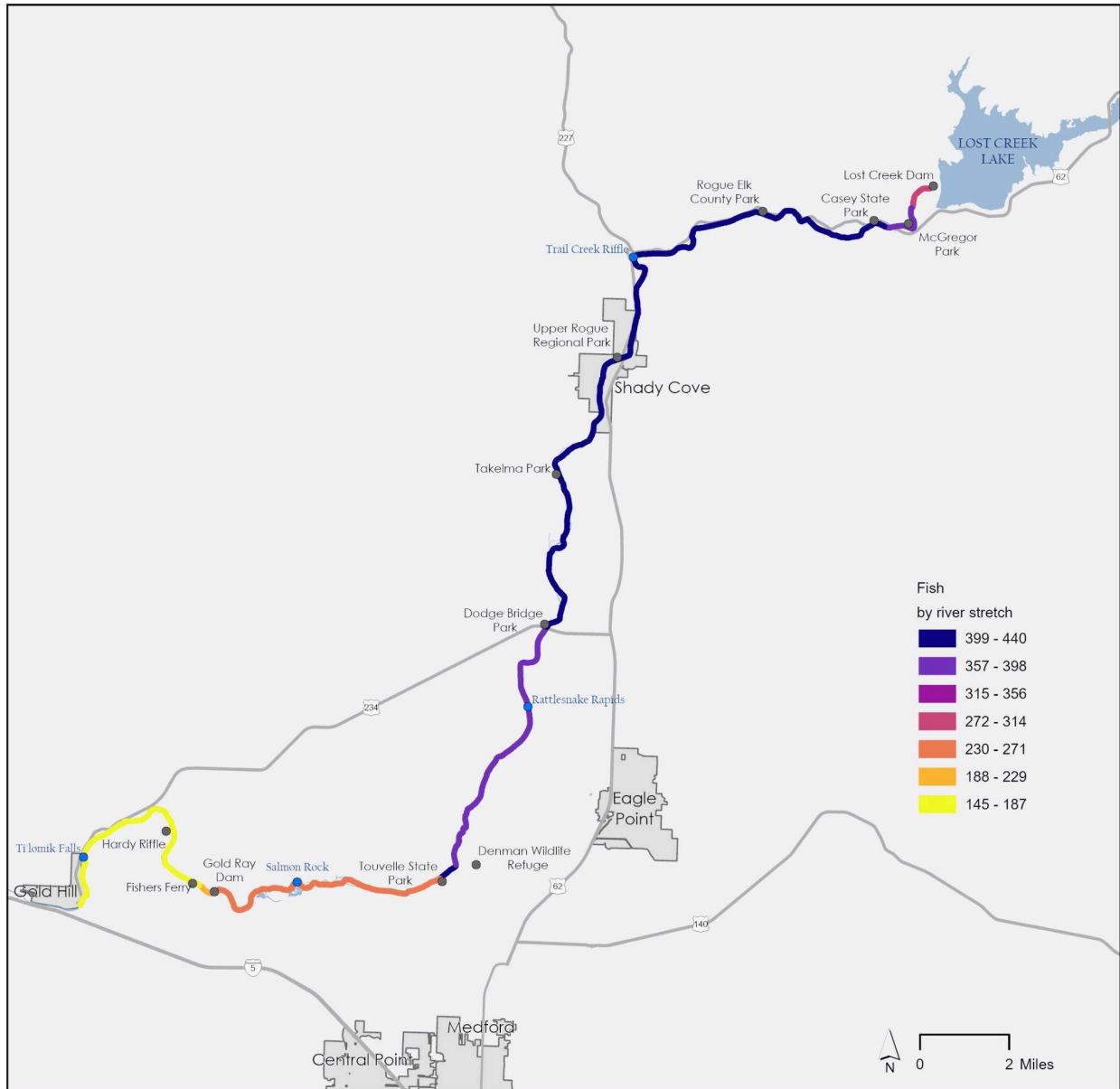
Reported conflict on the Upper Rogue River.

Map C2. Where people who reported experiencing conflict use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Point version



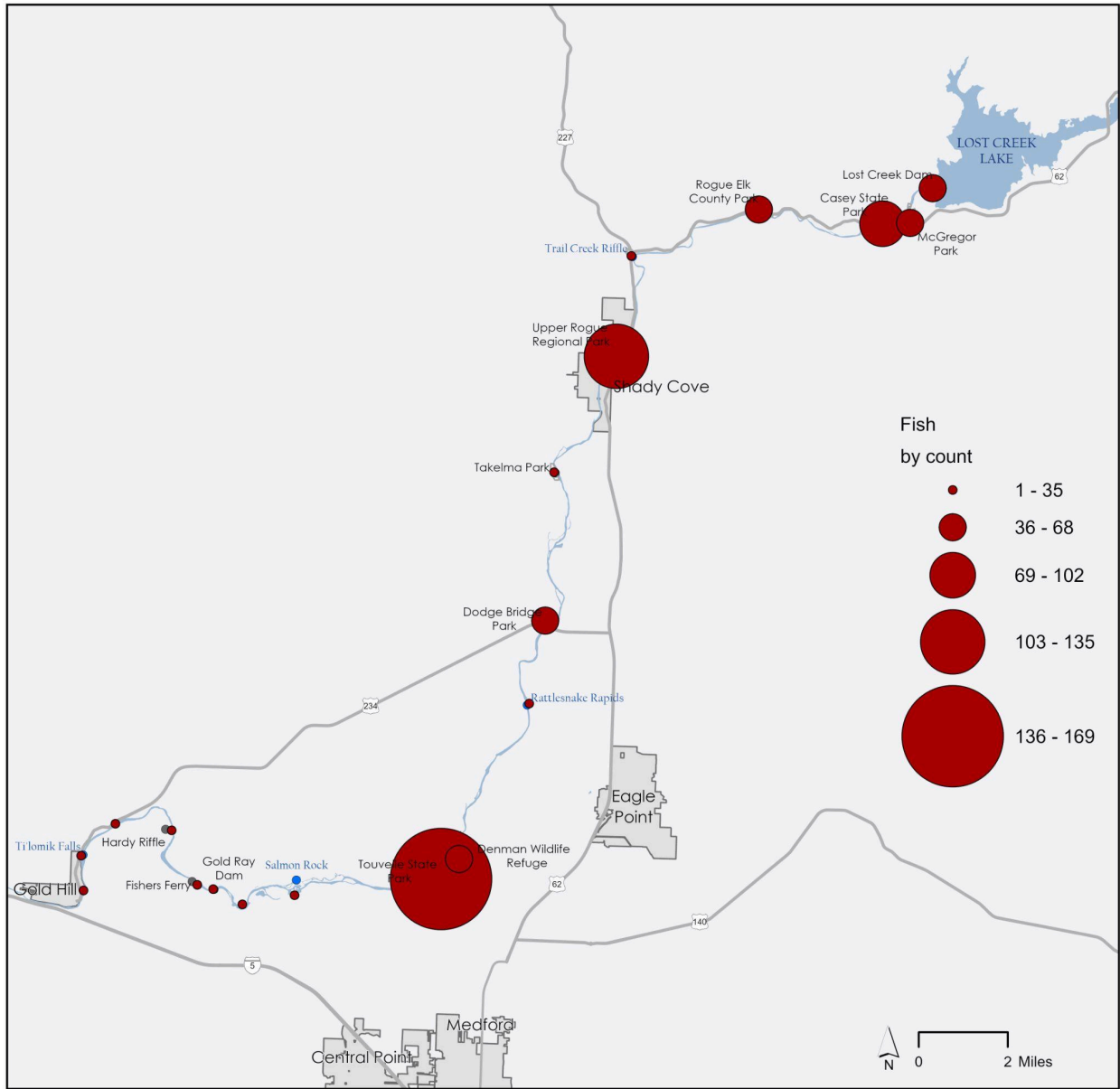
Reported conflict on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A5. Where people who fish use the river (Responses from survey only)
 - Line version



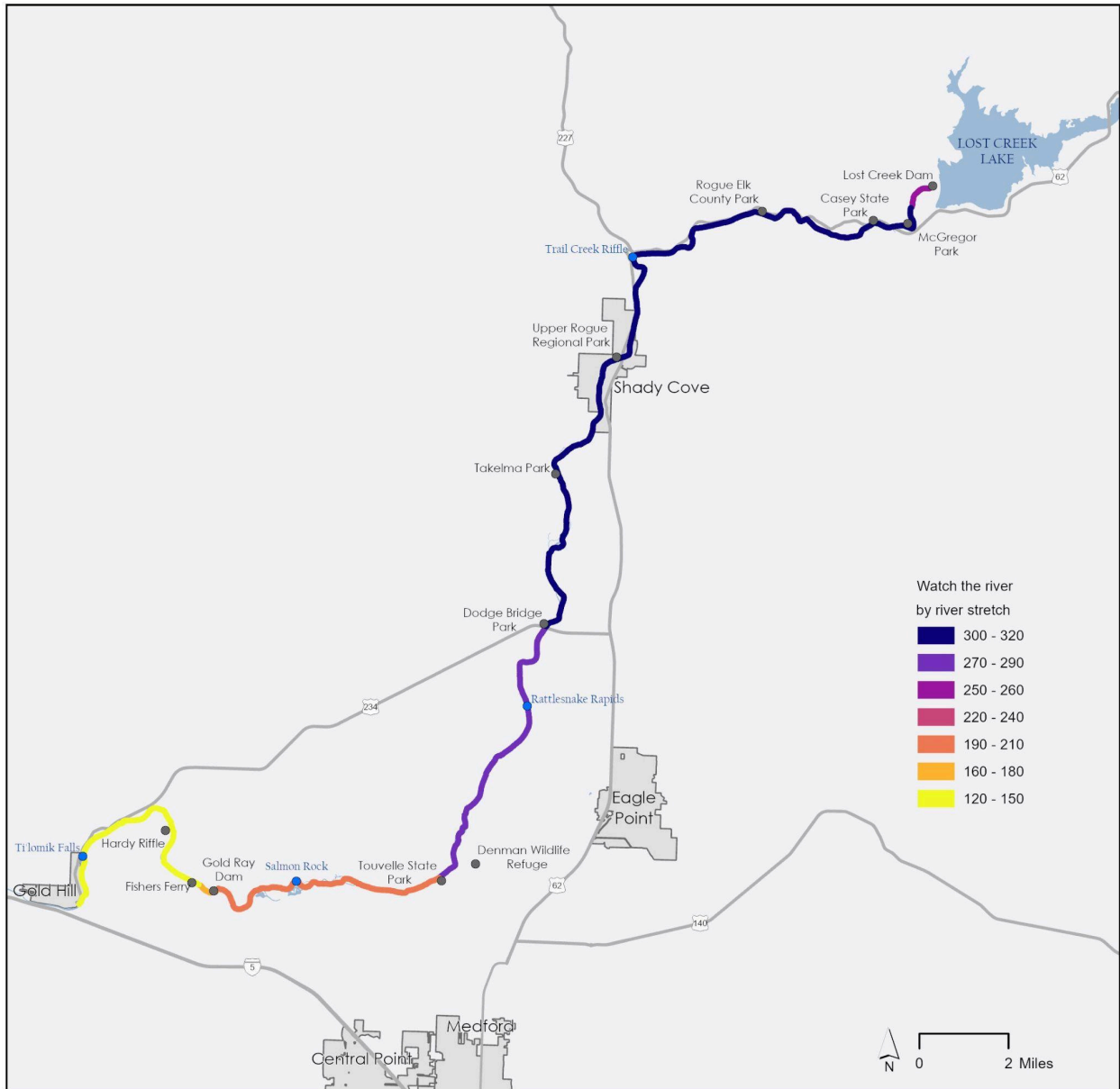
Fishing on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A6. Where people who fish use the river (Responses from survey only)
 - Point version



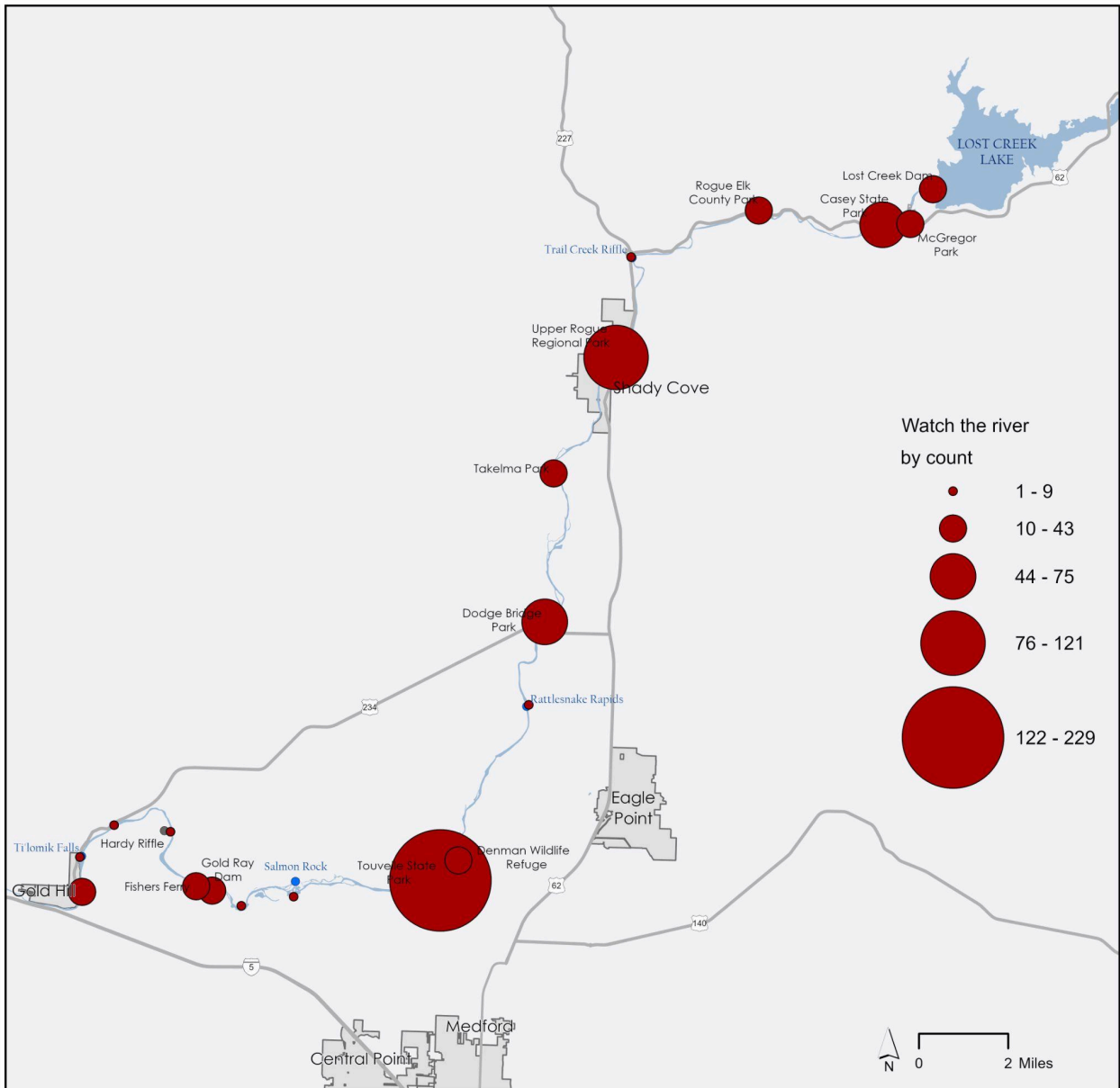
Fishing on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A7. Where people who watch the river while picnicking, relaxing reported using the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



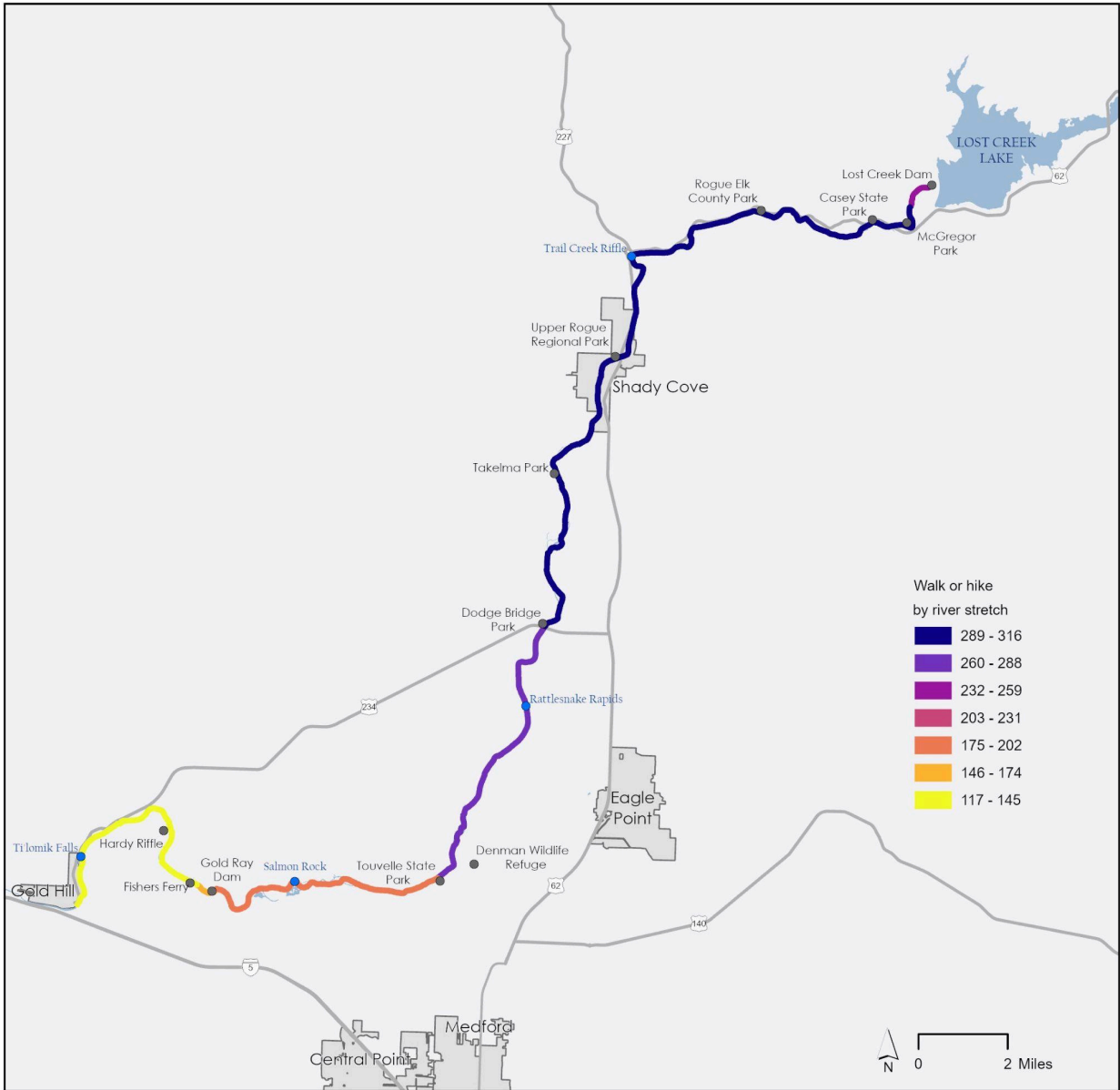
Watch the river while picnicking or relaxing on the banks of the Upper Rogue River.

