



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

November 1, 2023

To: The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chair of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Committee

cc: The Honorable Val Hoyle, Representative for Oregon's 4th Congressional District

Re: [S. 162](#) Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act– **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon would like to publicly express our support for the proposed Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act, a concept similar to S. 2875 from 2020, which [we also supported](#), to protect the North Fork Smith River watershed in Oregon.

The North Fork Smith River has unique scenic, historic and recreational values. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that water is a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as a sustainable habitat for all life forms. The League supports policies and statutes that promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and management of ground and surface water and the improvement of water quality.

The North Fork Smith River and its tributaries support several imperiled fish species including Southern Oregon and Northern California Coast coho salmon, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened. Other species that depend on this river system's clean cool water for survival include steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout.

Fishing, kayaking, and white-water rafting folk from across the nation flock to the Smith River system, including the North Fork Smith River in Oregon, to paddle and float its clear waters. Camping, swimming, and hiking also draw thousands to this watershed. These recreational activities support local community economies. This river's crystal-clear pure waters are central to its recreational attraction.

The downstream communities of Gasquet, Hiouchi, Smith River and Crescent City all rely on the Smith River for clean drinking water and agricultural use.

We support the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act. We believe this expansion is necessary to maintain its extraordinary water quality and ecological values and to provide rural fishing and recreation jobs for this shared special place in Oregon and California.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR Co-President and Advocacy Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator