



*Celebrating 40 Years:*

# The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

by *David Moryc*, American Rivers & *Katherine Luscher*, River Network

*It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.*

*Wild and Scenic Rivers Act – October 2, 1968*



What do a Snake, a Sturgeon, a Little Beaver and a Buffalo have in common? They are all rivers protected by our federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. On October 2,

1968, the Act—championed by Senator Frank Church (ID)—was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. Forty years later, the Act protects more than 11,434 miles of 166 river stretches in 38 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The passage of this federal legislation, after years of political wrangling, established one of our nation's strongest conservation tools for rivers. Enactment of the law signified a fundamental shift in the way we value rivers. For the first time in our nation's history we embraced conservation of rivers for their inherent unique qualities.

As a result of the Act, many of our greatest rivers are guaranteed to be preserved forever. For example, the Missouri River explored by Lewis and Clark, the

Tuolumne River loved by John Muir, and the Delaware, Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers, which cradled the American Revolution, are protected by this visionary law. And despite various myths and misconceptions, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act remains a powerful tool available for watershed conservationists to protect their local river.



In recent years, through land management planning processes, many rivers have been identified as eligible or suitable for designation. According to the federal government, at least 3,400 rivers have been found to have outstanding qualities worthy of protection. At the request of local communities, the governor or the managing agency, it is possible that many of these rivers could be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

## So, exactly what does Wild and Scenic mean?

Rivers listed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers act are afforded a specific set of protections. In sum, a designation:



# River Network

*Connecting People, Saving Rivers*

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## From The President

M

any years ago, my parents purchased land along New York's Ausable River—a river protected under New York State's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. It's a quiet place that always reminds me of what's truly important in my life—people, nature and conservation. That is why, it is an honor to follow Don Elder, my predecessor as CEO of River Network, who so superbly positioned us to help people protect and restore rivers and their watersheds.

I join River Network on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. When it was passed on October 2, 1968, the United States was facing challenges much like today: people were alarmed by a deteriorating environment, the economy was headed towards major instability and a debilitating war was the focus of a contentious presidential election.

So why, in the midst of such profound troubles, did our country set a national goal to identify and conserve remarkable rivers? I believe it was the awareness that healthy rivers could cleanse our polluted environment, fuel economic engines like agriculture and tourism and remind a country at war of what's most important to protect.

Our river heritage is vastly richer today because of the Act, but most of its potential remains unfulfilled. Many deserving rivers have not been designated, and many designated rivers have not been adequately protected.

Like most environmental laws, the Act depends on citizen involvement and support. Successful implementation requires us to grow watershed protection organizations nationwide, increase partnerships with other water-dependent sectors and broaden and diversify public awareness of our work.

By pursuing these goals, we can realize the full potential of the Act while addressing broader environmental and economic problems that are even more urgent today than they were in 1968. With this issue of *River Voices*, we aim to point the way forward.



Photo credit: River Network Collection

In partnership,

President & CEO  
River Network

## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, cont.

cont. from page 1

- ★ Protects a river's "outstandingly remarkable" values and free-flowing character.
- ★ Protects existing uses of the river.
- ★ Prohibits federally-licensed dams and any other federally-assisted water resource project if the project would negatively impact the river's outstanding values.
- ★ Establishes, at a minimum, a quarter-mile protected riparian buffer corridor on both sides of the river. On the Rogue River in Oregon, for example, this buffer provides protection for over 13,000 acres of highly productive riparian zone and forest.
- ★ Requires the creation of a cooperative river management plan that addresses resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, etc.

## Taking a Closer Look

Now that you have a general overview, let's spend a little time exploring the specifics of how the Act works.

### Protects a river's "outstandingly remarkable" values and free-flowing character

The intent of the Act is to preserve the free-flowing character and "outstandingly remarkable values" of designated rivers for future generations to enjoy. To be included in the System, a river, or stretch thereof, must be a free-flowing stream and the adjacent land must possess scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

Don't be fooled by the title of the act; rivers need not be "wild" in a pristine sense to warrant protection. According to the Act, every river in its free-flowing condition must be considered eligible for inclusion in the

System and, if included, must be classified, designated and administered as a wild, scenic or a recreational river area.

- ★ **Wild:** Wild river areas are rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail (i.e., no roads), with pristine, unpolluted watersheds or shorelines. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- ★ **Scenic:** Scenic river areas are rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but with limited road access (e.g., a bridge crossing).
- ★ **Recreational:** Recreational river areas are rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by road or railroad (which may run parallel to them), may have some shoreline development and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Rivers are not limited to protection under only one category; often different stretches on the same river are protected by different categories. For instance, the Verde River in Arizona has a 22.2 mile stretch protected as "wild" and an additional 18.3 mile stretch protected as "scenic." Likewise, the Carp River in Michigan has stretches designated as "wild," "scenic" and "recreational." Rivers in the National System are often referred to as "wild and scenic rivers" without regard to their specific classification.

Given that most of our country's rivers have been altered by humankind, it is worth mentioning that Congress did not intend all rivers protected under the Act to be "naturally flowing," that is, flowing without any manmade up- or downstream manipulation. In fact, many designated

river segments are above or below dams. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act defines free-flowing as “existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modification of the waterway.” The existence of small dams, diversion works or other minor structures do not automatically disqualify a river as a candidate for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

### **Protects existing uses of the river**

Each component of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System is managed in a way to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in the system and limits other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values.

### **Prohibits federally-licensed dams, and any other federally-assisted water resource project if the project would negatively impact the river’s outstanding values**

According to Section 7 of the Act, administering agencies must evaluate proposed water resources projects. Section 7 does not prohibit “...licensing of, or assistance to, developments below or above a wild, scenic or recreational river area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational and fish and wildlife values present in the area on the date of designation.”

In addition to the protection of designated rivers, study rivers (e.g., rivers under formal consideration for inclusion in the System) are also protection under Section 7. The Federal Power Commission is prohibited from licensing the construction of a water

resource project on, or directly affecting a river listed as a study river. Furthermore, no department or agency of the United States can assist by loan, grant, license or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such a river might be designated.

### **Establishes a quarter-mile protected corridor on both sides of the river**

This buffer is one of the Act’s most significant protective tools. Nationwide this buffer accounts for over 3.5 million acres of riparian forest and floodplain protection. Corridor boundaries are established to protect the free-flowing nature, water quality and Outstandingly Remarkable Values for which the river was designated. Boundaries may be wider or narrower, but are not to exceed the 1/4 mile buffer average without approval by Congress. Measurement is made from the ordinary high water mark. In Alaska, and where mandated by Congress, the allowable boundary is 640 acres per mile for rivers located outside of national parks.

Corridor boundaries for federally designated and administered rivers may vary based on a number of conditions, but are usually delineated by legally identifiable lines (survey or property lines) or some form of on-the-ground physical feature (i.e., topography, natural or manmade features such as canyon rims, roads, etc.).

### **Requires the creation of a cooperative river management plan that addresses resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, etc.**

Designated rivers are administered by one of four federal agencies (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S.