Map A8. Where people who watch the river while picnicking, relaxing reported using the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



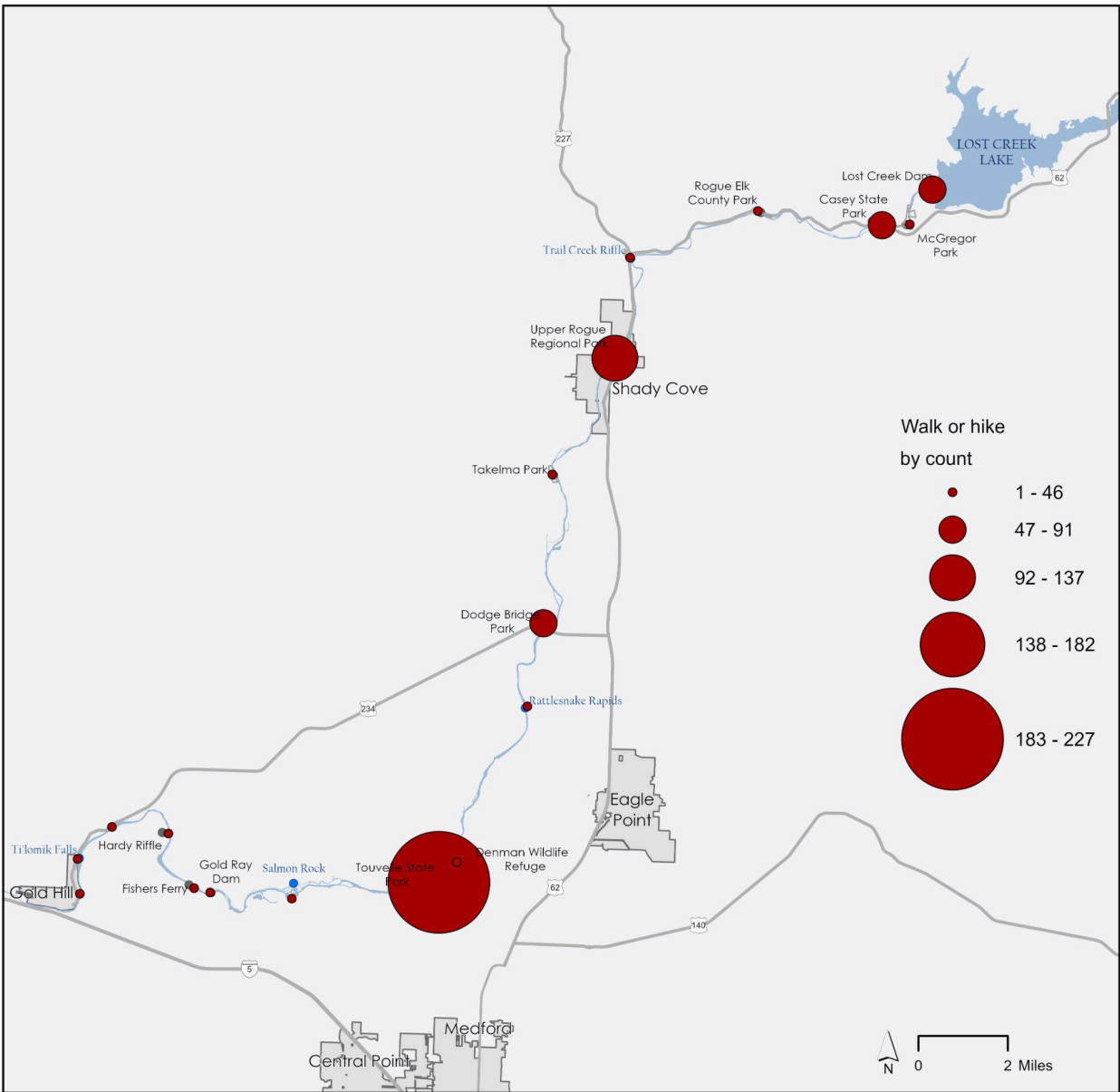
Watch the river while picnicking or relaxing on the banks of the Upper Rogue River.

Map A9. Where people who walk or hike near the river use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Line version



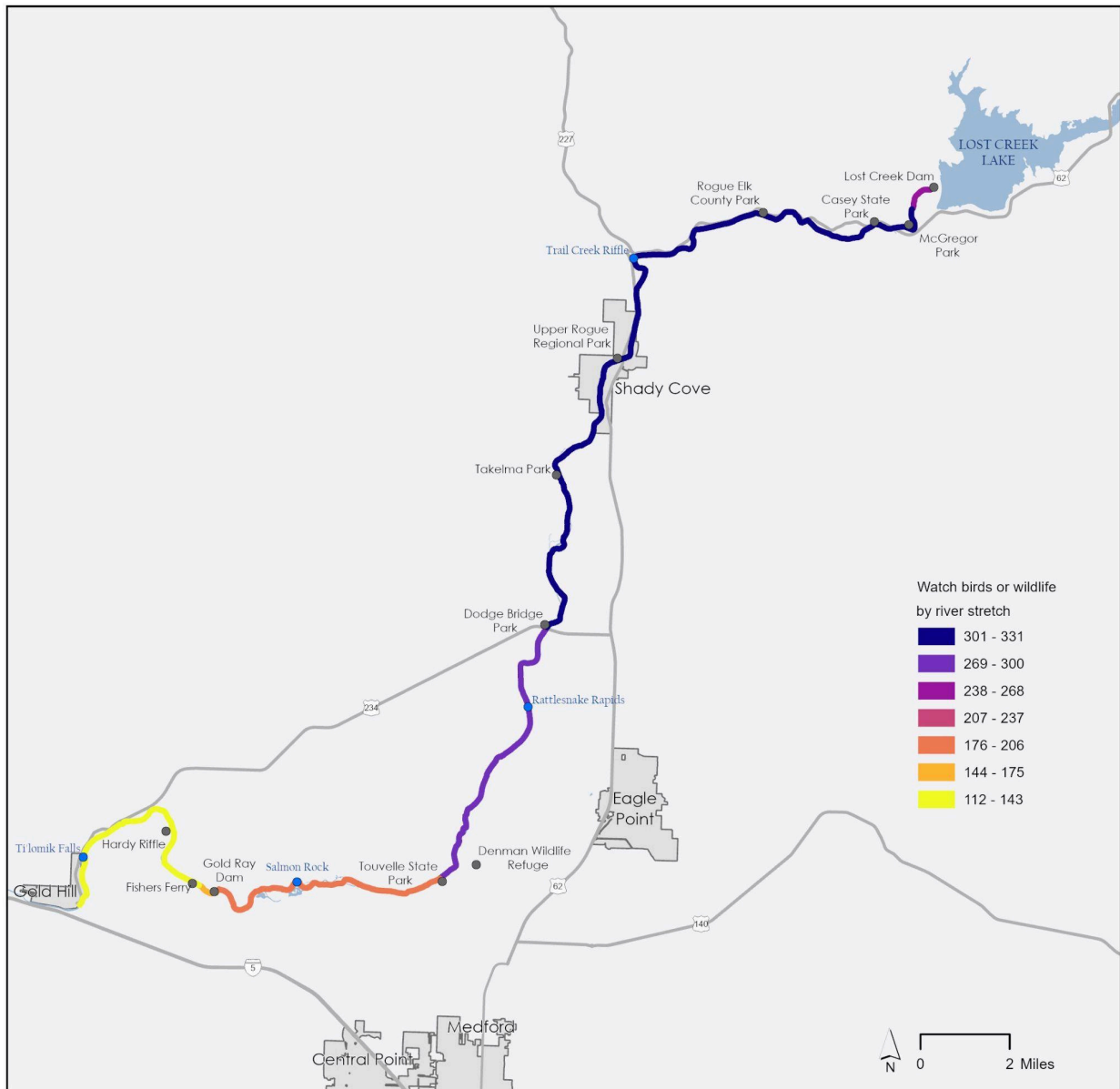
Walk or hike near the Upper Rogue River.

Map A10. Where people who walk or hike near the river use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Point version



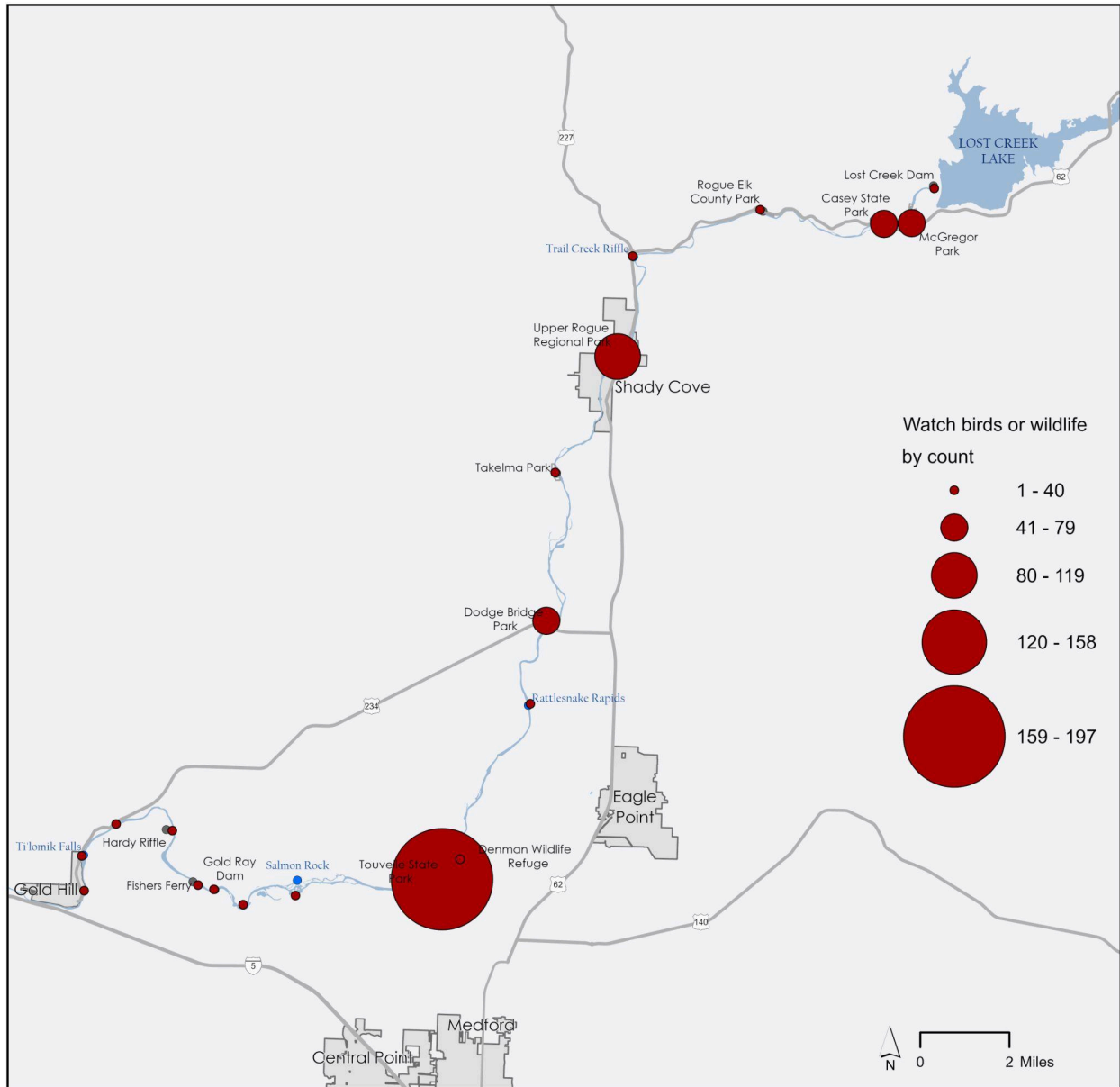
Walk or hike near the Upper Rogue River.

Map A11. Where people who watch birds or wildlife use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Line version



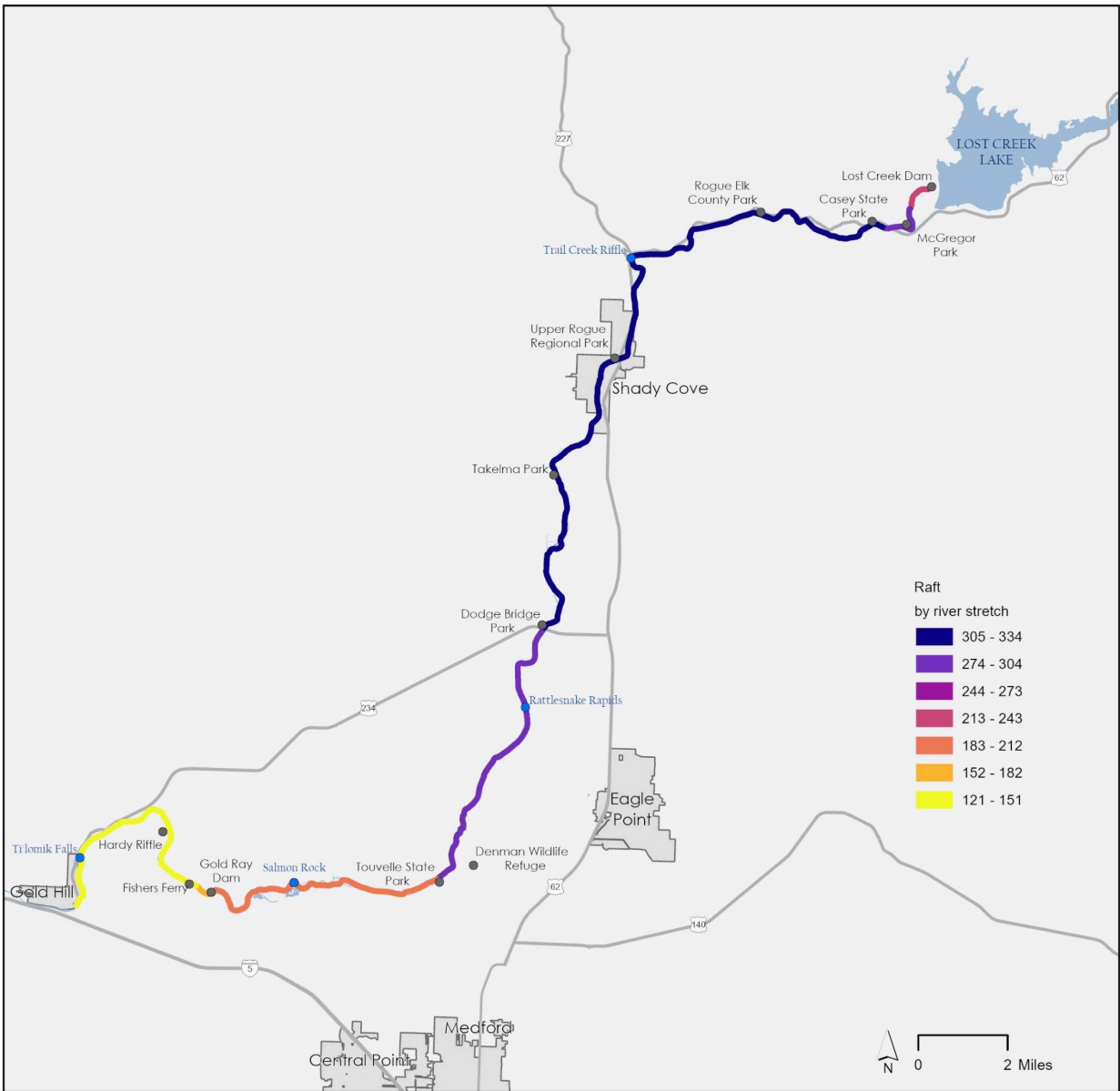
Watch birds or wildlife on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A12. Where people who watch birds or wildlife use the river
(Responses from survey only) - Point version



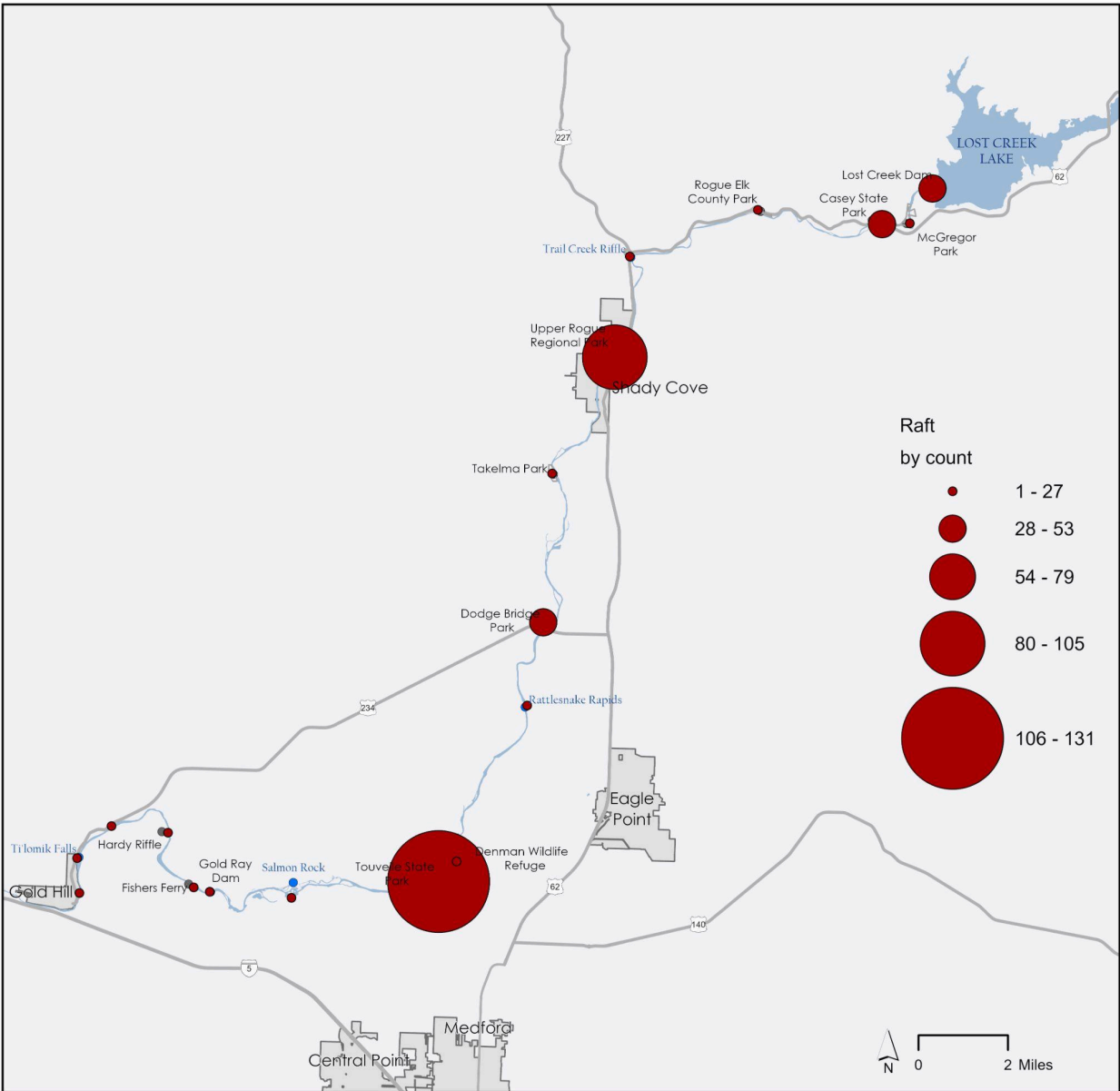
Watch birds or wildlife on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A13. Where people who raft use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



