

**From:** Diane Ramos  
**Date:** April 4, 2013, 5:11:09 PM PDT  
**Subject:** North Fork of Burnt river and SB401

Dear Beth Reiley,

So here we go again, people with an environmental agenda on the west side trying to shove something down our east side throats.

I cannot believe our small North Fork of Burnt River stream is included in SB 401 as a scenic waterway. You would be lucky if you could float a cow pie down it for the majority of the year.

How many of the proponents of this bill have actually traveled to the Burnt River area or even know what exists out here? When we travel west, most everyone we encounter has never heard of Hereford, Oregon or the Burnt River.

Really, how much consideration has been given to the impact this will have on our small rural economy which depends upon the irrigation water of the Burnt River North Fork?

Over the years legislative decisions such as this have already ruined much of our economy with the shut down of logging, the mill, and the Forest Service installation. Our school population has dropped from almost 200 at one time to 25 in grades K-12 today. About all that is left is cattle ranching and mining for which use of the waters of the Burnt River North Fork are crucial.

The family farms in the area have been in existence for many years, some more than 100, as have their water rights. You can drive up the North Fork of Burnt river today and it has changed very little in the 60+ years I have lived here, so giving it a scenic rivers designation is not going to change the scenery. As remote as we are I see very little benefit from this designation other than maybe there will be 10 visitors over the year rather than 1 or 2, but I doubt any of them will contribute much to our economy. About the only thing that will happen is that we will have a bunch more crummy rules and regulations to live by.

The North Fork of the Burnt River should not be included in any scenic waterways bill. I ask you to see that these comments reach the proper committee members so they can consider my opposition.

Thank you,

Dianne Ramos