*Oregon leads the nation with 48 designated rivers, while Alaska boasts the highest number of miles at 3,210. Overall, the northwestern states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho contribute well over half of the rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.*

cont. on page 6



## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, cont.

cont. from page 5 Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) or by states. Generally, the specific legislation will indicate an agency to administer each river area or segment in order to minimize overlapping federal agency jurisdictional issues. For congressionally designated rivers, the administering federal agency is responsible for implementing the Act's requirements, including the development of a comprehensive management plan for each river within roughly three years from the date of designation, although the agencies do not always meet this deadline. On some rivers, including those with overlapping state



Photo: Katherine Lueker

Blossom Rapid  
on Oregon's  
Wild and Scenic  
Rogue River.

designations, joint federal/state management plans may be developed. The public and state, local and tribal governments are essential participants in developing an acceptable plan that both protects and enhances the values for which the river was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Managing agencies are often charged with:

- 1) Determining final classification, if not determined by Congress upon designation.
- 2) Developing final boundaries and maps.

- 3) Developing the comprehensive, interdisciplinary management plan which may address a variety of issues (e.g., resource protection and user capacities).
- 4) Implementing the management plan in conformance with land-use planning objectives.

## Designating a River

Rivers are designated in one of two ways. The first, and by far the most common, is through an act of Congress. In other words, you must encourage your Senators and appropriate Representative(s) to sponsor a bill to designate the river. Usually, there is first an act directing an agency to study the river and ensure it meets certain criteria. Then, following a positive finding, Congress could add the river to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Of course, Congress has the power to directly add a river, but that is unusual and not the preferred method.

The second, albeit rare, way a river may be designated is through the Secretary of the Interior at the request of a state governor. These rivers are administered by the state and/or local governments without interference by, or support from, the federal government. However, the river must first be part of a state river protection system (see page 9) before the governor's application can even be considered. Then, the National Park Service studies the river to ensure that it meets eligibility criteria, that the state/local government has sufficient mechanisms (laws, zoning, etc.) in place to protect the river without federal involvement, and that the state/local government has the ability to enforce those mechanisms. If the findings are positive, the National Park Service reports back to the Secretary and he/she can designate the river.

## Cons & Pros

While the Wild and Scenic Act will certainly afford many benefits to both the river and the community, it is not without its limitations.

### Cons of a Wild and Scenic designation may include:

- ★ Lack of holistic ecosystem protection. Despite language in the law designed to protect adjacent lands, destructive activities can occur up or downstream from designated sections. As is nearly always the case, protection of an entire watershed requires use of an comprehensive set of complimentary tools;
- ★ Initial or sustained attraction to the river because of designation – and thus an increase in traffic and/or use;
- ★ A drain on limited time and resources from the multiple players involved with the development and execution of the management plan; and
- ★ The lack of regulatory authority by managing agencies on private lands within a Wild and Scenic corridor.

### Benefits of a Wild and Scenic designation may include:

- ★ Providing managers with tools to maintain a river's free-flowing condition (i.e., protection of river values through the assessment of hydroelectric facilities or water resource development projects within the designated reach);
- ★ Protection of water quality and Outstandingly Remarkable Values;
- ★ Potential increases in funding for habitat restoration;

- ★ Development of the management plan for a river via an integrated, collaborative and community effort;
- ★ Additional research on essential river issues by the river management agency;
- ★ Potential for economic development, tourism or recreational use;
- ★ A possible increase in property values near the river; and
- ★ Technical assistance and the development of collaborative partnerships with private landowners provided by managing agencies.

## Roles for a Watershed Group

Local watershed conservation organizations can play a pivotal role in designating—or managing the designation of—a Wild and Scenic River. Here are a few things you could do:

- ★ Become involved in a Wild and Scenic campaign, or lead one of your own. Research the feasibility of your river, or stretch of river, for inclusion in the Act. The articles in this issue of *River Voices*, as well as organizations like American Rivers, provide various resources for you.
- ★ If your river is already designated, educate the community about the value of the river and encourage the public to responsibly enjoy the many benefits it provides. You may even consider hosting a “Wild and Scenic” fundraiser or event.
- ★ Establish a relationship with the agency managing the Wild and Scenic River in your backyard. Encourage them to work with you to improve conditions on the river and find ways to link other restoration and protection efforts upstream or down of the Wild and Scenic segment.

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## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, cont.

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- ★ Join the Wild and Scenic River Stewards Network, a new nationwide grassroots collaborative of organizations and individuals working together to build a stronger voice for designated Wild and Scenic Rivers.

## The Next Forty Years

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has been greatly successful in protecting some of our most outstanding rivers, but our job is far from over. Today, thousands of our country's best rivers have yet to be designated as Wild and Scenic, leaving them vulnerable to growing threats from the pressures of global warming, poorly planned development, water withdrawals, pollution and new dam building.

Photo: Katherine Luecher



The Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho

In the face of climate change, we will need to increasingly rely on the protection of our highest quality rivers to provide source drinking water, flood protection, critical habitat and quality of life benefits.



## The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (Council), formed in 1995, consists of one national and two field staff representatives of each of the four federal agencies managing designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. Its purposes are to improve interagency coordination in administering the Act, address management concerns on designated rivers and potential additions to the system, and provide technical assistance to other government and nonprofit organizations. Their website ([www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov)) is chock full of great information on Wild and Scenic Rivers and their management.

The Council has facilitated a standard resource management approach by the four agencies, provided key training to individual managers of system assets and developed and issued a wide range of important technical reports on interpreting and administering the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Clearly, the Council's goals are being met and their efforts are benefiting agency resource managers and conservation organizations alike.

*Sources: American Rivers; Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council; Wild and Scenic Rivers of America, Tim Palmer.*



# State River Protection Programs

by David Bolling



he Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was not the beginning of legislated river protection. Wisconsin created the first state system in 1965, and 33 states had enacted some form of state river protection by 1993.

There are so many different state programs that a simple summary isn't possible. Some states have ventured only timidly into the current of river protection with anemic programs that do little more than define lofty ideals. But others have enacted proactive legislation that has produced substantial results. Vermont has adopted what could become a national model with its Comprehensive State River Policy Act, which seeks to safeguard fisheries on all rivers with blanket protection for instream flows while allowing the legislature to designate "outstanding water resources" on which dams are prohibited.

## What They Do

Many state programs mimic the federal Wild and Scenic Act in general structure and function, but there are a variety of other models. Common to most state systems is a prohibition on dams and major instream disruptions, although state systems lack jurisdiction over federal agencies and don't protect against FERC hydro licenses, Corps of Engineers dams or Bureau of Reclamation water diversions. In practical terms, however, state river protection is a significant political obstacle to federal instream river projects.

Typically, state systems aren't as strict as the federal Act, although they have one major advantage in that they have the capability of regulating private land use, which is the single most important tool for protecting private land rivers.

State systems have, on average, been less aggressive than the federal system in adding rivers. Some states have passed innovative programs and then left them to languish. California protected five rivers when it passed a Wild and Scenic Act in 1972, but didn't add another river until 1989.

## States with State River Protection Programs

- 
- |                |                  |                  |             |             |                 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ★ Arkansas     | ★ California     | ★ Connecticut    | ★ Florida   | ★ Georgia   | ★ Idaho         |
| ★ Illinois     | ★ Indiana        | ★ Iowa           | ★ Kentucky  | ★ Louisiana | ★ Maine         |
| ★ Maryland     | ★ Massachusetts  | ★ Michigan       | ★ Minnesota | ★ Missouri  | ★ New Hampshire |
| ★ New Jersey   | ★ New York       | ★ North Carolina | ★ Ohio      | ★ Oklahoma  | ★ Oregon        |
| ★ Pennsylvania | ★ South Carolina | ★ South Dakota   | ★ Tennessee | ★ Vermont   | ★ Virginia      |
| ★ Washington   | ★ West Virginia  | ★ Wisconsin      |             |             |                 |

This information originally appeared in *How to Save a River*, a River Network publication

# Common Misconceptions

by American Rivers  
www.americanrivers.org

As with any piece of legislation, hours—if not days—of review are often required to fully comprehend what exactly it does. As a result, many individuals often make their own interpretations, ones that are not based on fact. Here are some common misconceptions regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, along with a clarifying explanation.