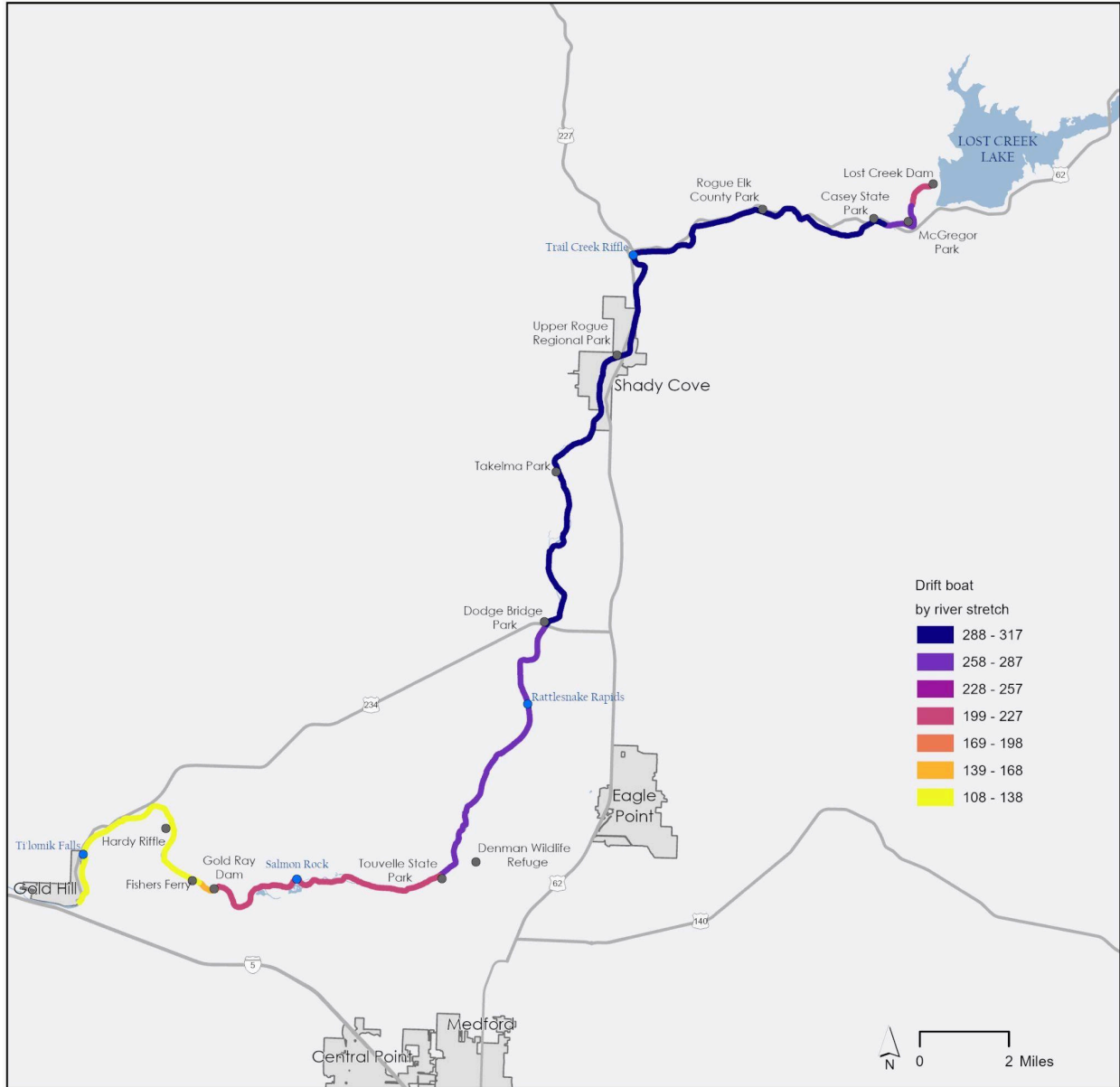
Rafting on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A14. Where people who raft use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



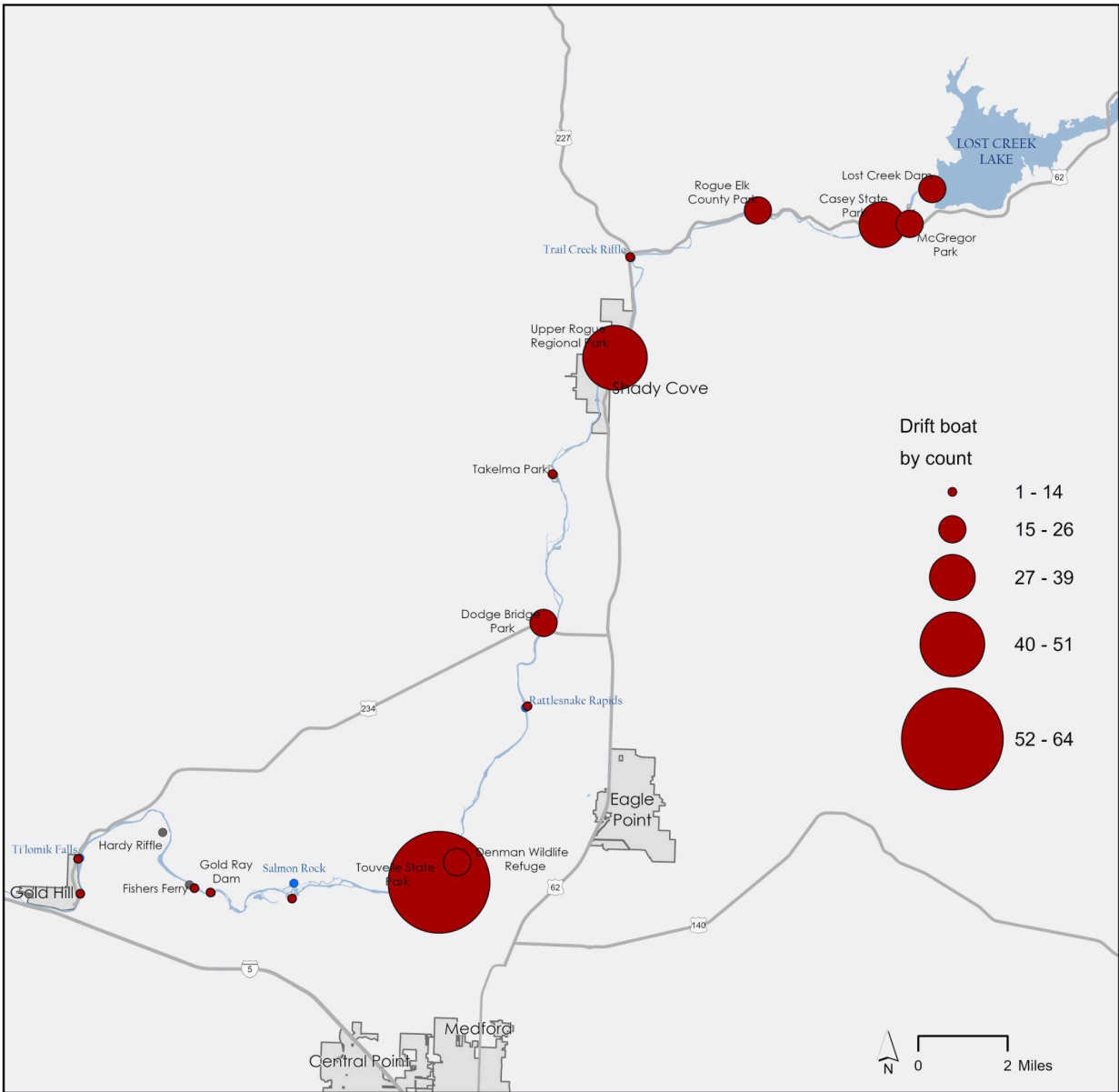
Rafting on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A15. Where people who drift boat use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



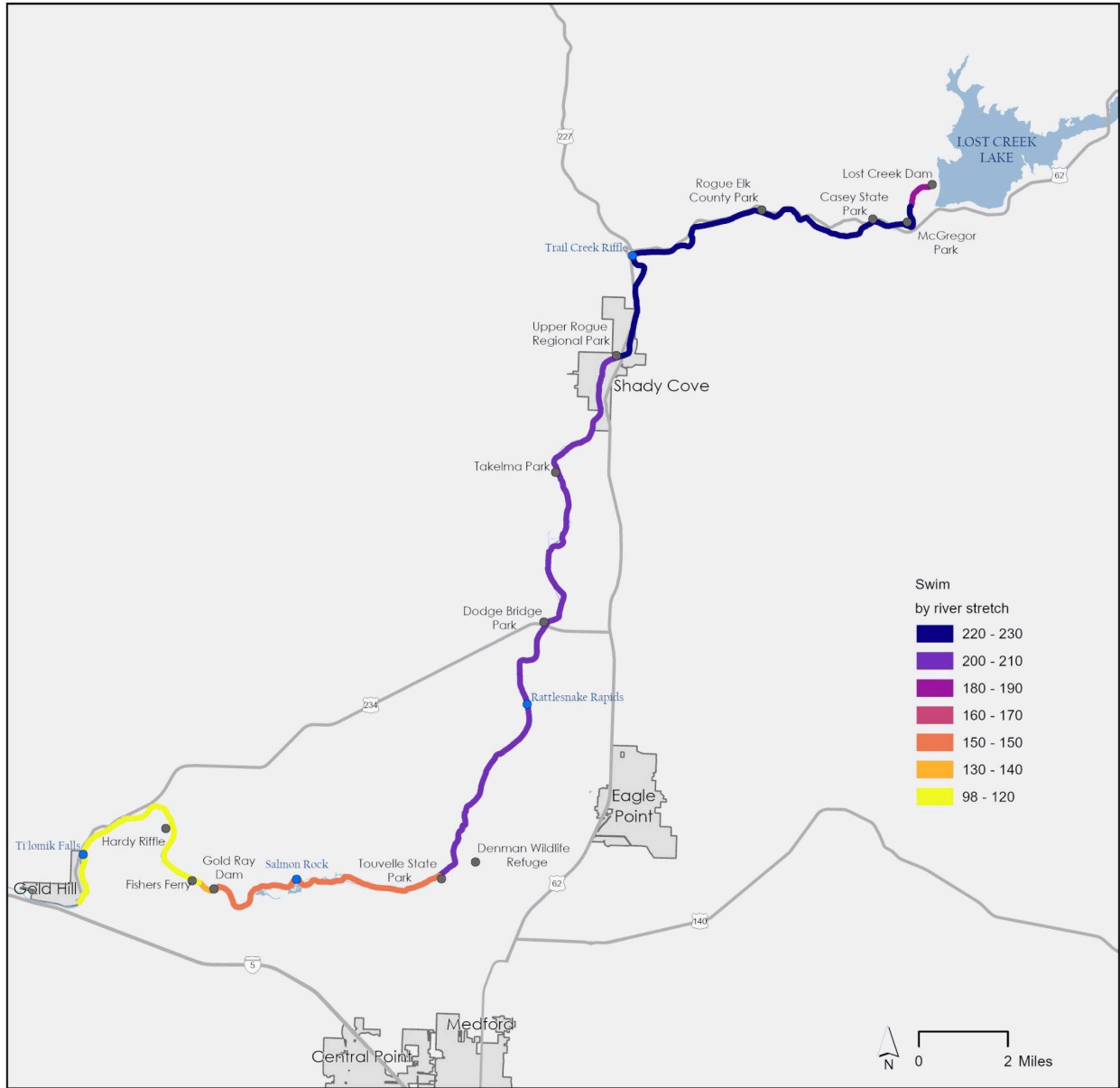
Drift boating on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A16. Where people who drift boat use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



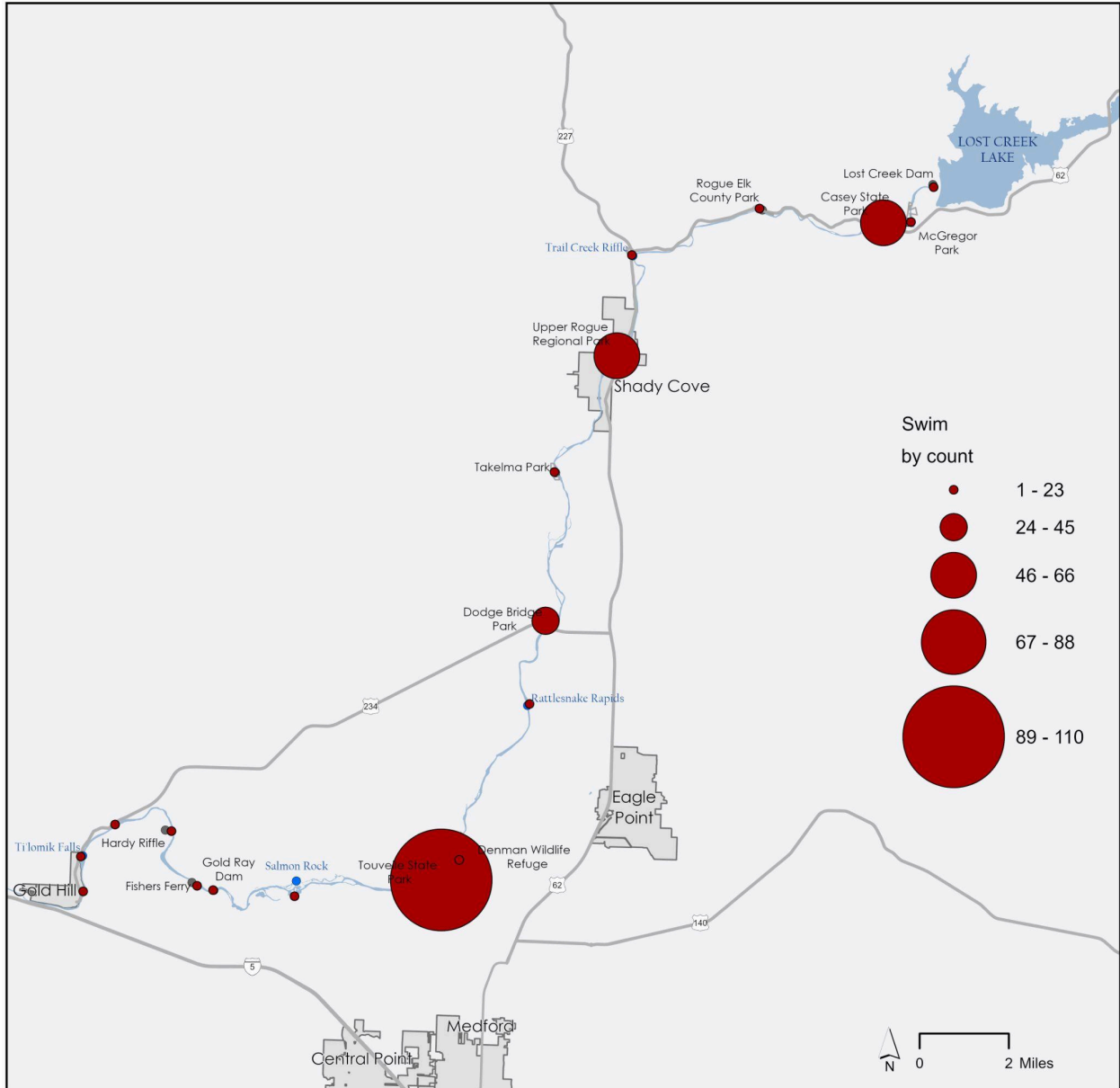
Drift boating on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A17. Where people who swim use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



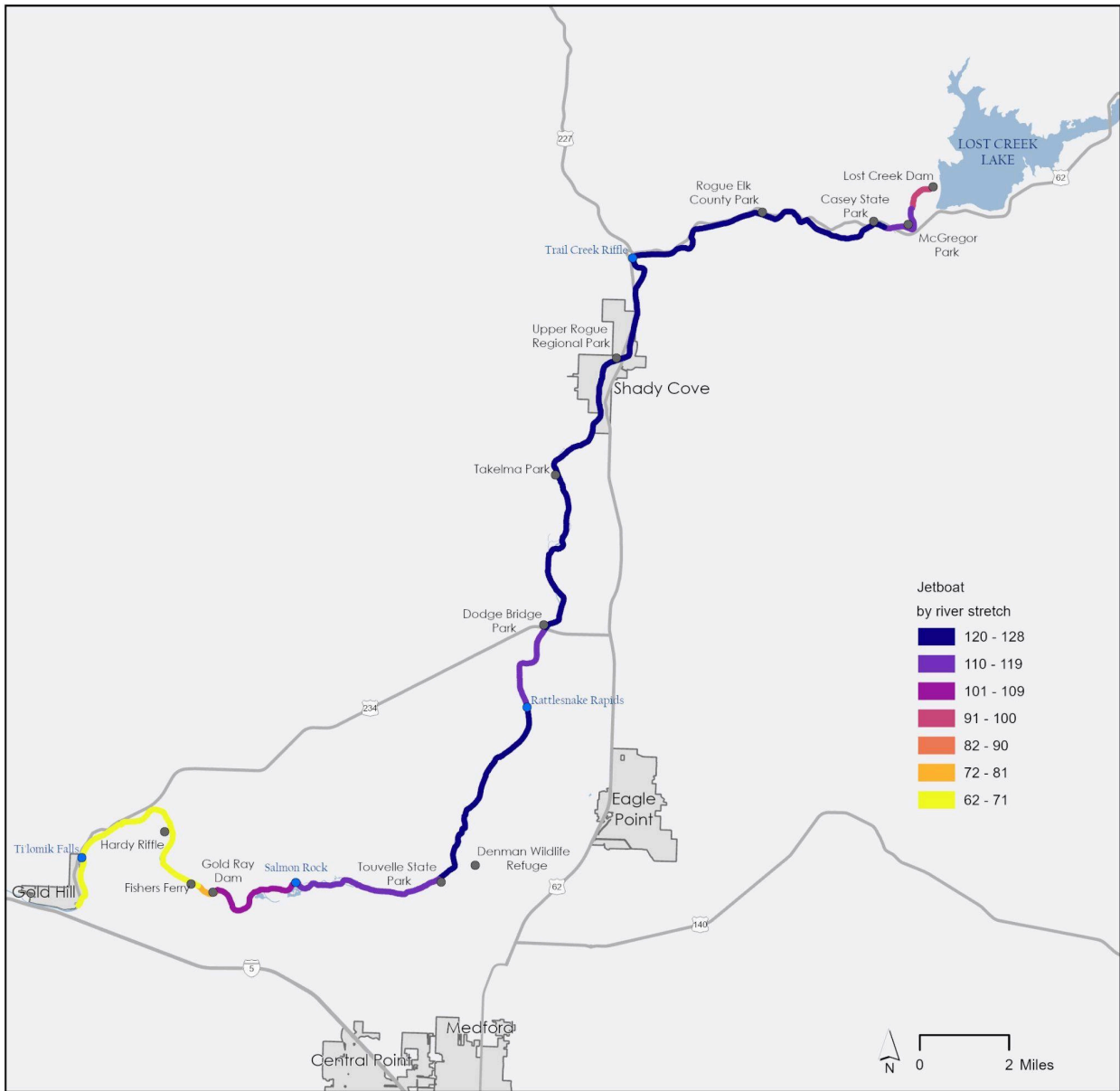
Swimming on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A18. Where people who swim use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



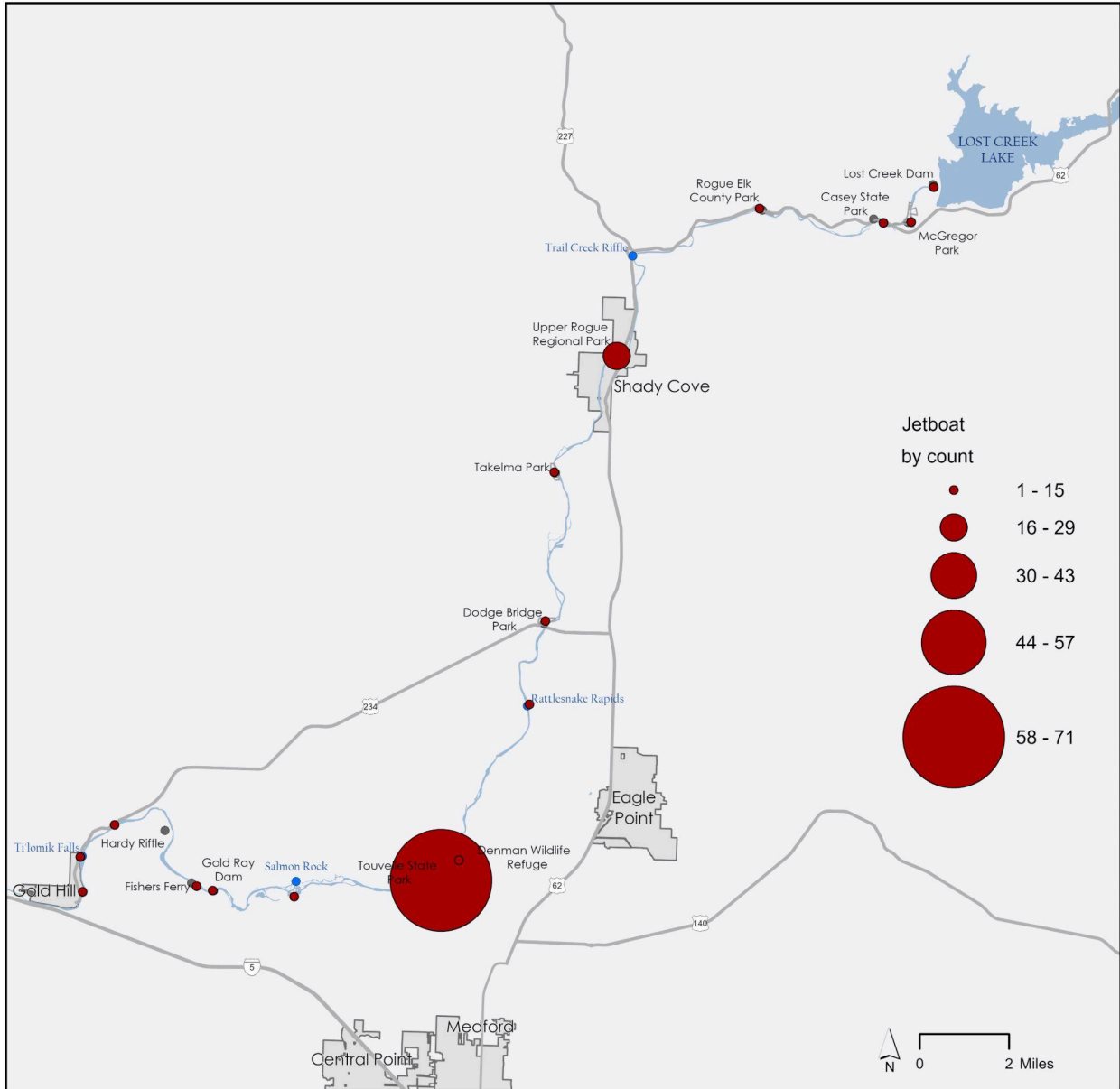
Swimming on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A19. Where people who operate or ride in jetboats use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Line version



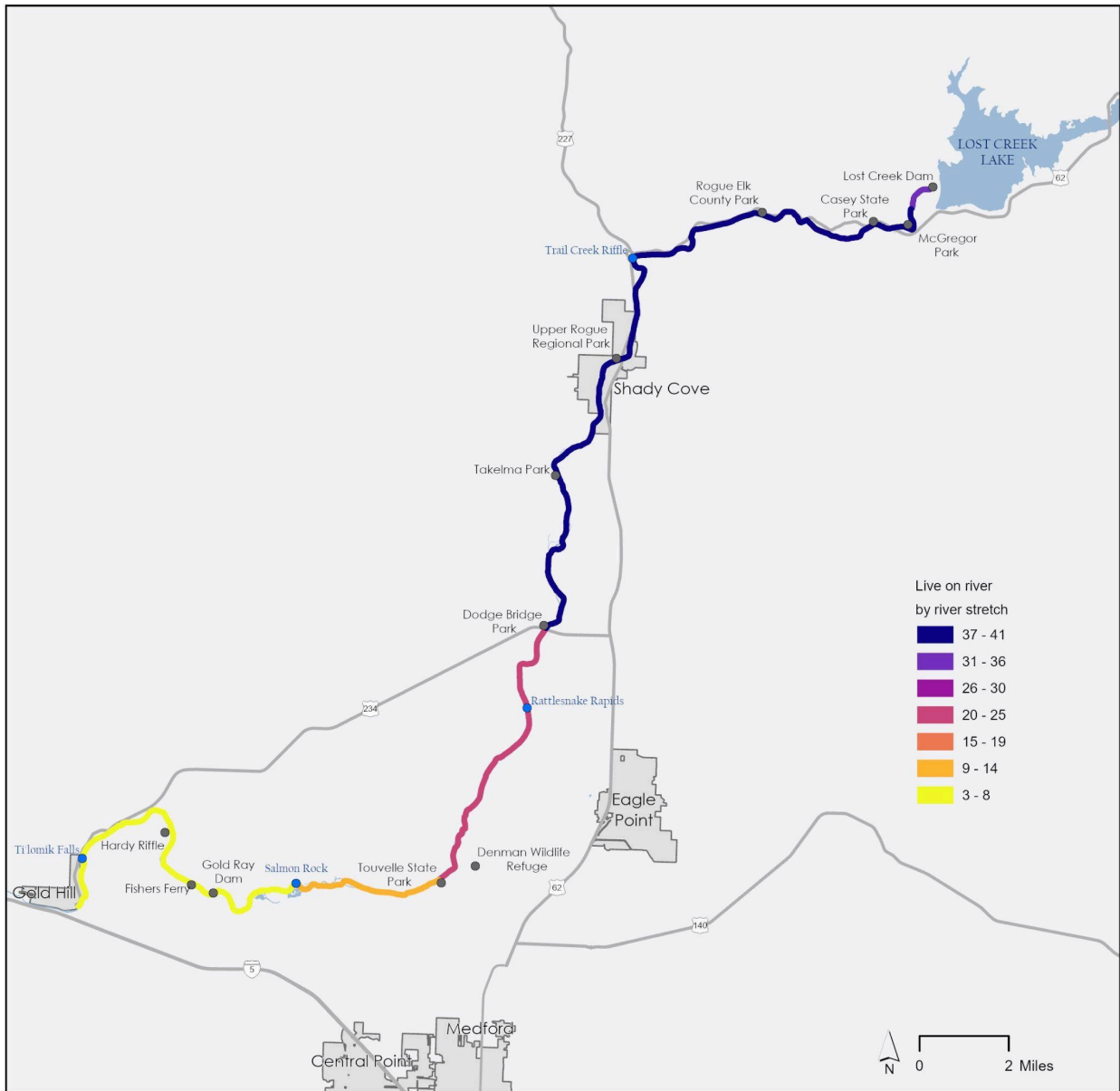
Jetboating on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A20. Where people who operate or ride in jetboats use the river
 (Responses from survey only) - Point version



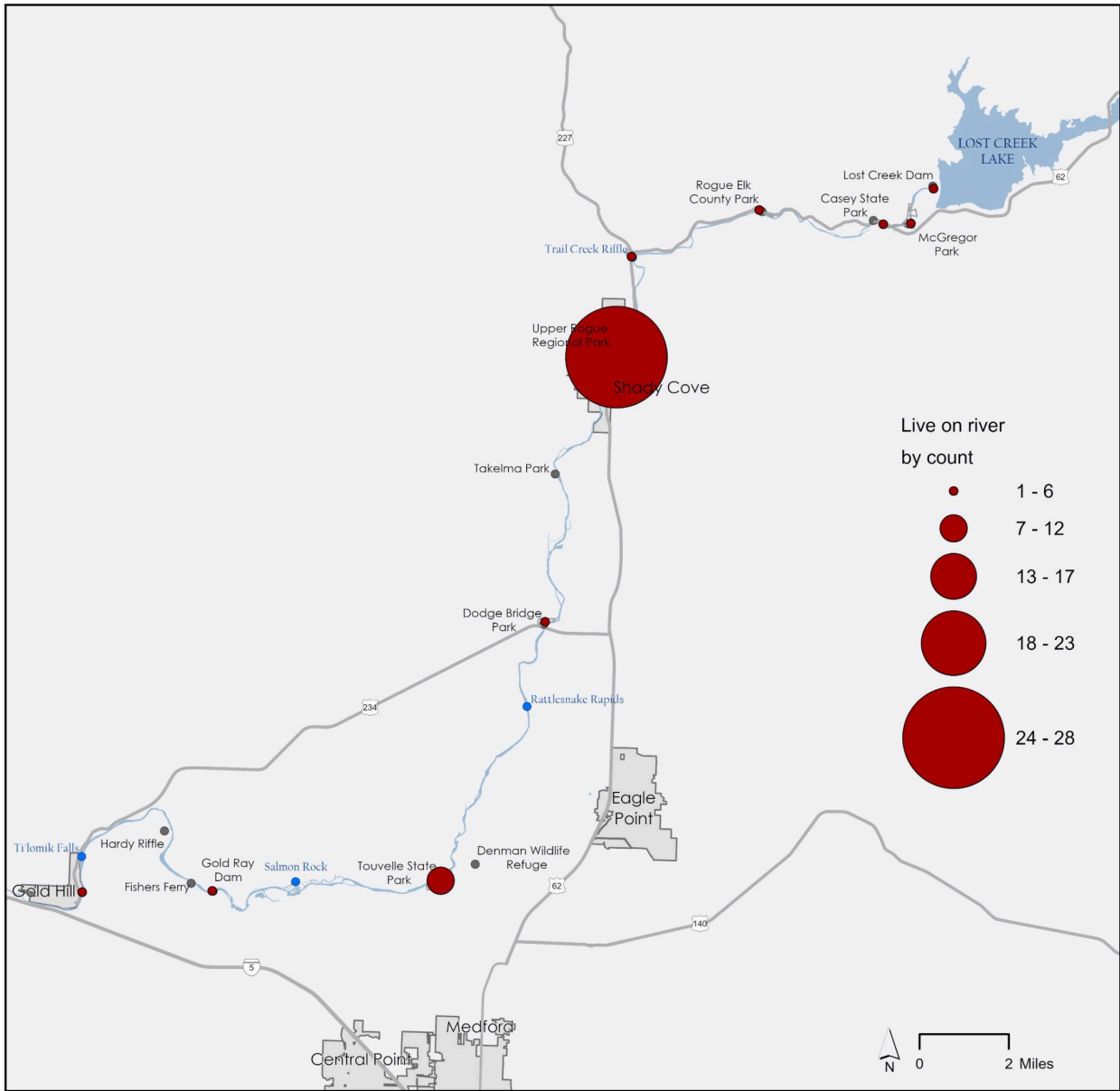
Jetboating on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A21. Where people who live on the river use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



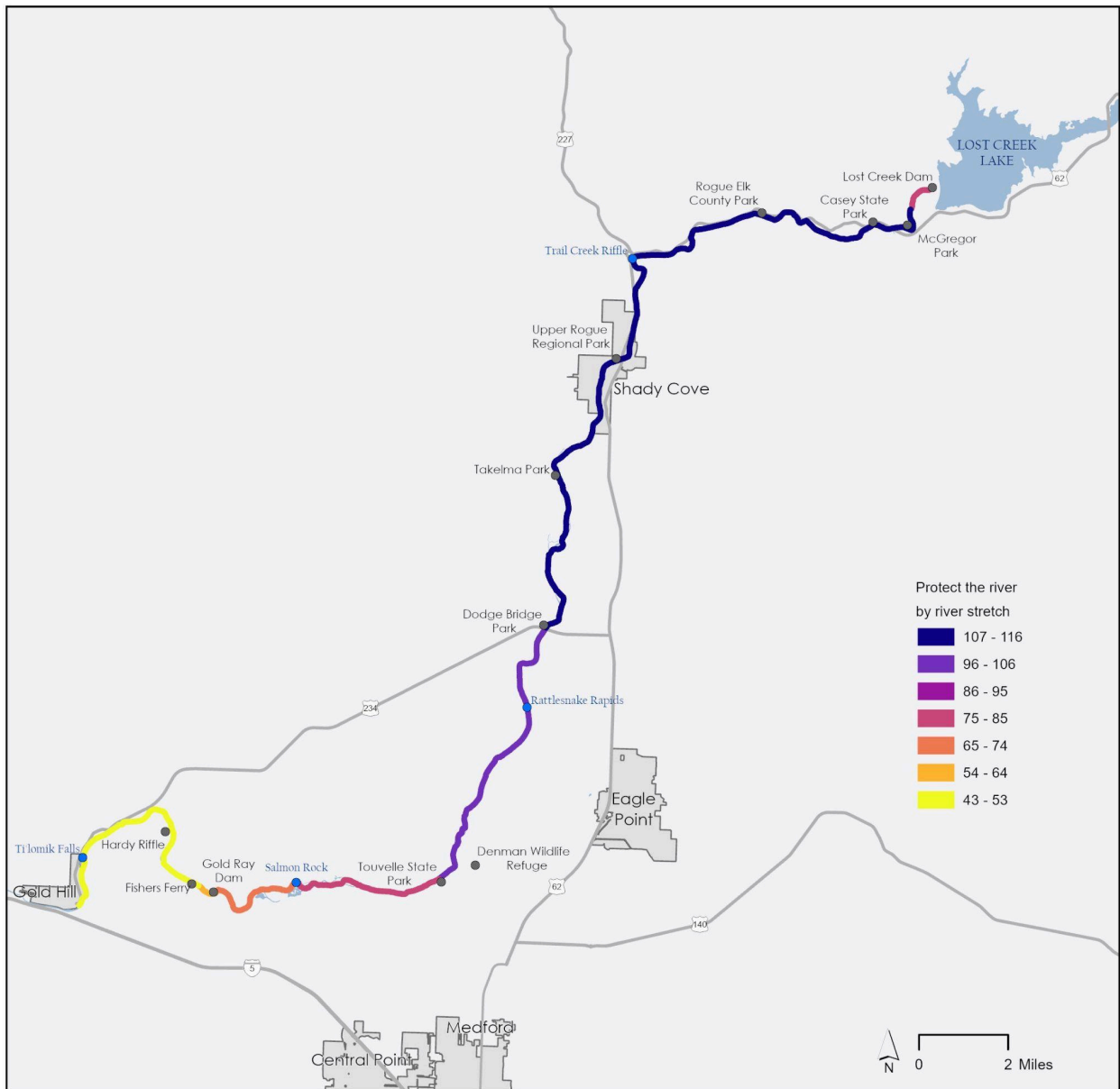
Live on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A22. Where people who live on the river use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



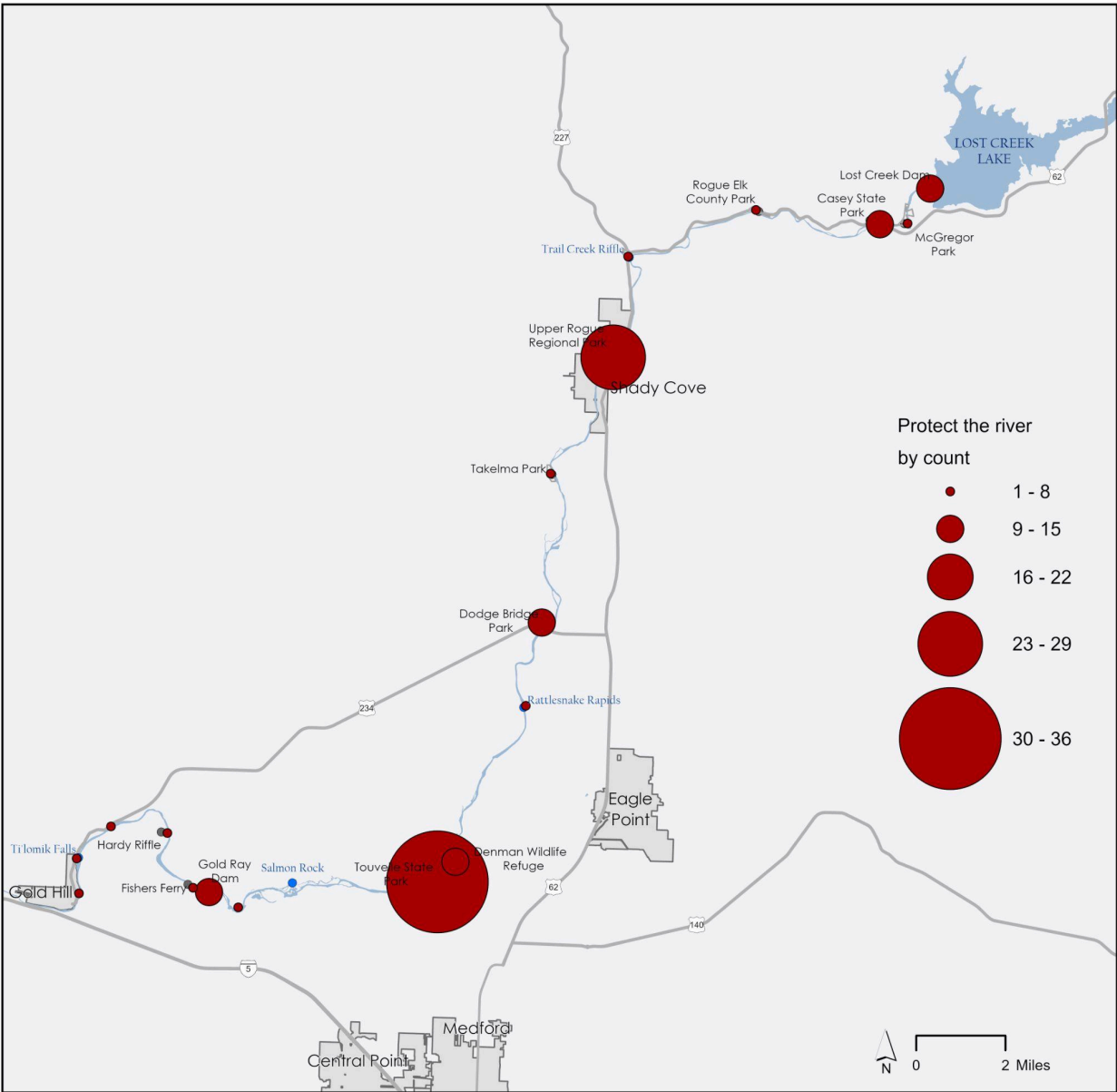
Live on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A23. Where people who work to protect the river for the future use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