***My access to and enjoyment of the river will be severely limited by Wild and Scenic designation.***

**FALSE**

Recreation on the river, including activities such as fishing and boating, comprise some of the major uses Wild and Scenic designation seeks to protect; public access to the river for these and other uses will not be hindered. If you enjoy fishing or boating before the river is designated, you will no doubt continue to do so after designation. Only when and if river use increases to the point where the values for which the river was protected are in jeopardy will access be regulated or limited.

***My ability to enjoy public lands along the river will be severely limited.***

**FALSE**

Recreational use of the public lands adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River will continue as before. Hunting, camping, use of off-road vehicles, and other land uses will continue to be regulated under existing state laws or rules of the managing agency (Forest Service, Park Service, etc.).

***Wild and scenic river designation will automatically increase the number of tourists coming to my river.***

**FALSE**

In many cases, visitation has increased only slightly or not at all with designation. It is up to the local community to choose whether or not to promote the river as a tourist destination.

***The government will take ownership of riverside land when a river becomes protected.***


**FALSE**

The existing ownership of land will most likely continue after designation. The government usually acquires riverside lands through voluntary purchases or easements. The use of “eminent domain” is very rare along wild and scenic rivers; this method of land acquisition has been used along only four of the 166 rivers in the national system. If the public already owns 50% or more of the riverside land then condemnation is not permitted along the river corridor. In other cases, the federal government is only allowed to purchase an additional 100 acres per square mile of riverside land.

***My rights as a private landowner will disappear with wild and scenic river designation.***

**FALSE**

The Act carries no authority to control the use of privately owned land, even if private lands are included within the boundaries of the protected river corridor. Landowners will be allowed to use their land just as they had before designation. If a proposed use of private land is in conflict with the management of the wild and scenic river, the managing agency will work with the landowner to mitigate any potential threats to the values of the river.



***Current land uses will be stopped along a newly designated wild and scenic river.***

**FALSE** Most current land uses, public and private, alongside the river will continue after designation; this includes agricultural uses such as farming and grazing. The goal of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is not to revert these areas to their original pristine and untouched condition, but rather to “protect and enhance” the existing values and uses of the river and surrounding lands. Only those land and water uses that threaten the values for which the river is protected will be examined for possible regulation.

***There will be no future development of land alongside a wild and scenic river.***

**FALSE** A river is classified as “wild,” “scenic,” or “recreational” depending on the amount of existing development and accessibility. For instance, the Act describes “recreational” rivers as “rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.” A Wild and Scenic River designation does not affect private landowners’ ability to develop privately owned lands within the river corridor. On federally owned land, future development along a wild, scenic or recreational river is allowed as long as it is consistent with the river’s classification, and does not harm the values for which the river was designated.

***The federal government will control zoning of private lands along a wild and scenic river.***

**FALSE** The Act carries no authority to affect the zoning of private lands; that authority is reserved for state and local governments. Local land-use planners are encouraged to protect river values, but there are no binding provisions in the Act. In most cases, if the local zoning does not already protect the river, it won’t be considered for wild and scenic river designation.

***There is no allowance for citizen opinion in the study or management of a Wild and Scenic river.***

**FALSE** There is ample opportunity for public input at many stages of the designation process. When the agency performing the study determines the eligibility and suitability of a river for inclusion in the national system, state, local, and public interest in river protection are taken into consideration. When a study report is released after the examination of a potential wild and scenic river, it is subject to public review and comment. And when a management plan for a wild and scenic river is developed, opportunities, in the form of written comments or public hearings, are included for citizen input.



# A Checklist

by Andy Kerr  
The Larch Company  
[www.andykerr.net](http://www.andykerr.net)

*A professional conservationist for over three decades, he has been involved in the enactment of over 25 pieces of state and federal legislation, scores of lawsuits, dozens of endangered species listing petitions and countless administrative appeals of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management timber sales and other decisions.*




Persuading Congress to designate a new Wild and Scenic River does not require magic or compromising photographs of key decision makers (though, if the opportunity availed itself...), but is a simple—if arduous—process that doesn't even depend on a particular political party controlling Congress and/or the White House.


A successful campaign requires advocates to complete certain steps to limit opposition and build public, media and legislative support for the requested Congressional protection. These steps are presented in the checklist below. The more items you can check off the list, the better your odds of winning protection will be. If you can check off every item on the list, you will win. Note that checking off the last three items are mandatory to achieve success.


Remember that even though you and your organization are allied in common cause with others working for protection for their favorite free flowing streams, you are nonetheless in a (hopefully) friendly competition with them for the political attention of the applicable state's congressional delegation, upon whom Wild and Scenic River designation ultimately depends. On the whole, cooperation among conservation interests is beneficial to all, but so is healthy competition. Don't passively wait for the powers that be (in the conservation movement or Congress) to put your proposal on the political agenda; make it so compelling and politically popular that it demands attention.

## DEFINE THE GOAL

First things first. Decide what you seek to protect and then stick with it.

 **Define Your Proposed Wild and Scenic River Segment.** While each stream segment is unique, there are also similarities in location, watershed, mountain range, ecoregions, etc. Don't let your intimate knowledge of the nuances and distinctions of stream segments lead you to believe that each is so unique that they must be proposed separately. Try to group proposed river segments into logical combinations that Congress can enact as a package.


 **Develop the Map.** Draw your proposed Wild and Scenic River boundary and stick to it. Let Congress compromise your boundary; don't negotiate the boundary with yourself (you—and most importantly the wild— always lose). It doesn't hurt to draw a boundary of something larger or longer than you are hoping for in the end. You may also consider excluding a portion of a stream from your proposal if inclusion would draw enough opposition to sink the entire proposal.


 **Draft the Legislation.** While Congress ultimately enacts the final legislative language that protects Wild and Scenic Rivers, it's best if conservationists write the first draft.





## BUILD YOUR CASE

Gathering and synthesizing the basic resource information about your proposal is a critical step to branding the segment and building support for your legislative proposal. You need to know the stream segment intimately and convince others that you know everything about the segment. Begin your research by tapping into resource experts in the appropriate federal land management agency.

 **Gather Information.** Collect the background materials (agency files, scientific papers, field guides, personal knowledge, on-line research, et al.) to make your case for formal protection of your stream segment.

 **Produce a Profile.** Synthesize all the information you've collected into a 5-20 page profile that presents your case for protection (with notes on sources). Include lots of photographs and at least one map. This profile is useful for Congressional hearings and for those who want or need more information before they endorse your proposal.

 **Brand the Stream Segment.** Knowledge of a stream segment, while critical, it is not always determinative in the political process. You need to introduce your proposal into the public discourse and "brand" it in the minds of the public, the media and decision-makers.

 **Produce a Brochure.** Use lots of pictures and a map. If possible, incorporate pull quotes from known experts, public officials, and local and non-traditional supporters (i.e., resource users). Print in color as it commands attention and is relatively inexpensive. Give directions on how to visit the stream segment.

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## "Profile" Outline

Extensively research all available sources to develop your Wild and Scenic River profile. Expand or contract the following profile outline to fit your needs. The more sources you cite, the more credible your proposal will be. Personal knowledge from local experts is invaluable.