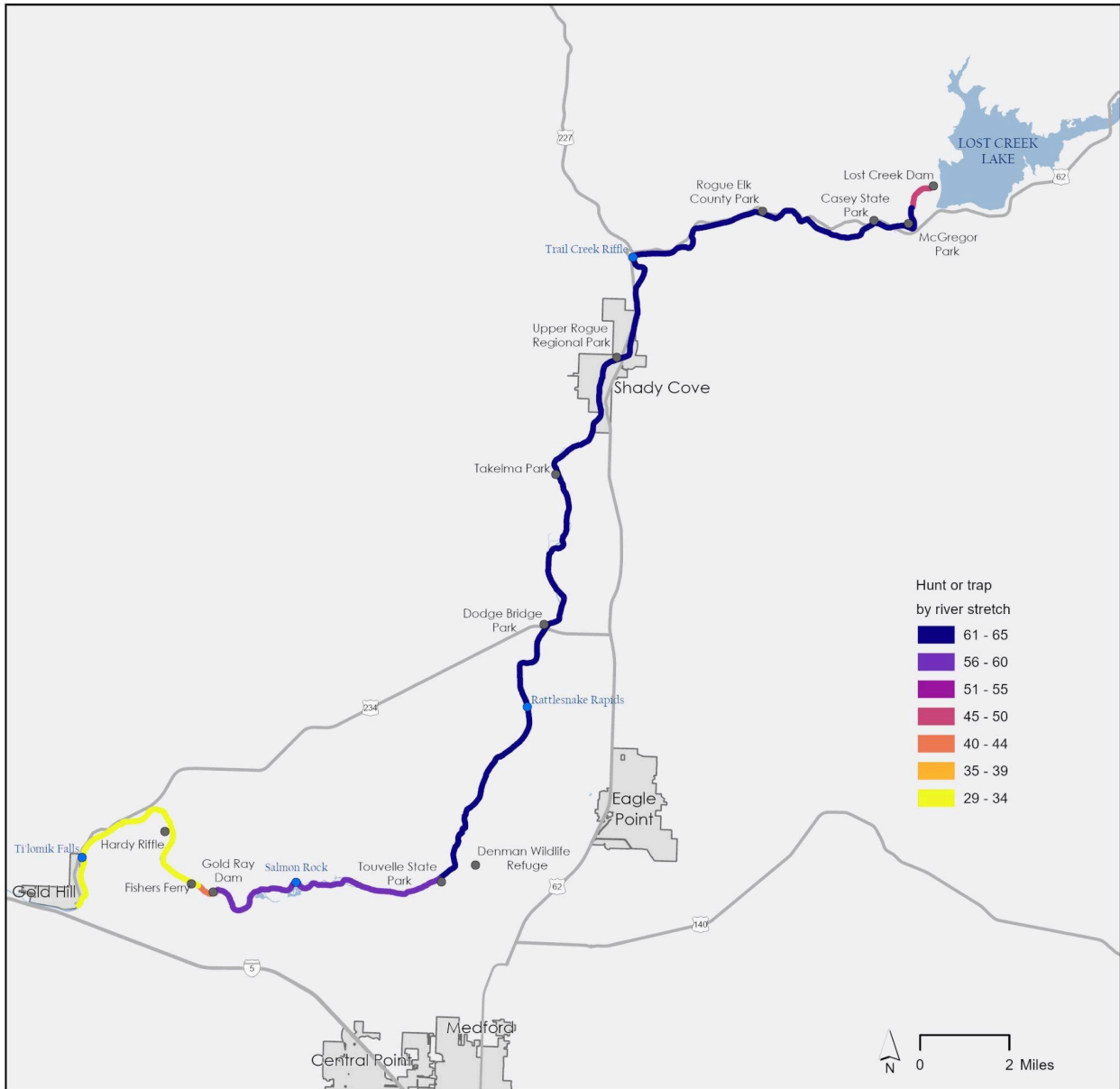
Work to protect the Upper Rogue River for the future.

Map A24. Where people who work to protect the river for the future use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



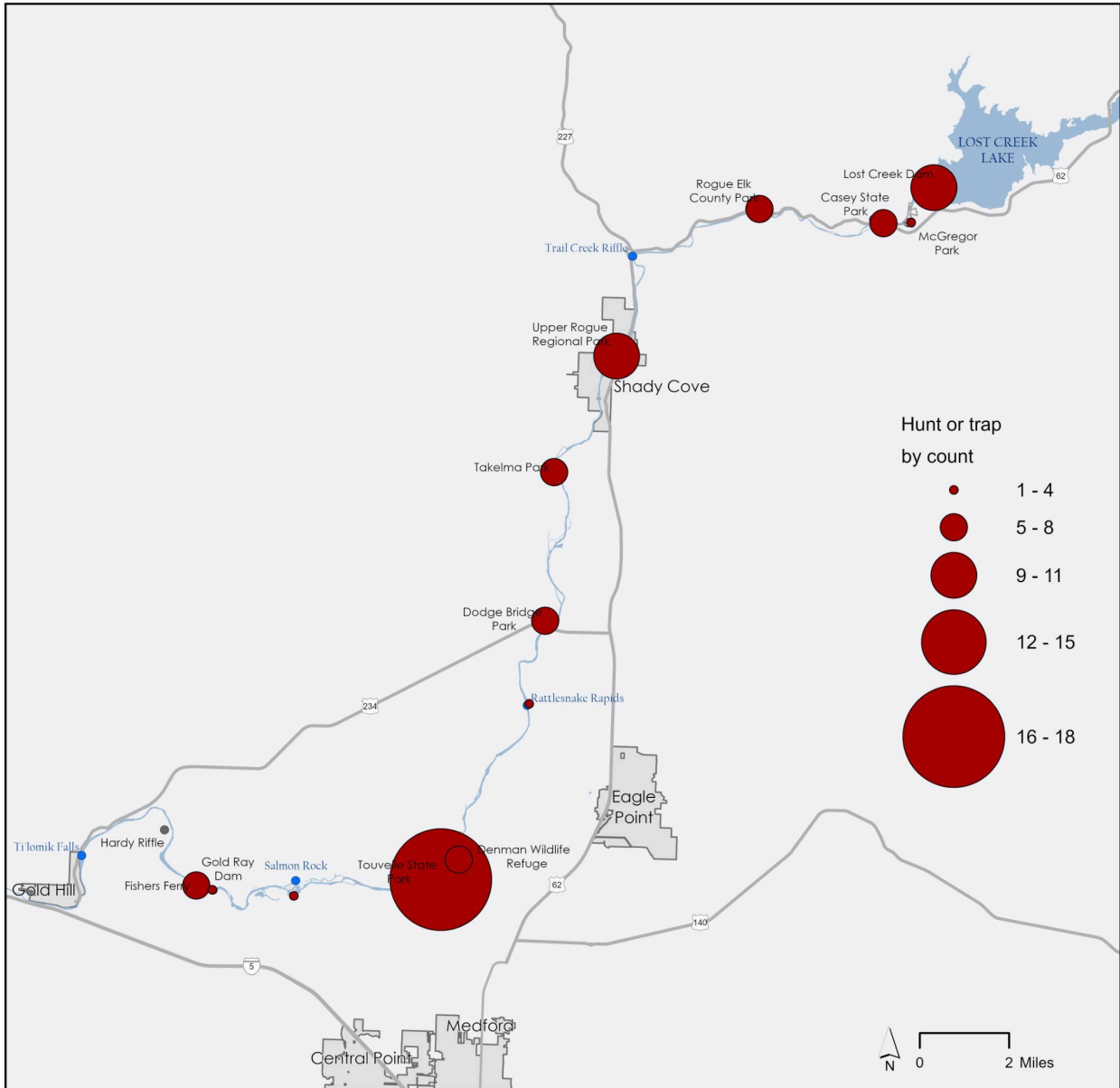
Work to protect the Upper Rogue River for the future.

Map A25. Where people who hunt and trap use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



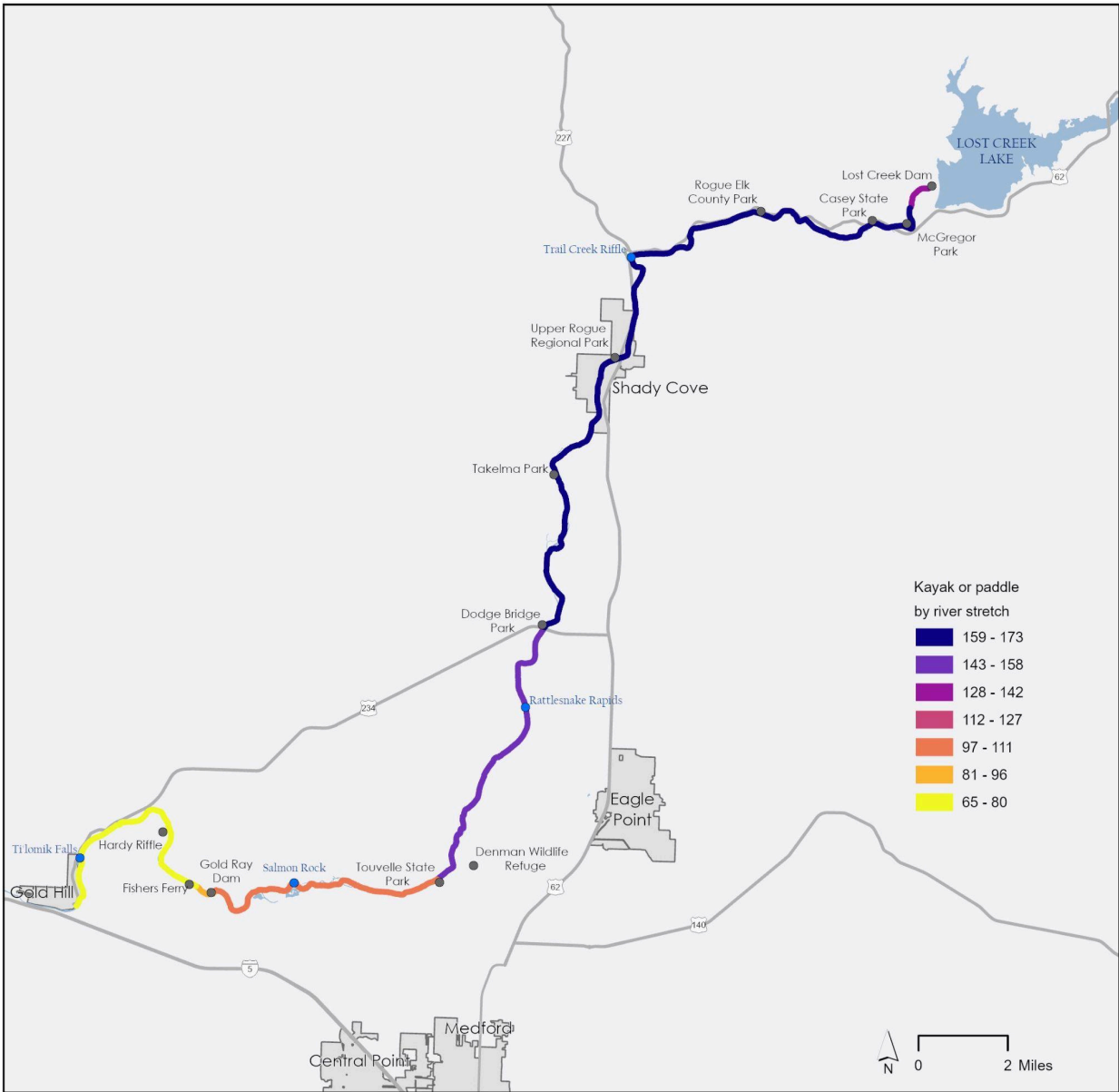
Hunt, trap, or harvest traditional foods on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A26. Where people who hunt and trap use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



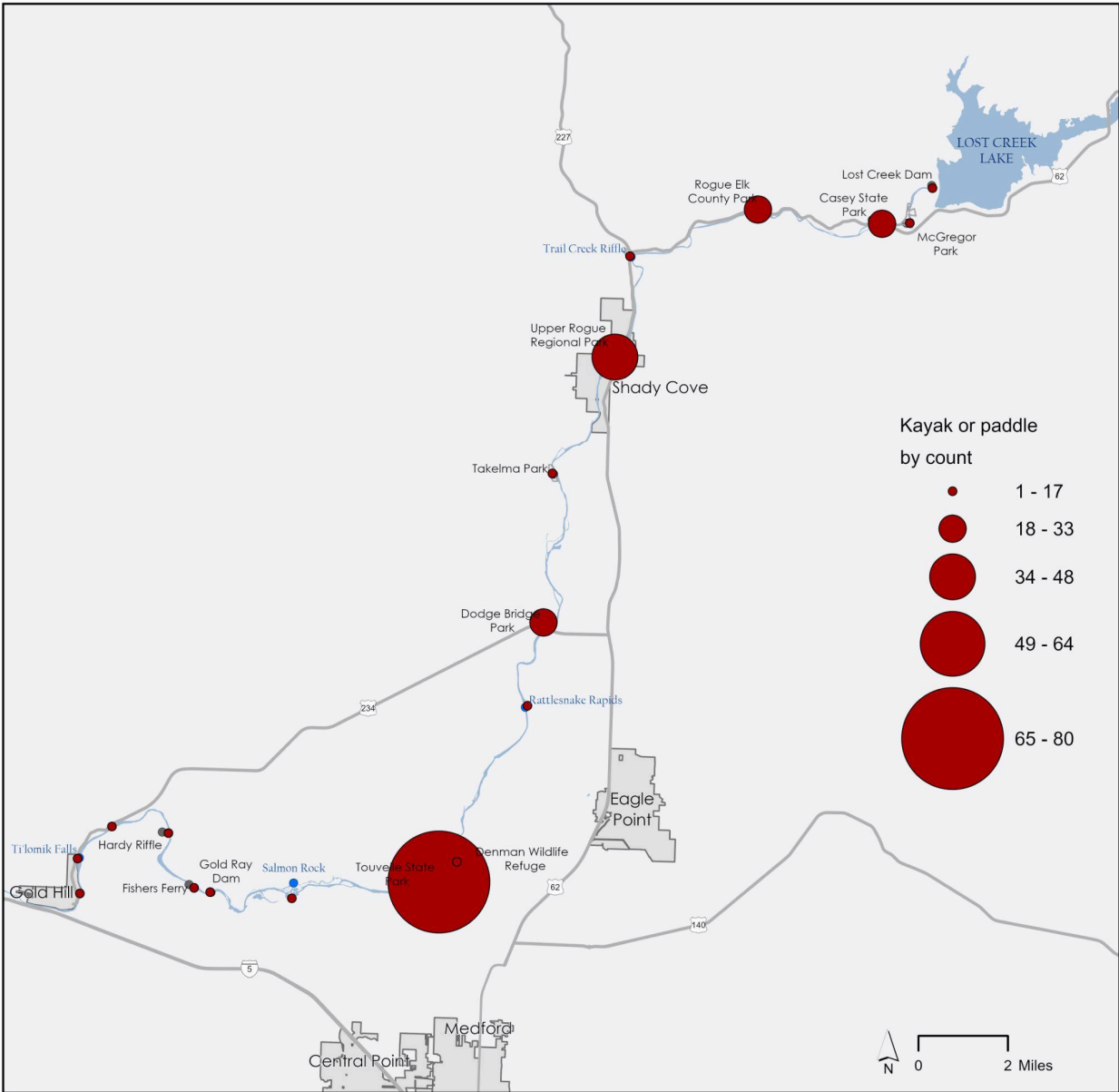
Hunt, trap, or harvest traditional foods on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A27. Where people who kayak and paddle use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



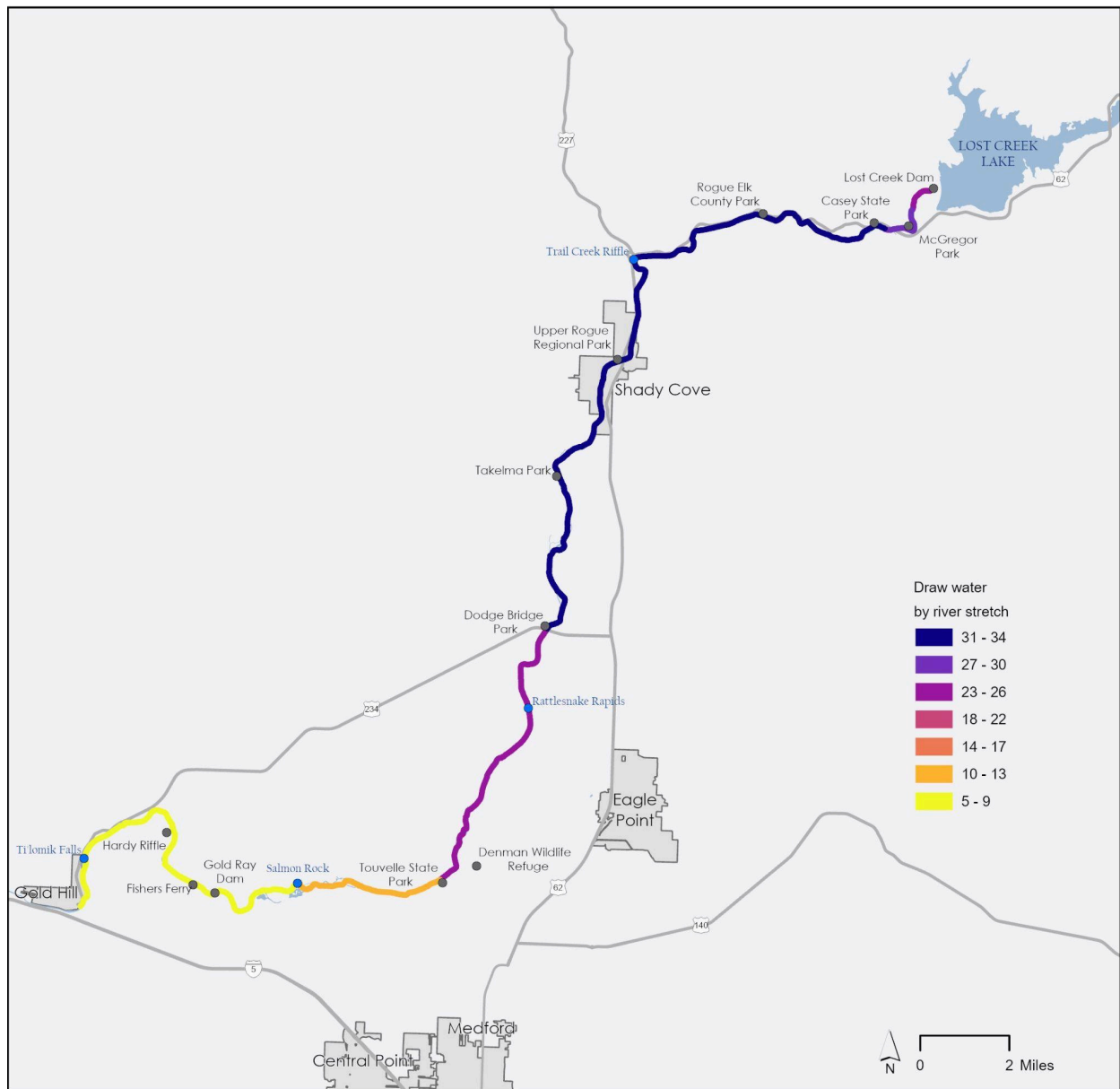
Kayaking or paddling on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A28. Where people who kayak and paddle use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



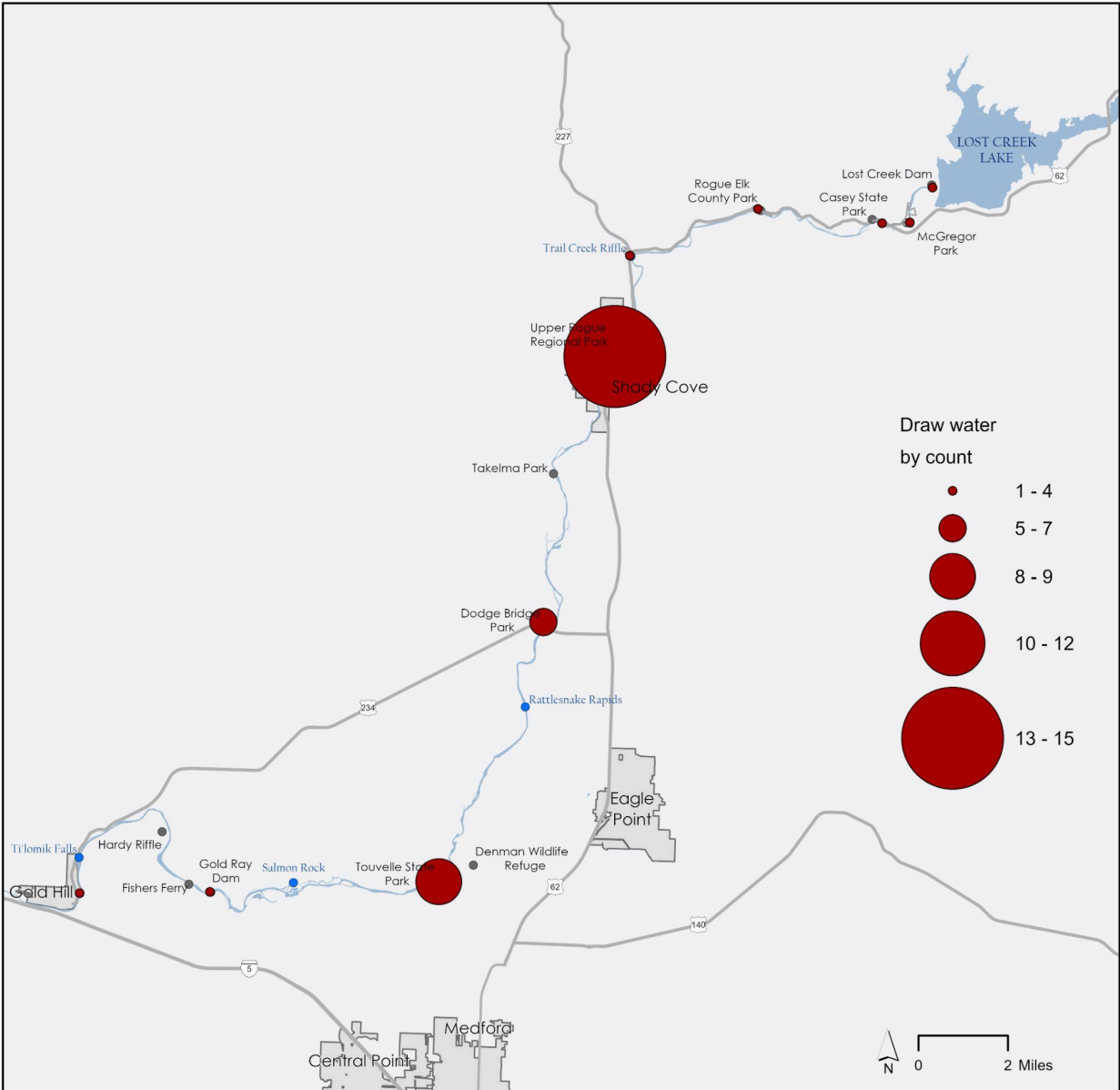
Kayaking or paddling on the Upper Rogue River.

Map A29. Where people who draw water to irrigate crops or gardens use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



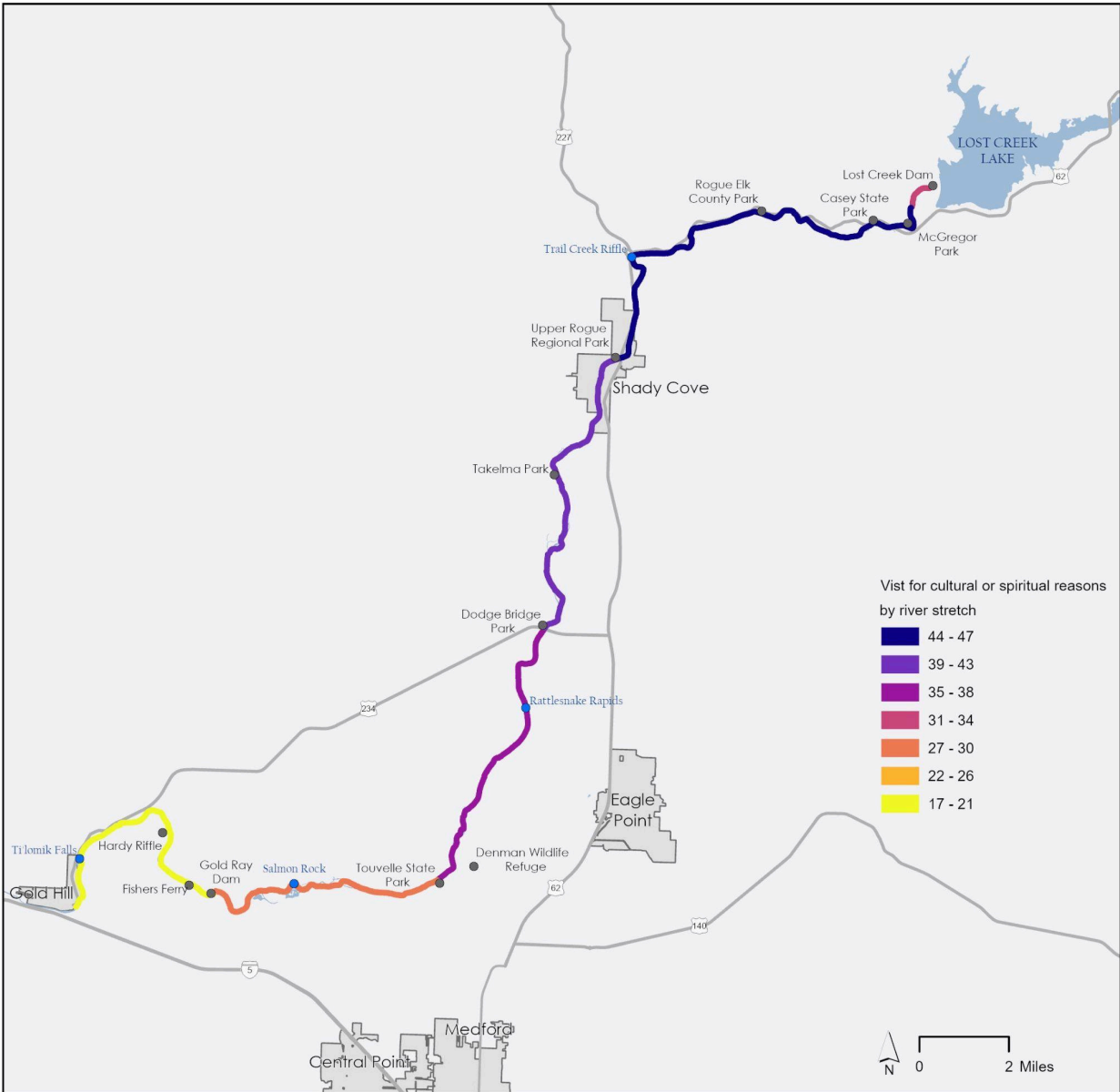
Draw water to irrigate crops or garden from the Upper Rogue River.

Map A30. Where people who draw water to irrigate crops or gardens use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



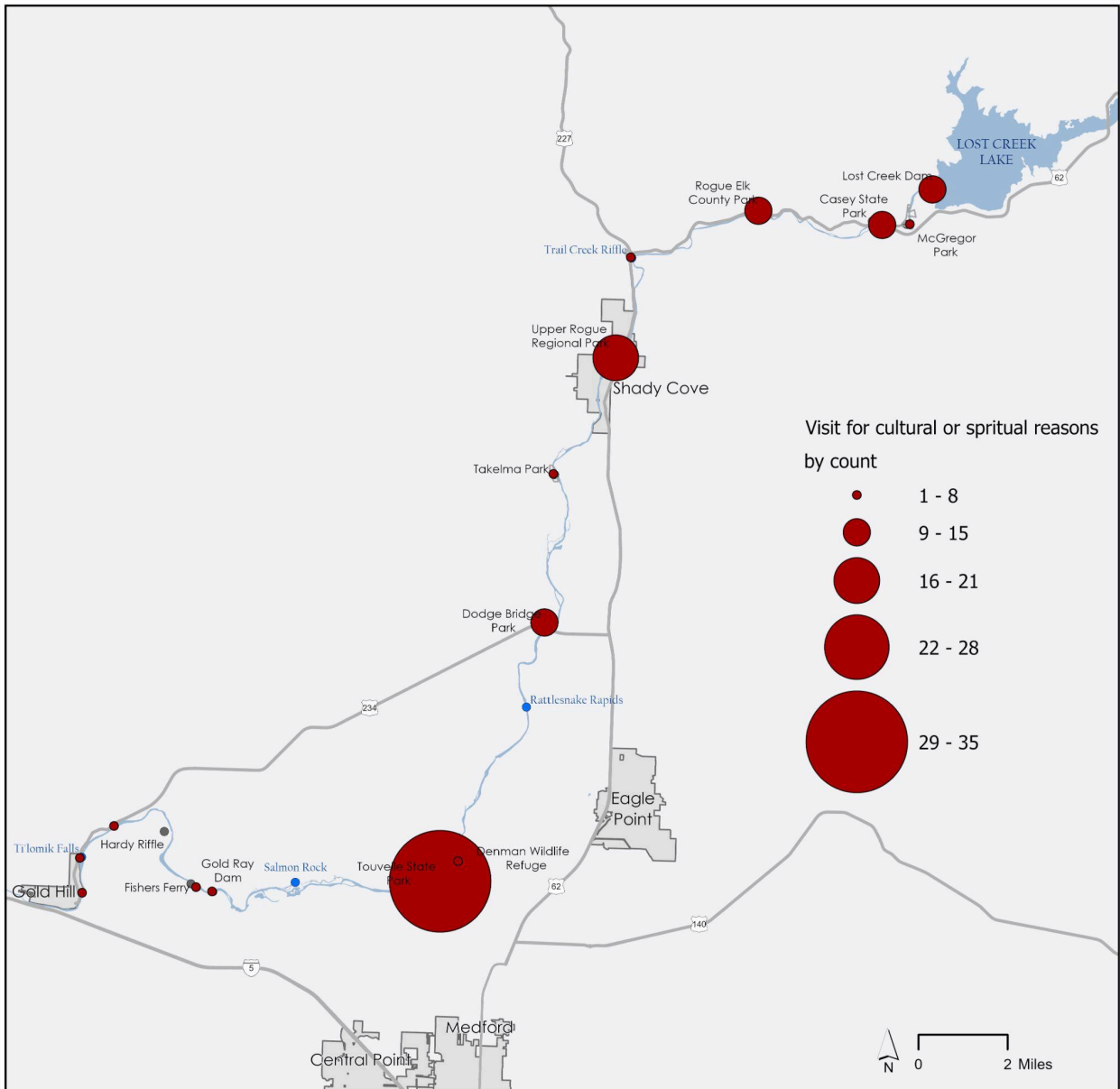
Draw water to irrigate crops or garden from the Upper Rogue River.

Map A31. Where people who visit for cultural or spiritual purposes use the river (Responses from survey only) - Line version



Visit the Upper Rogue River for cultural or spiritual reasons.

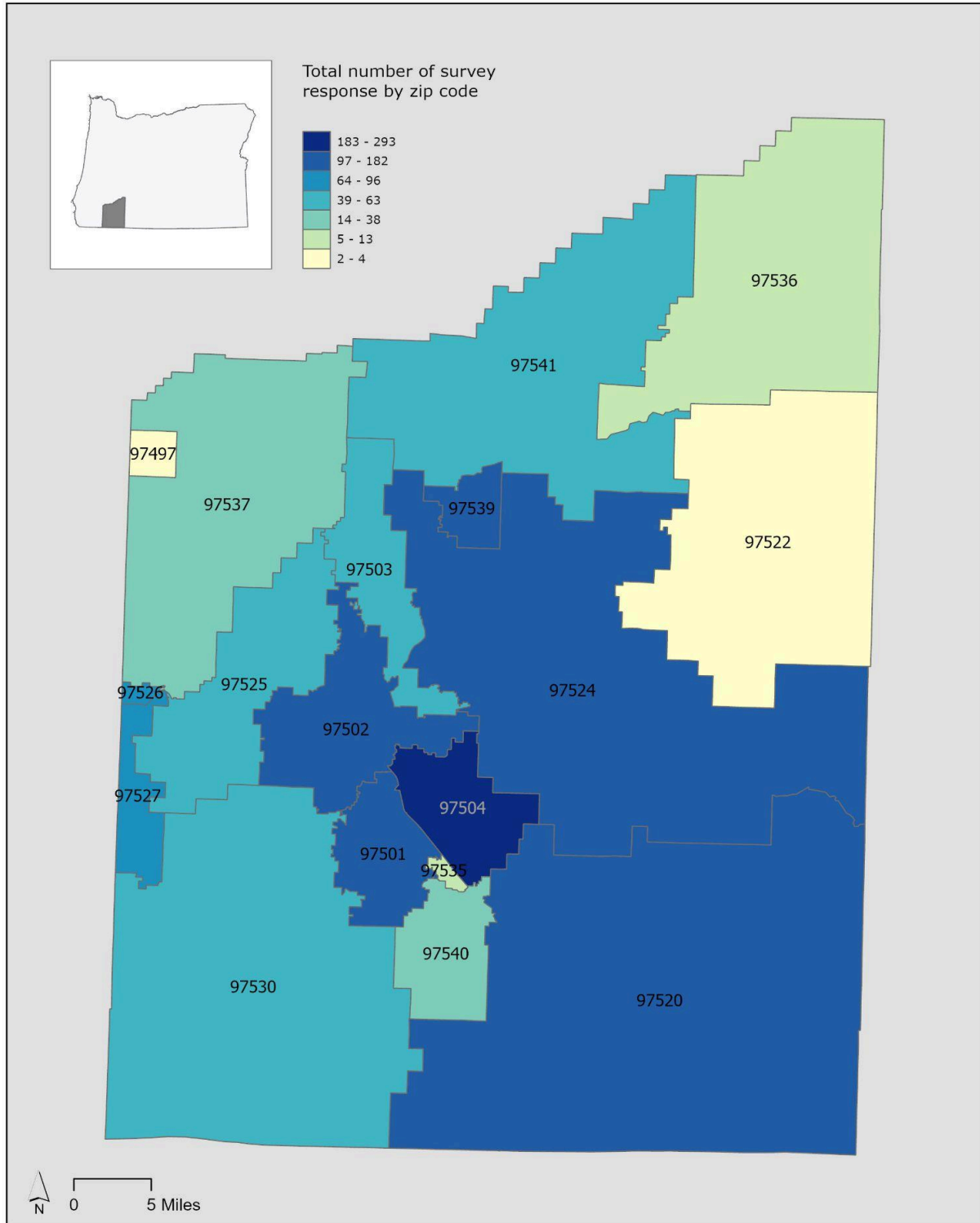
Map A32. Where people who visit for cultural or spiritual purposes use the river (Responses from survey only) - Point version



Visit the Upper Rogue River for cultural or spiritual reasons.