**1. One-Liner** (e.g., "Fifteenmile Creek contains the easternmost run of winter steelhead and flows through the rare ponderosa pine/Oregon white oak ecosystem.")

### 2. Introduction

- ☆ Location
- ☆ Elevation Range
- ☆ Size
- ☆ Federal Administrative Unit(s)
- ☆ Political Subdivisions
- ☆ County
- ☆ Congressional District
- ☆ Terrain
- ☆ Development
- ☆ Hydrogeography
- ☆ Drainage Sub-basins
- ☆ Major and Minor Streams
- ☆ Public Land Ownership
- ☆ Current Public Land Management
- ☆ Previous Agency Consideration for Protection

### 3. Resources

- ☆ Ecoregions
- ☆ Fish
- ☆ Wildlife
- ☆ Water Quality
- ☆ Geology and Soils
- ☆ Vegetation
- ☆ Hydrology and Climate
- ☆ Scenic Values
- ☆ Recreation
- ☆ Wilderness
- ☆ Cultural
- ☆ History

### 4. Threats

- ☆ Logging
- ☆ Mining
- ☆ Grazing
- ☆ Off-Road Vehicles
- ☆ Other

### 5. Detailed Description of Each Stream Segment

### 6. Recommendations

### 7. Sources

- ☆ Maps
- ☆ Agency Maps
- ☆ USGS 7.5' Quad Maps


### 8. Tables


### 9. Appendices




## A Checklist, cont.

cont. from page 13


 **Make Reference to a Website.** List ways people can support your campaign. Carefully create the brochure so that it will have a long “shelf life” (convincing Congress to act on your proposal may take several years—you don’t want your brochure to become outdated). Print lots of brochures, as they are cheaper to print per unit in larger quantities.


 **Create a Slideshow.** Traditional slides work, but a PowerPoint presentation offers many more options for creating a dynamic presentation. Consider adding sound and burning your presentation on DVDs for broad distribution.


 **Develop a Display.** An attractive portable table display draws attention to your brand.


 **Establish a Website.** Your proposal could be part of your organization’s website or featured on a dedicated website. Include an option for visitors to sign up for an email listserv.


## MARKET THE AREA

 **Groom your Spokespeople.** Ensure that your spokespeople are well informed and can articulate your proposal. Remember the fundraising truism that “people like to give to people like themselves.”

 **Distribute the Brochure.** Distribute your brochure to all your supporters. Give them to supportive, professional outdoor guides and to your own field trip leaders. Leave a stack of brochures at your display. Don’t save them for later. Print more if necessary.

 **Show the Slideshow.** Book opportunities to present your slideshow—and distribute a DVD—to any group (see below) that will let it be shown at their meeting.


 **Display the Display.** There are typically lots of opportunities to put up your display at local and regional events (environmental conferences, chamber of commerce events, community events, the back of the room at your slideshows, etc.).


 **Maintain the Website.** Keep your campaign website updated and accurate. A website that is out-of-date or inaccurate sends the wrong message.


## GATHER PUBLIC SUPPORT


If you don’t ask, you won’t receive—and the worst anyone can say is “no.” It is critical that you collect public endorsements for your Wild and Scenic River proposal. Don’t take the first “no” as the definitive ruling on the matter. Gentle persistence pays. If you don’t have a contact in an organization, find out who does. Gather the various kinds of endorsements below; start with the easiest and end with the hardest.


 **Obtain Endorsements of Conservation Organizations.** Brainstorm a list and then systematically target conservation organizations for a written endorsement of your proposal.


 **Obtain Endorsements of Recreation Organizations.** Brainstorm a list (e.g., fishing, birding, boating, like-minded organizations, etc.) and then systematically target recreation organizations for a written endorsement of your proposal.


 **Obtain Endorsements of Civic Organizations.** Brainstorm a list and then systematically target civic organizations for a written endorsement of your proposal. Find civic organizations in the yellow pages or check with the Chamber of Commerce.

 **Obtain Endorsements of Faith Organizations.** Brainstorm a list and then systematically target faith organizations and/or associations of religious leaders for a written endorsement of your proposal.

 **Obtain Endorsements of Businesses.** Brainstorm a list and then systematically target businesses for a written endorsement of your proposal. Businesses will endorse a Wild and Scenic River proposal because doing so would further their financial interests, the business owner just happens to love rivers or the business owner believes an endorsement will create goodwill among customers (especially if a competitor declines to endorse the proposal).

 **Obtain Endorsements of Others.** Brainstorm a list (i.e., professors, retired politicians, celebrities, etc.) and then systematically target other important individuals and local and regional organizations for a written endorsement of your proposal.

 **Obtain Endorsements of Newspapers.** After you have a number of the endorsements listed above, request a meeting with the editorial board or editor of each newspaper that publishes in the congressional district where you propose to designate new Wild & Scenic River. Even if you don't secure an endorsement from a newspaper, you may at least convince the editor or editorial board to remain neutral on the issue.

 **Maintain a Regular Schedule of Field Trips.** You and other campaign members should offer field trips on most weekends of the field season. Your organization need not be responsible for every field trip, particularly if there is an outdoor recreation organization available to lead trips. The trip leader should be coached on your proposal (and armed with brochures) and request that each trip member promise to contact their two U.S. Senators and Representative in Congress and register their support for your proposal. While an average of five letters per week is not a landslide—if sustained, it is a groundswell.


## OBTAIN POLITICAL SUPPORT


All politics is local. Build support for your proposal by starting at the lowest levels of government and moving upward. Many politicians wish for higher office and are looking for your support, which they can gain by lending their support to your well-developed citizen proposal. Those in higher office seriously consider the positions of those in lower office, because the latter are closer to the ground and have better intelligence on what the voters want. If you live in a rural/conservative area, don't be constrained by past events and your own experiences.


cont. on page 16


## A Checklist, cont.


cont. from page 15


 **Do a Poll. Commission a poll to ascertain public support for your proposal.** If you can afford an entire poll, you can test both yours and your opponent's best arguments with the voters. Poll only voters; politicians don't care about citizens who don't vote. If you don't have enough money, you can "piggyback" a few questions on another poll. Depending on who you are trying to impress with public support, the poll may need to be statewide, by congressional district or only include the affected county.


 **Endorsement of the Federal Land Management Agency.** Federal agency endorsements are difficult to obtain, even when the Administration in Washington, DC is sympathetic to your proposal. However, you should always try to convince the appropriate federal agency to recommend your stream segment of interest for Wild and Scenic River protection in their land and resource management planning process. An agency endorsement is powerful, as it provides political cover to elected officials at all levels.

 **Endorsement of the Administration.** An endorsement by the Administration of your proposal is helpful not so much because it persuades affected U.S. Senators or the local Member of Congress to consider your request, but because it tends to prevent the managing federal agency from destroying the wild character of the stream segment that you are seeking to protect before Congress can act.


 **Endorsement of Political Parties.** Seek the support of both major parties and other minor parties as well.

 **Endorsement of City Council.** Many cities get their drinking water from public lands that include free-flowing streams. Another angle to use when approaching a city council for support is the argument that healthy streams are good for the local economy and the community's quality of life. If you cannot round up a majority of votes, get as many individual endorsements from city counselors as you can.

 **Endorsement of State Representative.** While local state elected officials do not have any official role in Wild and Scenic River designation, their support is nonetheless very helpful in sending a signal to federal elected officials.

 **Endorsement of State Senator.** While local state elected officials do not have any official role in Wild & Scenic River designation, their support is nonetheless very helpful in sending a signal to federal elected officials.

 **Endorsement of County Commission.** Get as many individual endorsements from county commissioners as you can.

 **Endorsement of Other Statewide Elected Officials.** The Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the Attorney General often have aspirations for higher office and will endorse widely supported citizen conservation proposals.

■ **Endorsement of the Governor.** Anyone who has successfully been elected statewide commands the respect of others who have also won statewide office, or want to do so.

■ **Endorsement of Other Members of Congress.** Endorsements of Members of Congress who represent states and districts not affected by your proposal are certainly helpful, especially if the Representative is from the same state as you and your proposal, though you must have the endorsement of the local Member of Congress for your proposal to have any chance to pass the House of Representatives.

■ **Endorsement of Other U.S. Senators.** While out-of-state support is beneficial, for issues affecting just one state (like a Wild and Scenic River proposal), the desires of 98 U.S. Senators will not outweigh that of the two Senators from the affected state.

■ **Endorsement of the Local Member of Congress.** Few Wild and Scenic Rivers have been designated over the objection of the affected House member. You must win support from the local Member of Congress representing the district through which the river flows.

■ **Endorsement of Junior U.S. Senator.** It is the nature of the U.S. Senate that the members from the affected state, irrespective of political party, are given great deference by their colleagues on issues affecting only their state. You must win support for your proposal from the junior U.S. Senator from your state.

■ **Endorsement of Senior U.S. Senator.** It is the nature of the U.S. Senate that the members from the affected state, irrespective of political party, are given great deference by their colleagues on issues affecting only their state. You must win support for your proposal from the senior U.S. Senator from your state.

## VICTORY

■ **Thank Everyone.** You were instrumental, but your campaign never would have succeeded without the help of countless others. Thank everyone you can remember, even those that were a pain to deal with.

■ **Throw a Party.** Conservationists don't celebrate their victories enough. Dedicate the first half of your party to celebrating the victory recently obtained. Dedicate the second half of the party to making grand plans for your next protection effort.



*This article, in its entirety, can be downloaded at:  
<http://andykerr.net/downloads/Larch1WildernessSmall.pdf>*



## CASE STUDY

*Introducing the Latest Addition:*

# The Eightmile River

by Anthony Irving  
Eightmile Wild & Scenic  
Coordinating Committee  
[www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org)



In May 8, 2008, our 12-year, locally led efforts came to fruition when President Bush signed a bill into law designating the Eightmile as a Wild and Scenic River. This designation was the final step in an exhaustive process that centered on the identification and study of the river's outstanding resource values and vigilant community protection efforts.

## Background

For a near coastal watershed, the Eightmile River watershed is one of the last remaining forested ecosystems between Washington, DC and Boston. The mouth of the Eightmile River empties into the Connecticut River eight miles north of Long Island Sound, hence its name. For about the first two-and-a-half miles upstream from its mouth the river is tidal, although there is no salt water incursion. The river and its tributaries represent over 150 miles of pristine, mostly free flowing forested waters. The only impoundments are two mill dams dating back to the mid 18th century. These are bypassed by fish ladders that transport anadromous fish including alewives, blue back herring, sea lamprey and the occasional

Paddling the  
Eightmile River

sea run brown trout and Atlantic salmon.

The Eightmile River watershed is 64-square miles in size or about 40,000 acres equally divided between the three main watershed towns of Lyme, East Haddam and Salem. Large, unfragmented forest blocks are the norm; over 80% of the watershed is forested and only 6% is developed. Population density within the watershed is quite low at 87 people per square mile, compared to the statewide average of 700 people per square mile. Between the efforts of local and national conservation groups along with town and state support, over 33%, or more than 13,000 acres, are already in permanent protection.

The Wild and Scenic River Study identified six ORVs (Outstandingly Remarkable Values): watershed hydrology, water quality, unique species and natural communities, geology, watershed ecosystem and cultural landscape. Outside of the free flowing requirement only one ORV is required to qualify for Wild and Scenic inclusion.

## The Impetus

The Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Service initiated a study of the watershed in the mid-1990s. This was an effort to take a cooperative, collective look at the watershed. If the towns were to be successful in protecting one of the last nearly pristine, near coastal watersheds on the east coast it was felt that joint cooperation was essential. In a state that prides itself on independent municipal government this was new ground. After five years of study, using already available scientific and other information, we concluded that this was indeed a special place,



Photo: Ted Snodder

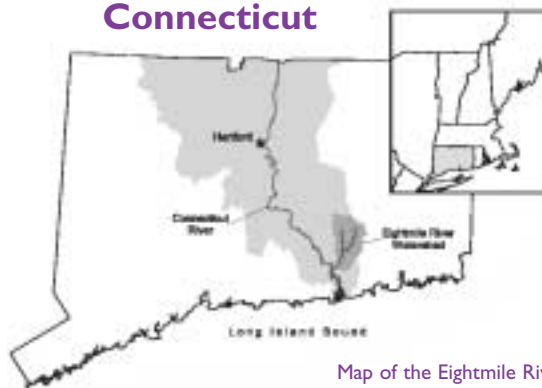


and all the partners agreed that new strategies were needed for long-term protection. We decided that applying for Wild and Scenic designation would provide us with the resources to take a closer look at the watershed attributes, strategies for mitigation and protection and promotion and education of the watershed to the public. Without buy in from the citizens and municipalities, we felt that sustainable protection strategies would be difficult. We initiated the process for Wild and Scenic designation in 2001 when then first term Congressman, Rob Simmons, along with full support from the entire Connecticut delegation introduced our study bill as the first bill of the 100th Congress. This was followed by introduction in the Senate from Senator Chris Dodd. The Study Bill was signed by President Bush in November of 2001. In May of 2008, having satisfied the congressional criteria for inclusion, the Eightmile officially became part of the Wild and Scenic River family.

## Staying positive

The study process, including community outreach, lasted a little over four years. The funding allowed under the bill for scientific research and managerial assistance, plus the thousands of volunteer hours, only reinforced the findings of our 1990s' work. Never during that period did we feel discouraged. In fact town support inside and out of the watershed was so overwhelmingly in favor of designation that there was no question that we needed to succeed in our efforts.

## Connecticut



Map of the Eightmile River

## Keys To Success

- 1 Community participation and buy in. Congress mandates that for a river to be considered for designation you not only have to do the science to demonstrate the river's ORVs and develop a Management Plan that addresses the protection of these resources, but you must demonstrate that the public not only wants designation, but that they are ready and willing to implement the Management Plan. Through numerous public events, mailings and press coverage, we attempted to educate the public and keep them in the loop as to the importance and value of the Eightmile River watershed to their communities as well as the community benefits that could accrue with designation.
- 2 Be open and forthcoming. In our efforts, there is no quicker way to sow disaster than by creating distrust. It is easy to "guild the lily" when you feel the cause is just, but if the public suspects that you are being less than honest and forthcoming in presenting the case for designation, credibility quickly fades.

## Eightmile River, cont.

cont. from page 19

**3** Include town boards and commissions in creating the Management Plan. If boards and commissions are expected to implement the Management Plan, they have to have the opportunity to provide input. In essence they must be stakeholders. They also bring ideas and solutions to the table that comes from their experience of working in the public domain. This becomes a reality check as to what is or isn't doable from a regulatory perspective.



Looking south to where the Eightmile and Connecticut Rivers meet at Hamburg Cove. Long Island Sound is in the distance.

Photos: Courtesy of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSOC)

**4** The People. Caring people, smart people, knowledgeable people, motivated people, friendly people—assemble a team that fits the tasks required to get the job done and have fun doing it.