Map Z1. Total number of survey responses in Jackson County, by zip code

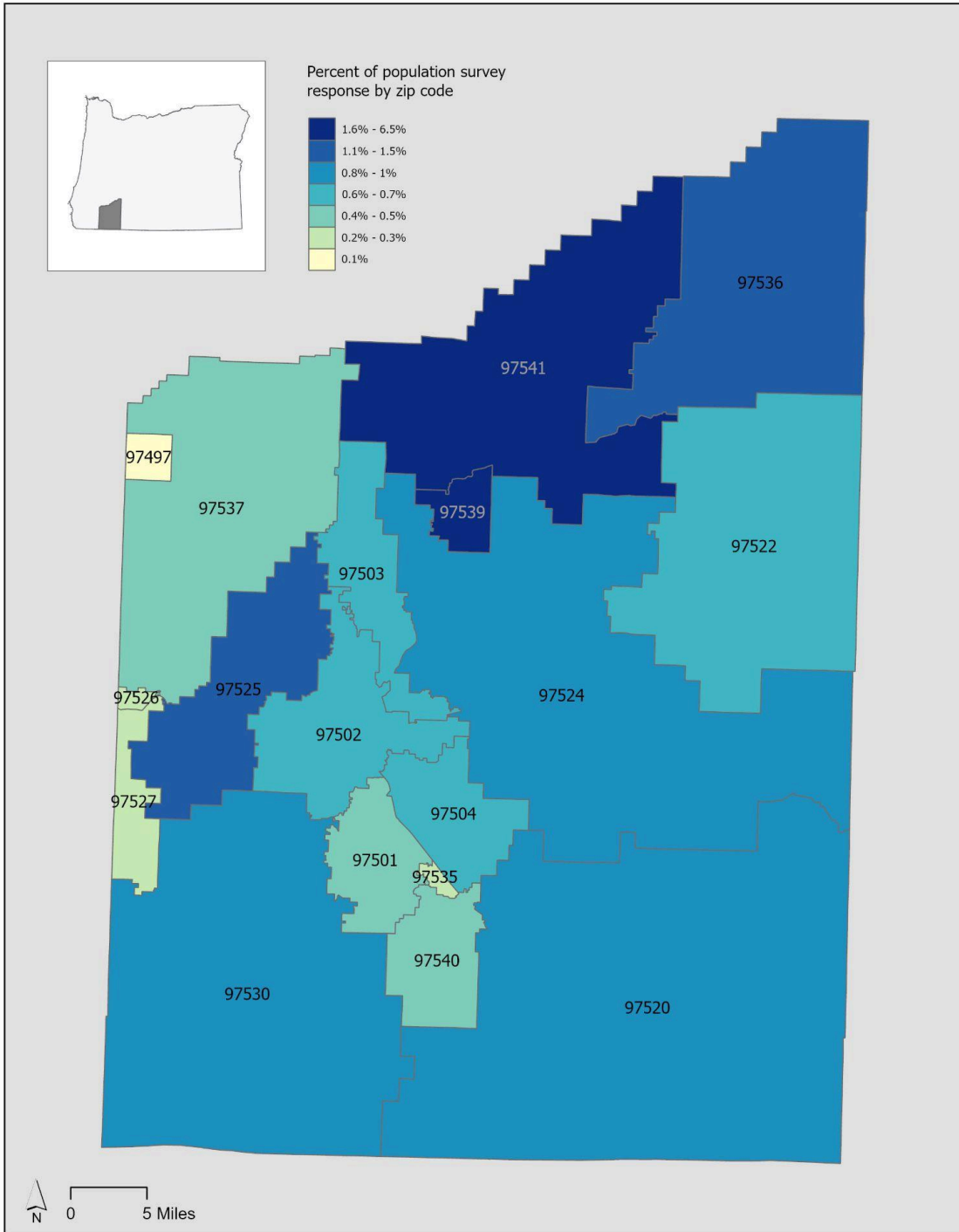
The raw count of survey responses for each zip code in Jackson county shows the total number of responses received for each zip code in Jackson County.



Jackson County total number of survey responses by zip code.

Map Z2. Survey responses in Jackson County, zip code by percent of population

Survey responses normalized by population of each zip code in Jackson County show the percentage of responses in context of the population for each zip code in Jackson County.



Jackson County percent of population survey responses by zip code.

Join the conversation about the Upper Rogue River!

4 WAYS TO TAKE PART

1 Share what you think online

Share what you think through July 5: www.tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue-survey

2 Invite other people

Let other friends, community groups, or visitors know where and how to share what they think!



3 Host a Kitchen Table Conversation

Are you interested in hosting a conversation with your community or group? Download the guide from our website and let us know if you need help - you can contact us at info@oregonskitchentable.org



4 Join a conversation

- Virtual - May 22, 6-8pm
- Thursday, May 30, 6-8pm at the Shady Cove Middle School Gymnasium
- Tuesday, June 4, 5:30-7:30pm at Touvelle State Park
- Monday, June 17, 5:30-7:30pm at the Jackson County Library in Medford



Register online and get details at www.tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue

Hosted by Oregon's Kitchen Table

Oregon's Kitchen Table is a statewide program that creates ways for community members to influence the decisions that affect their lives.



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¡Únase a la conversación sobre el Upper Rogue River!

4 MANERAS PARA PARTICIPAR

1 Comparta su opinión en línea

Comparta su opinión completando la encuesta antes del 5 de julio:
www.tinyurl.com/okt-upperogue-survey

2 Invite a otras personas

¡Informe a amigos, grupos comunitarios o visitantes sobre cómo y dónde pueden también expresar sus opiniones!



3 Organice una conversación comunitaria alrededor de su mesa, al estilo de "Kitchen Table."

¿Interesado en liderar una discusión con su comunidad o grupo? Descargue la guía desde nuestra página web y avísenos si necesita ayuda. Contáctenos por correo electrónico a: info@oregonskitchentable.org.



4 Únase a una conversación

- Miércoles 22 de mayo de 6 a 8pm en ZOOM - en Idioma inglés con interpretación disponible
- Jueves 30 de mayo de 6 a 8pm en el Gimnasio de Shady Cove Middle School - en persona en inglés
- Martes 4 de junio de 5:30 a 7:30pm en Touvelle State Park - en persona en inglés y en español
- Lunes 17 de junio de 5:30 a 7:30pm en la biblioteca Jackson County Library en Medford - en persona en inglés y en español

Regístrese en línea para conocer detalles y fechas aquí:
www.tinyurl.com/okt-upperogue

Organizado por Oregon's Kitchen Table

Oregon's Kitchen Table es un programa estatal que facilita formas para que los miembros de la comunidad influyan en decisiones que afectan sus vidas.



¡Únase a la conversación sobre el Upper Rogue River!

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Organizado por Oregon's Kitchen Table

Oregon's Kitchen Table es un programa estatal que facilita formas para que los miembros de la comunidad influyan en decisiones que afectan sus vidas.





¡Únase a la conversación sobre el área del Upper Rogue River!

El Departamento de Tierras Estatales, el Departamento de Parques y Recreación, la Junta Estatal Marina y el Departamento de Pesca y Fauna Silvestre están colaborando con la agencia Oregon's Kitchen Table para crear maneras en las que los residentes y visitantes del condado de Jackson puedan compartir sus valores y anhelos sobre la recreación al aire libre y la protección de los recursos naturales en el río Rogue entre la antigua represa de Gold Ray cerca de Central Point (marcador N° 126) y la represa de Lost Creek (marcador N° 157).

Sus experiencias y perspectivas van a ayudar a éstas agencias a tener un mejor entendimiento de sus valores y esperanzas para el río al tomar las decisiones de cómo administrar mejor el área del Upper Rogue y las tierras de su alrededor en el futuro.

Regístrese en línea para conocer detalles y fechas aquí:

tinyurl.com/okt-upperogue

Únase a una conversación facilitada por Oregon's Kitchen Table:

- En ZOOM: Miércoles 22 de mayo de 6 a 8pm - En Idioma inglés con interpretación disponible
- Presencial: Jueves 30 de mayo de 6 a 8pm en el Gimnasio de Shady Cove Middle School en persona en inglés (Idioma español disponible a pedido)
- Presencial: Martes 4 de junio de 5:30 a 7:30pm en Touvelle State Park en persona en inglés (Idioma español disponible a pedido)
- Presencial: Lunes 17 de junio de 5:30 a 7:30pm en la biblioteca Jackson County Library en Medford en persona en inglés y en español



¡Tome la encuesta!

tinyurl.com/okt-upperogue-survey

Si usted tiene una discapacidad y necesita acomodaciones razonables para participar en ésta reunión por favor contacte a Oregon's Kitchen Table por correo electrónico, info@oregonskitchentable.org o llame al (503) 725-3420.



Join the conversation about the Upper Rogue River!

Department of State Lands, the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – have partnered with Oregon’s Kitchen Table to create ways for residents and visitors to Jackson County to share their values, beliefs, and expectations regarding outdoor recreation and natural resource protection on the Rogue River between the old Gold Ray Dam site near Central Point (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157).

Your experiences and perspectives will help these state agencies better understand your values and hopes for the river as they make decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue and surrounding lands now and in the future.

For more info & to register: tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue

Join a community conversation facilitated by Oregon’s Kitchen Table:

- ZOOM: Wednesday, May 22, 6-8pm - English with interpretation available
- In person: Thursday, May 30, 6-8pm at the Shady Cove Middle School Gymnasium - English (Spanish available by request)
- In person: Tuesday, June 4, 5:30-7:30pm at Touvelle State Park - English (Spanish available by request)
- In person: Monday, June 17, 5:30-7:30pm at the Jackson County Library in Medford - English and Spanish



Take the survey!

tinyurl.com/okt-upperrogue-survey

If you experience a disability and need reasonable accommodation to be part of this meeting, please contact Oregon's Kitchen Table by email at info@oregonskitchentable.org or (503) 725 3420.



Appendix E. Community Conversation Design Upper Rogue Community Engagement

AGENDA

Greeting: When people enter, they are invited to fill out cards that ask: “What is your connection to this part of the Upper Rogue River? What is your hope for the future of this part of the Upper Rogue River?” People are also invited to mark their activities/where they connect to the river on a large map with the focal segment of the river marked. Dinner is served for a half hour before the conversation starts.

- **Opening**

- Introductions (Oregon’s Kitchen Table, OKT facilitators and agency staff)
- Overview of project
- What to expect for discussion
 - Discussion guidelines:
 - Be mindful of who is and isn’t here in the room *There are multiple perspectives on this issue, and they may or may not all be represented here today.*
 - Listen with curiosity
 - Be respectful of your neighbors
 - Keep conversation on topic
 - Give time and space for each other.
- Who’s in the room? Ask people to indicate by raising hands what connects them to the river:
 - Fishing
 - Boating
 - Rafting
 - Live on the river
 - Run a business that depends on the river
- **Pairs:** Find someone who has a different connection to the river. Share your hope and connection to the river (from your card). Identify 1 thing you can agree on that you want for the future.
- **Full group:** What did you agree on that you’d like to see for the future?



Appendix E. Community Conversation Design Upper Rogue Community Engagement

- **Small groups** (~6 people each):
 - Review statements describing three viewpoints:
 - If some people use the river how they want to, it means other people or animals can't use the river the way they want to. Some activities should be banned.
 - Everyone can share the river. Rules should limit some activities in some places to protect other activities or wildlife.
 - There may be conflict among river users, but what we need is courtesy, respect, and awareness, not more rules
 - Discussion Question: Which of these approaches do you think will help get us to the future you want to see?
- **Share out** - each table shares highlights from their group discussions
 - If time allows: What did you notice about that?
- **Closing:**
 - What is something you learned from the conversation or an appreciation you have from the conversation?
 - Next steps – future community conversations, survey, how to stay connected, how to host your own conversation, and report timeline.
 - Who to follow up with
 - Appreciation & closing



Welcome!
¡Bienvenidos!

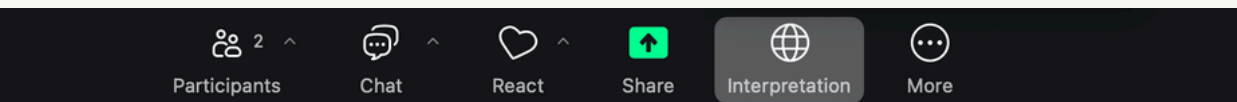
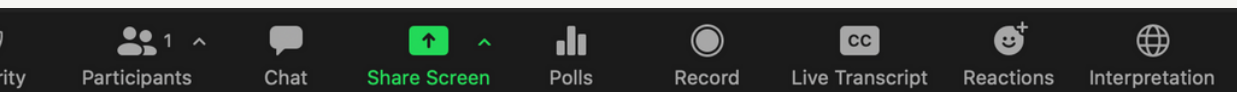
Please share in the chat ~ Por favor, comparte en el chat:

- Name ~ Nombre
- Where are you located in Oregon ~ ¿Dónde se encuentra usted en Oregón?
- What's your favorite part or section of the Upper Rogue? ~ ¿Cuál es su parte o sección favorita del Upper Rogue?

For English: Click on the "Interpretation" Globe and click "English".

~

Interpretación en español: En los controles de la reunión o el seminario web, haga clic en Interpretación y seleccione español.



Introductions ~ Introducciones

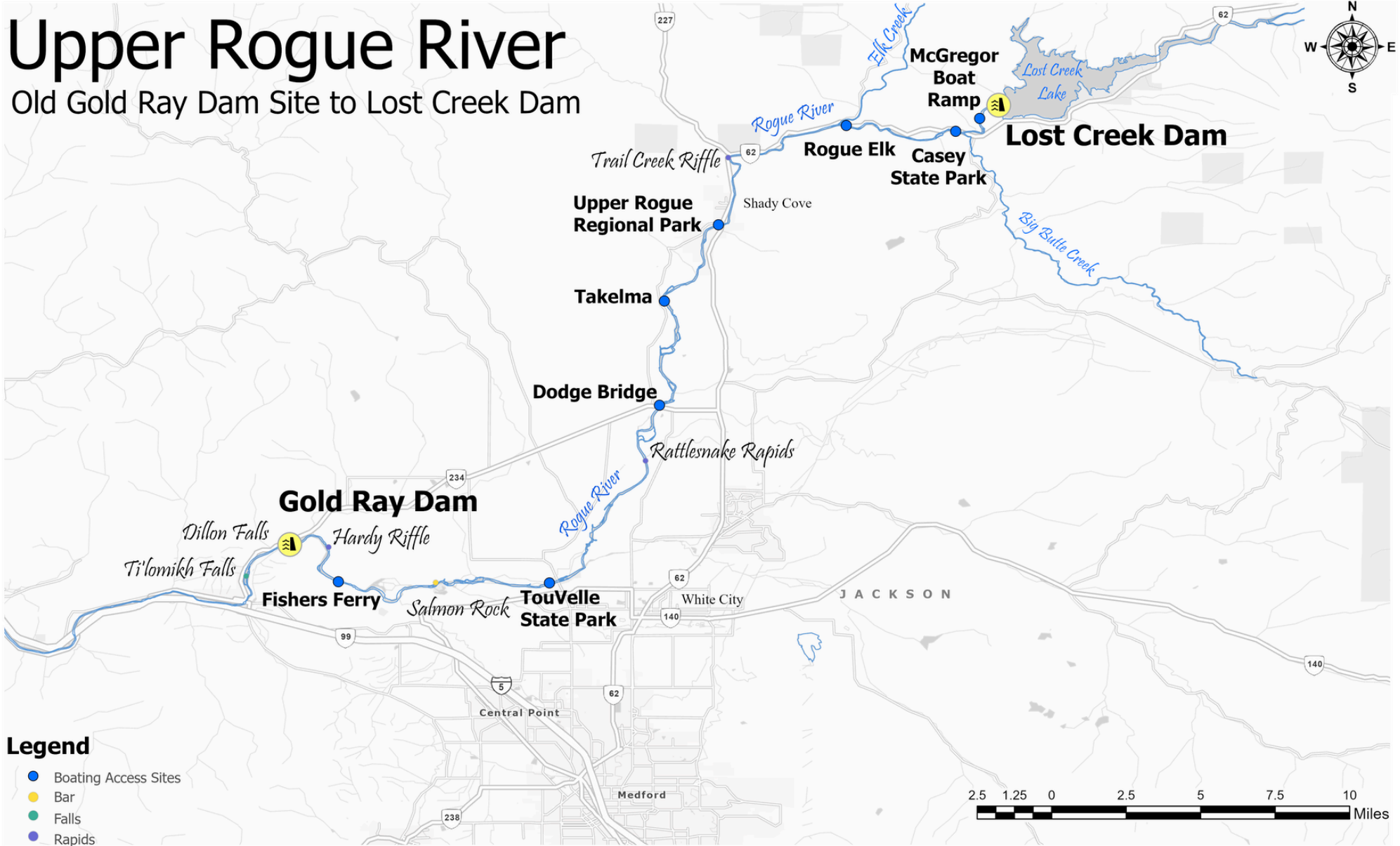


Eliot, John,
Tiff, Sonia



Upper Rogue River

Old Gold Ray Dam Site to Lost Creek Dam



Today's Conversation ~ Conversación de hoy

Discussion

Guidelines ~

Guía de
discusión

Background ~

Antecedents

Discussion

~~

Discusión

Next Steps

Closing

~~

Próximos

pasos

Cierre



Background ~ Antecedents

Discussion Guidelines ~ Guía de discusión

Give time and space
for each other

~~

*Dé tiempo y espacio
para cada persona*

Be mindful of who
is and isn't here in
the room

~~

*Sea consciente de
quién está presente*

Be respectful of
your neighbors

~~

*Sea respetuoso
con los demás*

Listen with
curiosity

~~

*Escuche con
curiosidad*

Keep conversation
on topic

~~

*Mantenga la
conversación en el
tema*



Discussion Question ~ Preguntas

What is your connection to this part of the river?
What is your hope for this part of the river?
Find one thing you can agree on that you want for the future.

~~

¿Cuál es su conexión con ésta parte del Upper Rogue River?
¿Qué espera usted ver en ésta parte del río?
Encuentre una cosa que usted está de acuerdo que desea para el futuro.

Which of these approaches will help get to the future you imagine? ~ ¿Cuál de éstos enfoques cree usted que nos ayudaría a lograr el futuro que usted quisiera ver?

- **Ban**: If some people use the river how they want to, it means other people or animals can't use the river the way they want to. Some activities should be banned.
- **Limitations**: Everyone can share the river. Rules should limit some activities in some places to protect other activities or wildlife.
- **Norms & education**: There may be conflict among river users, but what we need is courtesy, respect, and awareness, not more rules.

~~

- **Prohibición**: Si algunas personas usan el río como ellos quieren, eso significa que otras personas o animales no pueden utilizar el río en la manera que ellos quisieran. Algunas actividades deberían prohibirse.
- **Limitaciones**: Todos pueden compartir el río. Deberían haber reglas para limitar algunas actividades en algunos lugares para proteger otras actividades o la vida salvaje.
- **Normas y educación**: Tal vez haya conflictos entre los usuarios del río pero lo que necesitamos es cortesía, respeto y estar conciente, no más reglas



Discussion Question ~ Preguntas

Which of these approaches will help get to the future you imagine?

~~

¿Cuál de éstos enfoques cree usted que nos ayudaría a lograr el futuro que usted quisiera ver?

Next Steps ~ Próximos pasos

Additional
engagement
opportunities

Otras
oportunidades
para participar

The input will help
OPRD, DSL, ODFW
and OSMB as they
make future
decisions



Su aporte
ayudará al OPRD,
DSL, ODFW y al
OSMB al tomar
decisiones futuras

OKT will share a
full report with
participants and
on our site



OKT compartirá
un reporte
completo con los
participantes y en
nuestra página de
internet



Thank you Muchas gracias

As we wrap up, share with us by chat:

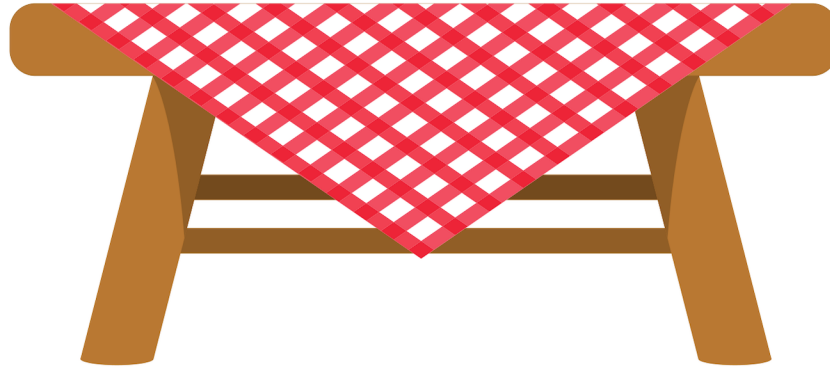
Something you learned or appreciated from the conversation.