## Lessons Learned

★ Make sure a Wild and Scenic Designation is a good fit with the goals of the community. This is a long process that is more work and time consuming than you may think it will be. If after all is said and done the public isn't interested, then a good chunk of your life has been consumed with little to show for it.

★ Be patient. Be steady, but take the time needed to do the job right. Good science takes time, as does formulating the Management Plan. The Management Plan becomes the template for everything that gets done on the river way into the future and a good Management Plan requires good science.



# Rivers Protected Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Rivers listed chronologically by date of designation ~ 166 listed as of October 2008

Middle Fork Clearwater, Idaho 1968

Eleven Point, Missouri 1968

Feather, California 1968

Rio Grande, New Mexico 1968 & 1994

Rogue, Oregon 1968

St. Croix, Minnesota & Wisconsin 1968

Middle Fork Salmon, Idaho 1968

Wolf, Wisconsin 1968

Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Maine 1970

St. Croix (Lower) Minnesota & Wisconsin 1972 & 1976

Little Miami, Ohio 1973 & 1980

Chattooga, Georgia, North and South Carolina 1974

Little Beaver, Ohio 1975

Snake, Idaho & Oregon 1975

Rapid, Idaho 1975

New, North Carolina 1976

Missouri, Montana 1976

Flathead, Montana 1976

Obed, Tennessee 1976

Rio Grande, Texas 1978

Missouri, Nebraska & South Dakota 1978 & 1991

Pere Marquette, Michigan 1978

Skagit, Washington 1978

Delaware (Upper), New York & Pennsylvania 1978

Delaware (Middle), New Jersey & Pennsylvania 1978

North Fork American, California 1978

Saint Joe, Idaho 1978

Salmon, Idaho 1980

Alagnak, Alaska 1980

Alatna, Alaska 1980

Aniakchak, Alaska 1980

Charley, Alaska 1980

Chilikadrotna, Alaska 1980

John, Alaska 1980

Kobuk, Alaska 1980

Mulchatna, Alaska 1980

North Fork Koyukuk, Alaska 1980

Noatak, Alaska 1980

Salmon, Alaska 1980

Tinayguk, Alaska 1980

Tlikakila, Alaska 1980

Andreafsky, Alaska 1980

Ivishak, Alaska 1980

Nowitna, Alaska 1980

Selawik, Alaska 1980

Sheenjek, Alaska 1980

Wind, Alaska 1980

Beaver Creek, Alaska 1980

Birch Creek, Alaska 1980

Delta, Alaska 1980

Fortymile, Alaska 1980

Gulkana, Alaska 1980

Unalakleet, Alaska 1980

Klamath, California 1981

Trinity, California 1981

Eel, California 1981

American (Lower), California 1981

Smith, California 1981 & 1990

Verde, Arizona 1984

Tuolumne, California 1984

Au Sable, Michigan 1984

Owyhee, Oregon 1984

Illinois, Oregon 1984

Loxahatchee, Florida 1985

Horsepasture, North Carolina 1986

Cache la Poudre, Colorado 1986

Black Creek, Mississippi 1986

Saline Bayou, Louisiana 1986

Klickitat, Washington 1986

White Salmon, Washington 1986

Merced, California 1987 & 1992

Kings, California 1987

Kern, California 1987

Wildcat Brook, New Hampshire 1988

Sipsey Fork West Fork, Alabama 1988

Big Marsh Creek, Oregon 1988

Chetco, Oregon 1988

Clackamas, Oregon 1988

Crescent Creek, Oregon 1988

Crooked, Oregon 1988

Deschutes, Oregon 1988

Donner und Blitzen, Oregon 1988

Eagle Creek, Oregon 1988

Elk, Oregon 1988

Grande Ronde, Oregon 1988

Imnaha, Oregon 1988

John Day, Oregon 1988

Joseph Creek, Oregon 10/28/88

Little Deschutes, Oregon 10/28/88

Lostine, Oregon 1988

Malheur, Oregon 1988

McKenzie, Oregon 1988

Metolius, Oregon 1988

Minam, Oregon 1988

North Fork Crooked, Oregon 1988

North Fork John Day, Oregon 1988

North Fork Malheur, Oregon 1988

North Fork Middle Fork Willamette, Oregon 1988

North Fork Owyhee, Oregon 1988

North Fork Smith, Oregon 1988

North Fork Sprague, Oregon 1988

North Powder, Oregon 1988

North Umpqua, Oregon 1988

Powder, Oregon 1988

Quartzville Creek, Oregon 1988

Roaring, Oregon 1988

Salmon, Oregon 1988

Sandy, Oregon 1988

South Fork John Day, Oregon 1988

Squaw Creek, Oregon 1988

Sycan, Oregon 1988

Upper Rogue, Oregon 1988

Wenaha, Oregon 1988

West Little Owyhee, Oregon 1988

White, Oregon 1988

Bluestone, West Virginia 1988

Rio Chama, New Mexico 1988

Middle Fork Vermilion, Illinois 1989

East Fork Jemez, New Mexico 1990

Pecos, New Mexico 1990

Clarks Fork Yellowstone, Wyoming 1990

Niobrara, Nebraska 1991

Bear Creek, Michigan 1992

Black, Michigan 1992

Carp, Michigan 1992

Indian, Michigan 1992

Manistee, Michigan 1992

Ontonagon, Michigan 1992

Paint, Michigan 1992

Pine, Michigan 1992

Presque Isle, Michigan 1992

Sturgeon, Michigan (Hiawatha National Forest) 1992

Sturgeon, Michigan (Ottawa National Forest) 1992

Tahquamenon (East Branch), Michigan 1992

Whitefish, Michigan 1992

Yellow Dog, Michigan 1992

Allegheny, Pennsylvania 1992

Big Piney Creek, Arkansas 1992

Buffalo, Arkansas 1992

Cossatot, Arkansas 1992 & 1994

Hurricane Creek, Arkansas 1992

Little Missouri, Arkansas 1992

Mulberry, Arkansas 1992

North Sylamore Creek, Arkansas 1992

Richland Creek, Arkansas 4/22/92

Sespe Creek, California 1992

Sisquoc, California 1992

Big Sur, California 1992

Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey 1992

Westfield, Massachusetts 1993

Maurice, New Jersey 1993

Red, Kentucky 1993

Big and Little Darby Creeks, Ohio 1994

Farmington (West Branch), Connecticut 1994

Klamath, Oregon 1994

Wallowa, Oregon 1996

Clarion, Pennsylvania 1996

Lamprey, New Hampshire 1996 & 2000

Elkhorn Creek, Oregon 1996

Lumber, North Carolina 1998

Sudbury, Assabet, Concord, Massachusetts 1999

Wilson Creek, North Carolina 2000

Wekiva, Florida 2000

White Clay Creek, Delaware & Pennsylvania 2000

Donner und Blitzen, Oregon 2000

Wildhorse and Kiger Creeks, Oregon 2000

Delaware (Lower), New Jersey & Pennsylvania 2000

Rio Mameyes, Puerto Rico 2002

Rio de la Mina, Puerto Rico 2002

Rio Icacos, Puerto Rico 2002

Westfield, Massachusetts 2004

Black Butte, California 2006

Musconetcong, New Jersey 2006

Eightmile, Connecticut 2008

Putting the “ACTion” in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

# Hosting a Film Festival

by Susie Sutphin  
South Yuba River  
Citizens League  
www.yubariver.net



For one river organization, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has taken on a whole other meaning: it has become the namesake for their annual membership event and honors its successful lobbying efforts to win Wild and Scenic status for 39 miles of ‘their’ river in 1999. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced “circle”) started the *Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival* in 2003 in celebration of its 20th anniversary and as a way to build community within the Yuba watershed. Over the past seven years, it has become the largest environmental film festival in the United States, featuring 125 films, 7 venues, 80 guest speakers and close to 5,000 attendees.

SYRCL is a watershed advocacy group based in Nevada City, CA, nestled among the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. In 1983, a small group of concerned citizens banded together to fight against several proposed dams on the Yuba River. SYRCL is now supported by 7,000 members and 600 active volunteers, making SYRCL one of the largest single-river organizations in the nation. It serves an active role in pioneering river programs that ensure the health of our rivers and currently lead the charge to restore the salmon populations in the Yuba watershed. The success of these efforts connects citizens to the source of their water and highlights the benefits which sustain our communities.

SYRCL is now sharing its success with environmental groups nationwide by packaging their 3-day event into a 3-hour tour program called *Wild & Scenic On Tour*. Groups use a tour venue as a way to engage a community and increase their network of support. It serves as an effective tool for building bridges within a community and promoting their organization to a wide array of people in a friendly, neutral and educational atmosphere. Over the past year, the tour has reached eighty towns and cities across the country, creating a network of grassroots organizations connected by a common goal: to use film to inspire activism.

*Wild & Scenic On Tour* is a great way for any group that has achieved—or is working towards—a river with Wild and Scenic status to celebrate the precedence of the landmark decision that protects our wild rivers and watershed ecosystems.



Photo: SYRCL

The Wild and Scenic  
Yuba River



If your organization is looking for an effective way to reach out and increase your network of support, you should consider hosting a tour in your community.

*Wild & Scenic On Tour* offers a turn-key program that is affordable and easy to execute. It takes all the guess work out of planning a premier event by offering you a pre-screened selection of environmental films, promotional materials, a comprehensive planning guide and a toolkit. You pick the films and the date and *Wild & Scenic On Tour* sends you the festival-in-a-box! Even if your group has never done anything of this size and nature, the *Wild & Scenic On Tour* staff will walk you through the process for a seamless production. It's that easy!



Photo: SYRCL

Promoting *Wild & Scenic On Tour*



For more information, contact Susie Sutphin, tour manager, at [susie@syrc.org](mailto:susie@syrc.org), 530-582-5334. Visit their website at [www.wseff.org](http://www.wseff.org) and review the details under the "On Tour" tab. As an environmental group, your organization may be eligible for a Patagonia Wild & Scenic Grant to help you put on your tour. Patagonia shares the festival's belief that film can motivate people to effect change and feels that the best way to gain new environmental activists is to give grassroots groups a means of reaching that goal. As a result, Patagonia established the Wild & Scenic Grant to help interested groups pay for the festival kit. You can review the grant guidelines and criteria at <http://wseff.org/tour>.





## Protected Rivers Help Strengthen and Diversify State and Local Economies

by American Rivers  
[www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)



Wild and Scenic River designation not only preserves many of America's most unique and beautiful natural areas; it can also have a significant and positive economic impact on local communities. Though often overlooked, the reality is that the economic benefits of preserving such areas often far outweigh blindly development oriented and short-term thinking.

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, travel and tourism is a \$1.3 trillion industry in the United States and generates more than \$100 billion in tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments. The benefits of tourism are not limited to the populations of large cities or developed areas. In fact, the natural environment is a major draw, attracting a large and growing percentage of the nation's travelers. The influx of tourists can boost local economies and land values, and create new jobs, as hotels, restaurants, sporting goods stores and other new buildings catering to the needs of visitors.

Trends in tourism are clear: American travelers are choosing more rural and out-of-the-way destinations, focusing on cultural, historic and natural resources. Over 4 million tourists visit Wyoming annually and contribute over \$1.9 billion to the state economy. In 2002, over 28,000 jobs were created by tourism, making it the second largest industry in Wyoming. Anglers alone spent \$423 million in the state over the course of that year, creating more than 3,500 jobs which would not exist without healthy and attractive rivers and fisheries. In the country as a whole, the number of Americans "going fishing" rose by 5.2% to \$43.3 million in 2005, according to a national survey conducted by the National Sporting Goods Association. With water quality a significant concern for most

fishermen (ranked as the biggest problem facing anglers today by 25% of the respondents to a 2005 survey conducted by the American Sportfishing Association), preserving the beautiful and natural state of our nation's most outstanding rivers makes sense economically as well as aesthetically. Keeping rivers pure makes them more attractive to anglers tired of fishing in overly degraded areas, bringing in greater numbers of visitors and boosting the local economy. In addition, sport-fishing is far from the only draw provided by natural and protected rivers. Whitewater rafting, kayaking, and other water-based recreation are all significant attractions to both in-state and out-of-state visitors attracted to wild and beautiful rivers.

Land values, often a concern of private landowners in the vicinity of potential Wild and Scenic rivers, are in fact typically boosted by the protected status of rivers. Just as the natural beauty of these rivers attracts short-term recreational visitors, it also draws in wealthy people looking to retire or establish vacation homes in which they can enjoy open spaces and a higher quality of life than that found in crowded cities. The interest of people looking to acquire private land drives up property values to the benefit of local landowners. It also boosts the economy of regions now provided with the need for high-paying occupations in healthcare, engineering and business services as well as the lower-wage jobs found in restaurants and new hotels. On the Delaware River, land values roughly doubled in the designated corridor between 1978 and 1986; during that same period, land values in nearby areas outside the Delaware valley increased only marginally. Another survey showed that the same was true of private land values along the Rogue River in Oregon. A number of communities have already recognized and acted to seize the economic opportunities provided by

attractive Wild and Scenic rivers as well as other beautiful publicly protected lands. In West Virginia, the New River was designated as a national river with strong backing from the local chambers of commerce, which perceived that positive benefits would come to an economically depressed area as a result of Wild and Scenic river designation.

This is not to say that every protected river will directly stimulate the economy of local regions. Many protected rivers are too small or too remote to sustain high recreation use or attract many visitors; it is the more accessible rivers with roads and relative proximity to metropolitan areas that will benefit the most. In addition, because Wild and Scenic rivers have a protected riparian corridor and are by definition intended to be kept in a natural state, any development intended to take advantage of ecological tourism must be set back some distance away from the river itself. Still, there is a role for protected rivers in a state's economy. One study, done in Colorado, notes that the state could have as many as fourteen designated Wild and Scenic Rivers before a saturation point in revenues from the river-tourism economy is reached. As of mid-2006, Colorado has only one designated river, the Cache La Poudre. Many opportunities exist to utilize Wild and Scenic River designation that would both aid local economies and preserve naturally beautiful rivers. When the many benefits of designation are not fully understood, these opportunities go to waste.

Local resistance to the idea of adding a river to the Wild and Scenic system in the western U.S. often derives from a commonly held view that the West is still economically dependent on public lands for logging, gas and mineral extraction. Historically, these industries indeed played a significant role in economic development and have, in fact, helped shape a Western sense of pride, identity and culture. It is often believed that restrictions on new mining or other sorts of



Photo: River Network Collection

resource extraction that affect Wild and Scenic rivers or their protected riparian corridors will damage industries seen as vital to the economic health of a region. In fact, the economic benefits of these industries are far overstated. According to studies by the Sonoran Institute, they have not been a significant source of new jobs or personal income in the last three decades. Competition with foreign nations with lower costs of labor and consequently lower prices for mineral extraction has undercut the mining industry in the U.S. and significantly diminished its role in the economic health of most Western regions. By 2000, the impact of mining, logging and other resource extraction was reduced to only 5% of total personal income in Western states and is still declining. Many regions once dependent on these historically vital industries have become economically depressed as a result of their deterioration and are now in need of another source of income in order to avoid a greatly diminished quality of life. Taking advantage of the spectacular beauty of rivers that qualify for Wild and Scenic status is a legitimate way in which loss of industry can be offset.