~~

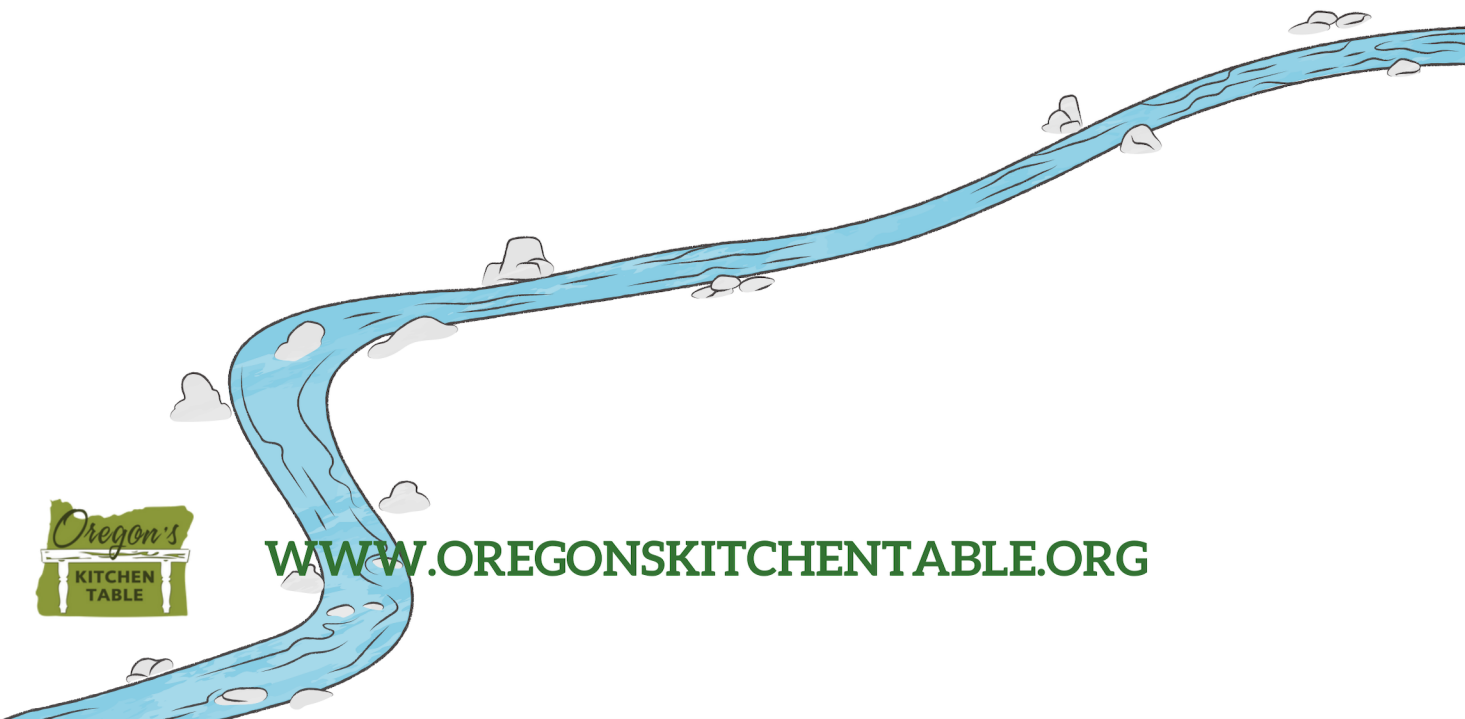
A medida que vamos concluyendo comparte con nosotros en el Chat:

Algo que aprendió o algo que apreció de la conversación.

info@oregonskitchentable.org



**KITCHEN TABLE
CONVERSATION GUIDE:
Upper Rogue River
Community Engagement**



WWW.OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG



This Guide is for people who are organizing and hosting a Kitchen Table Conversation with others about your values, beliefs and desires for the Upper Rogue River between the old Gold Ray Dam site (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157).

We hope this Guide provides helpful ideas for organizing a community conversation, a structure for what to talk about during the conversation, and a clear way to summarize what people shared and get it to OKT. We ask you to use the same questions as in other conversations and to send us the notes from your conversation.

We are happy to work with you to provide outreach materials and can help coach you on facilitation if you need it. If you want support or assistance, please reach out! Email info@oregonskitchentable or call (503)725-3420.

CONTENTS

Our Approach

Gathering People

Purpose / Background

Guiding the conversation

Gathering input

Tips and templates

OUR APPROACH

Oregon's Kitchen Table strives to include all Oregonians in the decisions that affect their lives, with a particular focus on reaching, engaging, and hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional public processes.

We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways.

We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues / policies. We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced. People participate in many different ways: through online and paper surveys, individual or small group interviews, culturally specific and community events, festivals, listening sessions, or public meetings open to anyone.

One of the approaches we use is what we call a Kitchen Table Conversation: a group of people gathering together to learn from each other and share what they think in the language, setting, and format that is most comfortable for them.



GATHERING PEOPLE TO TALK

INVITATION

Use whatever method people will pay attention to, but make sure it feels warm, welcoming, and inviting. It might be a text, a phone call, What'sApp, a social media post, or an email. Some people set up e-invites. Make clear the time, place, purpose, what to expect (food or participant incentive), and if they need to RSVP.

GROUP SIZE

10-12 people is a nice size. But larger groups can be broken up into smaller groups. And you can still have a good conversation with 2-3 people.

FORMAT

You can meet in person, over Zoom, or group chat (people have used WhatsApp before, for example). You can talk while planting trees or clearing out invasive species. You can have the conversation on a bus during a field trip. Hold the conversation in a space that is easy and comfortable for people in your community.



HOST

Think of yourself as the host, welcoming people at your table,

FOOD

If you are in person, have food! Even a simple snack (popcorn, cookies, water, fruit) will help people feel welcome.

FUN

If you're in-person or virtual, have some element of fun and joy that makes sense for your group: music, a short game, decorations.

ACTIVITY!

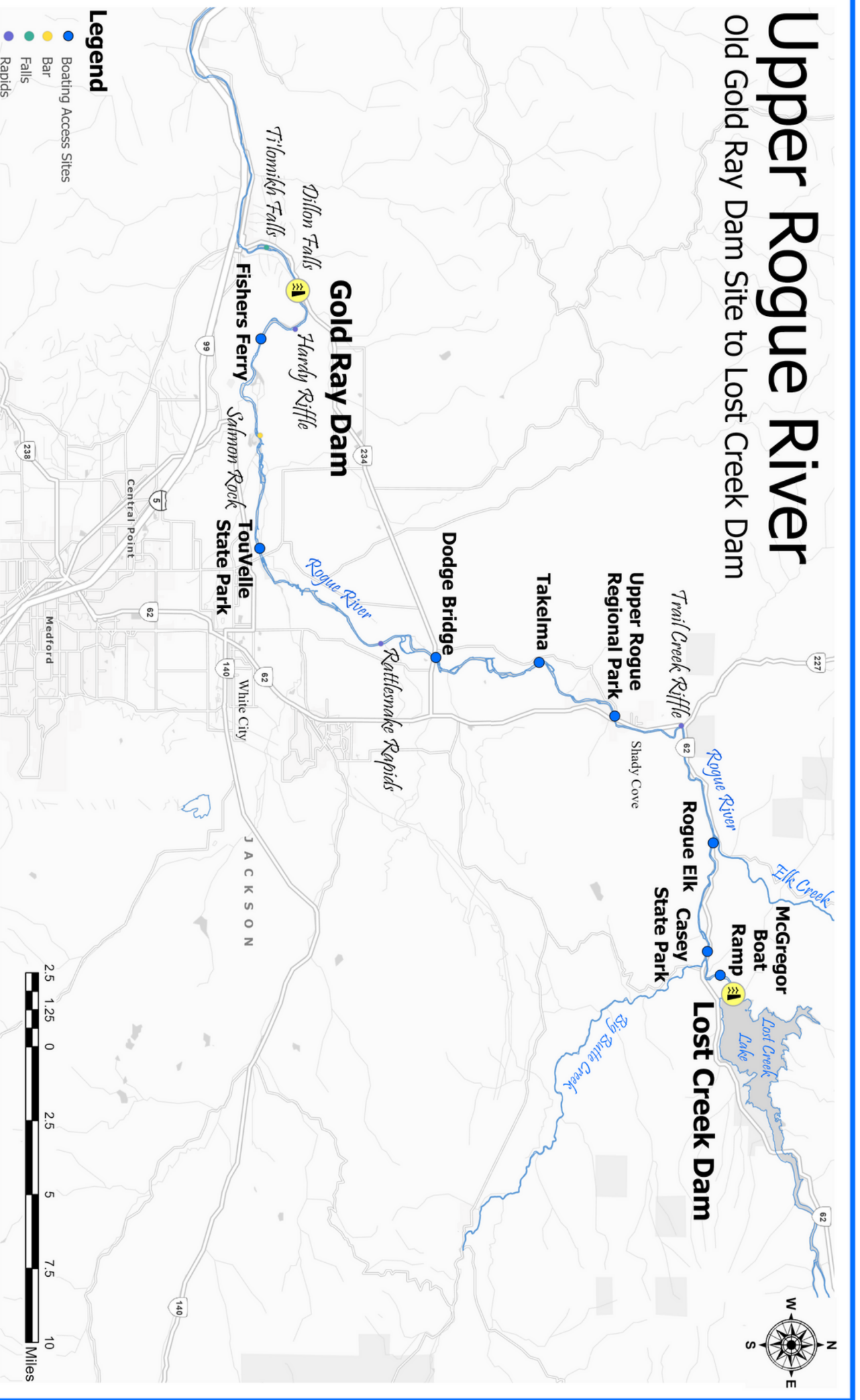
Have an opening activity that allows for all to say something at the beginning so that they can get comfortable. For example, we suggest that you start by asking people to share their connection to this part of the Upper Rogue.

As part of this conversation, you could consider having people mark their connection on a map. On the next page, we've provided a map of this section of the river. We suggest that you have people mark their activities on the map! Use highlighters or markers to show what you do and where you do it. Send us the pictures!



Upper Rogue River

Old Gold Ray Dam Site to Lost Creek Dam



ROLES FOR CO-HOSTS

If you are working with a partner or a team to co-host a conversation, decide who will take which role. Here are some common roles. You could also invite participants to join you and take on one of these roles.



- Facilitator: Guides conversation, asks questions, and helps capture themes, commonalities, or differences.
- Notetaker: Captures what people say. Bullet points are fine! If the notetaker can get any good quotes, that's great but not required.
- Timekeeper: Use a clock (phone works!) to help make sure that there's enough time for each part of the conversation. Give facilitator / group time warnings.
- Reporter: If there are small group discussions, shares a summary of what the group discussed for the whole group.
- Observer: Helps the Facilitator make sure everyone gets a chance to talk or that no one person takes up too much time.

GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

1. BACKGROUND

People have different experiences and knowledge about the topic. We honor all of those experiences and knowledge. Share the basic background provided in the "Purpose for Gathering" section.

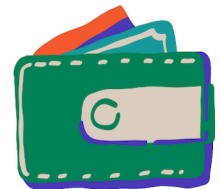
2. QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION



OKT has developed a few questions with the decision maker. We usually have a few main questions to ask people. We also have follow up questions if people need some direction in responding or if there's extra time.

3. HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME TOGETHER

It's ok if people want to spend time on just one or two questions. We want to know where their interests and energies are, so that's fine!



4. CONFIDENTIALITY



Let people know that their names or anything that identifies them won't be shared. You'll give OKT a summary of what you all talked about. OKT will combine all the input from different conversations, surveys, and other ways people share what they think.



CONVERSATION AGENDA

Welcome

How we will use our time together

Discussion Guidelines:

- Help us hear everybody
- Be respectful of your neighbors
- Listen with curiosity
- Everyone brings different experiences and ideas
- Speak from your direct experience (what you have seen, felt, heard)

Project Background

Introductions

Discussion (break into smaller groups as needed!)

Next steps

Goodbyes and Appreciations

PURPOSE FOR GATHERING

Explain why you've inviting people in your community to to talk about their values, beliefs, and expectations regarding outdoor recreation and natural resource protection on the Upper Rogue River.

Below is a description of what the decision is and why it matters. You can read this or summarize in your own words.



Many people use the Upper Rogue River (specifically between the old Gold Ray dam site, river mile 126, to the Lost Creek Dam, river mile 157) for a whole variety of activities. Some people fish and swim or want to protect fish and animals in the river. Some people enjoy the river using boats, either with paddles or motors. And there are several businesses that take customers up and down the river, some in rafts and some in power boats, like jet boats.

Over the past few years, there has been some conflict about how people are using and enjoying the this stretch of the Upper Rogue. Some of those people believe that increased use of motor boats, especially the businesses using jet boats, make those activities difficult or impossible. Some other people believe that everyone can enjoy the river together, including jet boats. The river is also changing over time because of things like lower water and more people wanting to use it at the same time.

The State of Oregon is considering making changes that some people have suggested related to this stretch of the Upper Rogue. So, a group of state agencies – the Department of State Lands, the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – have partnered with Oregon's Kitchen Table to hear from people who live in Jackson County and anyone who visits the Upper Rogue about their experiences, values, and desires for the future of this part of the river.

Your experiences and perspectives will help these state agencies better understand your values and hopes for the river as they make decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue and surrounding lands now and in the future.

QUESTIONS

What is your connection to this part of the Upper Rogue River? (What do you do on the river and where?)

What is your hope for the future of this part of the Upper Rogue River?

Hearing other peoples' hopes for the future--what is one thing you can agree on?

There have been several approaches suggested to reach people's desired futures for this part of the river:

- (Ban) If some people use the river how they want to, it means other people or animals can't use the river the way they want to. Some activities should be banned.
- (Limitations) Everyone can share the river. Rules should limit some activities in some places to protect other activities or wildlife.
- (Education) There may be conflict among river users, but what we need is courtesy, respect, and awareness, not more rules

Which of these approaches do you think will help get us to the future you want to see? (Or you can write/share your own idea.)

CONNECTING BACK

Let people know where their input will go and how it will be used. You can use the timeline on the next page. Also let them know that you will connect with Oregon's Kitchen Table with whatever questions came up and circle back to people with any answers.

APPRECIATIONS

Let people know how important their input is and we appreciate hearing their ideas, thoughts, experiences and time on this important issue. You can invite everyone to share their appreciations for each other.

ACTIVITY

If there's time, you can invite people to share aloud. If there's not time, have post-it notes or cards for people to write or draw their response to a closing question: One example: *What's something you learned from this conversation?* Or, *Share something you appreciate from this conversation.*



CLOSING

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD!

Send your summary to feen@pdx.edu by July 5, 2024.



2. OKT REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

OKT will provide a report of what we heard to the state agencies in August 2024. We will post the report and a summary of that report on the OKT website. We will also share it with anyone who gave us their contact information.








You will be able to see the report here:

<https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>

3. HOW STATE AGENCIES WILL USE THE INPUT

Your input will help several Oregon state agencies (Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) better understand your values and hopes for the river as they makes decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue River and the land around it now and in the future.

TIPS FOR SUMMARY

-  Bullet points are fine! This is a summary not a formal report.
-  Let us know any areas where there is agreement or disagreement in people's perspectives.
-  Let us know if there are any unique perspectives (an idea / experience / belief one person shared even if others didn't have it).
-  Add your observations/reflections: Feelings, sense of issues, concerns, positive experiences.
-  Let us know if there's anyone we ought to follow up with on any ideas they shared.
-  Share any questions about the project that you couldn't answer and who to follow up with.
-  Include any pictures from the conversation. Make sure to ask permission first!

SEND YOUR SUMMARY BY JULY 5, 2024 TO: FEEN@PDX.EDU



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Date / Place:

of people:

General description of the group (age ranges, languages spoken, any ways the group might identify themselves):

Opening activity (what you did, anything anyone shared):

What's your connection to the river?



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

What is your hope for this part of the Upper Rogue River?

Hearing other peoples' hopes for this part of the river -
what is one thing you can agree on?

Which of the approaches do you think will get us to the future you want
to see? Other ideas, approaches?



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Closing activity (what you did, what people shared)



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Areas of agreement among the group

Areas of disagreement among the group

Unique perspectives



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Areas where someone was persuaded by someone else's point of view

Any observations you had

Direct quotes

SEND YOUR SUMMARY BY JULY 5, 2024 TO: FEEN@PDX.EDU



QUESTIONS?
IDEAS?
NEED SUPPORT?
CONTACT US!



503-725-3420



INFO@OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG



WWW.OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG





Community Connector Interview Protocol Rogue River Community Engagement

About the project

A group of state agencies – Department of State Lands, the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – have partnered with Oregon's Kitchen Table to create ways for residents and visitors to Jackson County to share their values, beliefs, and expectations regarding outdoor recreation and natural resource protection on the Rogue River between Gold Ray Dam (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157). This input will help inform and align these agencies' decisions related to outdoor recreation and resource management on this stretch of the river.

Right now we are planning for the community engagement that will begin this summer. We are talking to a number of different people as we plan to better understand some of the different perspectives around this issue and opportunities for making sure we hear from people in your community.

Questions about community priorities and concerns related to the Rogue River

- How are you or members of your community connected to this stretch of the Rogue River? How do you want to be connected?
- In what ways have you been involved in discussions around this stretch of the Rogue River?
- How do people in your community / you think or talk about their relationships to this stretch of the Rogue River?
- Do you or does your community have specific concerns or interests related to this stretch of the Rogue River, and what are your / their concerns?
- Are there questions you have / hear people in your community asking about this stretch of the Rogue River?
- Where are conversations around this stretch of the Rogue River or related topics happening in your community? (at what tables / in what venues / in what groups?)
- How do you think conversations around this stretch of the Rogue River connect with other main priorities that you see in your communities / region?

Questions about community engagement approaches

- What are the best ways to communicate (and ways to avoid – ways that no one in your community will see or open)?
- What does your community gather around? Activities? Important events? Especially in May - July? (Anything to avoid?)
- Are there standing regular meetings or gatherings that you think could be a good venue for hearing from people about the river?
- What needs are you aware of that members of your community have in order to be able to participate? (language, childcare, food, setting, meeting set-up, materials, etc.)
- Who might be the best person to ask or invite you or your community to engage on this topic?
- Would you like to be part of any aspect of the community engagement happening this spring / summer around this stretch of the Rogue River?
- Do you think your community would benefit from or enjoy having a staff member from one of these state agencies (DSL, OPRD, OSMB, ODFW) present at a community conversation or event?