River Rally 2007  
participants enjoy  
the Wild and Scenic  
White Salmon  
River, Washington



## CASE STUDY

*When Fossils Come Back to Life:*

# From No Water to Wild Waters

by Sam Frank  
Arizona Wilderness  
Coalition  
[www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org)



Congress created the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 to protect the nation's best free-flowing rivers from activities that would destroy their wild character. Fossil Creek is a unique example of diverse interests coming to a consensus that a place, its cultural and historic values, the native wildlife, the unusual geologic formations, the breathtaking beauty and the area's inherent wild value are priceless. A Wild and Scenic designation for Fossil Creek is one of the greatest opportunities we have to ensure that our children will enjoy what our grandparents have not: watching the aquamarine waters rush by, sustaining an explosion of life in the desert.

## Background

Fossil Creek is a narrow, turquoise colored ribbon of water that passes through a remote, rugged and deep canyon. The creek's springs emerge from the ground at an invitingly warm 72 degrees Fahrenheit year round with rapids, pools and waterfalls intermingling over its 14-mile length. Along the creek's banks, the vegetation is dense and diverse with grasses, chokecherries, mesquites, Fremont cottonwoods, willows, sycamores and velvet ash—some of which

overhang the water. Six native fish species find refuge in the clear waters of Fossil Creek, while terrestrial inhabitants include black bear, porcupine, numerous snake species, mountain lion, javelina, ringtail cats and many others. Most people would consider such a place exquisite, and because Fossil Creek is located in arid Arizona, the free flowing conditions and health of the waterway are invaluable.

## Dewatering the Creek

Fossil Creek is located in the central Arizona highlands, a geographic region known as the "transition zone." This topography of high peaks and deep canyons spans central Arizona from west to east and is the separation between the Colorado Plateau to the north and the basin and range desert to the south. The Mogollon Rim (pronounced Mo-gee-on), a 200+ mile escarpment with an average elevation of 7,000 feet, lies just north of Fossil Creek and provides the runoff water that emerges from the springs and the spectacular scenery. Around 1864, Fossil Creek was noted on a map by early Anglo-European explorers and was given its name due to the travertine formations which were mistaken as fossils (Barnes, 1960). In 1901, a rancher was

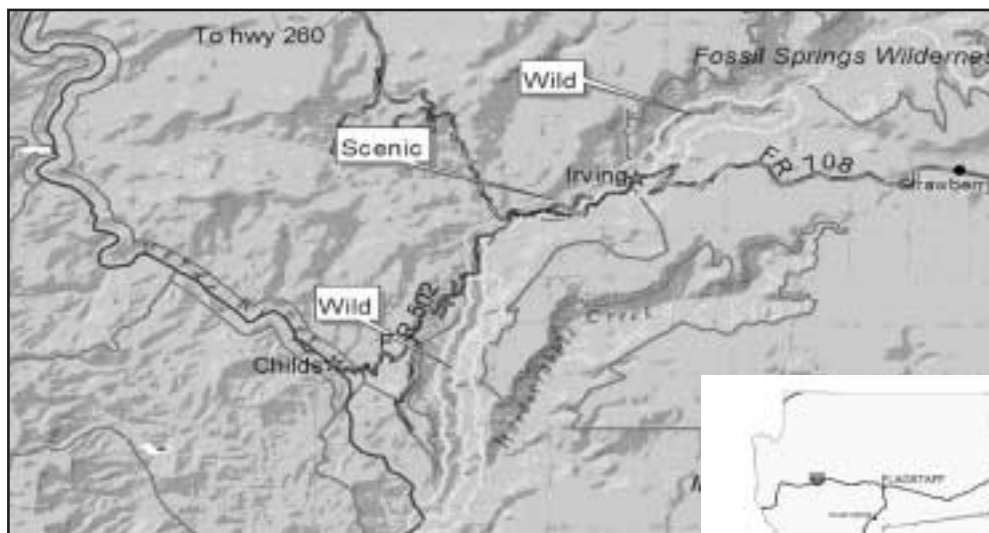
astounded to find the springs gushing at 43 ft<sup>3</sup>/s (approximately 20,000 gallons per minute) and quickly purchased the water rights for Fossil Creek, hoping to convert the water's kinetic energy into hydroelectric generated electricity. In 1907, Arizona Public Service (APS) was formed and began construction of the Childs Hydroelectric Plant, located just upstream of the confluence of Fossil Creek and the Verde River; the plant went online in 1909. Shortly after, in 1914, construction of a second plant, the Irving

Pictures of the same location before and after the water was restored to Fossil Creek



Photo: Nick Berzhenko

Hydroelectric Plant, began about mid way up Fossil Creek and went online in 1916 (Masson, 1976). In order to maximize electrical generation, a wooden flume and a concrete diversion dam measuring 25 feet high and 120 feet across were constructed by removing 95% of the water flowing in Fossil Creek. Electricity produced from the two plants initially supplied all of Yavapai County and eventually also supplied 70% of the electrical demand for Phoenix, then a city of 40,000+ inhabitants by the mid 1920s. (Masson, 1976).



Details of the proposed Wild and Scenic section



## Arizona

### Eligibility for Wild and Scenic Status

In 1992, APS' 50-year operating license came up for renewal under jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). A public comment period elicited a great amount of support for restoring the natural flows in Fossil Creek. The FERC determined that the structural state of the historic power plants was deteriorating, the amount of electricity generated was insignificant (approximately 1/4 of one percent of APS' total energy output), and that the ecological benefits of restoring water to the creek were substantial. After many years of negotiations, APS, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Tonto and Coconino National Forests and the Arizona Riparian Council reached the historic agreement in 1999 to

decommission the power plants and return flows to Fossil Creek. In 2003, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC), in partnership with Prescott College, completed a Wild and Scenic river study that documented the numerous Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs, not to be confused with off-road vehicles) of Fossil Creek, which included geology, ecology, wildlife, fish, cultural, historic, recreation and scenic values. This proposal found the entire 14 miles of the creek as eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, with a proposed 9 miles designated as Wild and 5 miles designated as Scenic. Two years later in June 2005, APS voluntarily closed the plants after nearly a century of operation and full flows were returned to this desert ribbon of life.

### Building Community Support

Unlike many protective federal land and water designations, the proposal of Fossil Creek as a Wild and Scenic River received little opposition. AWC's former Central

cont. on page 28



## Fossil Creek, cont.

cont. from page 27

*To follow the progress of Fossil Creek on its way to becoming a Wild and Scenic River, visit: [www.azwild.org/action/FossilCreek.php](http://www.azwild.org/action/FossilCreek.php)*

Arizona Director, Jason Williams, kept a feverish pace to build awareness and support for the protection of Fossil Creek. Within a few years, Williams and other AWC staff, volunteers and supporters had given educational presentations to city governments, interest groups, Native American nations, educational institutions, sporting groups, utility companies and the general public. Field trips were arranged to give people a chance to visit the creek and immerse themselves in the dense diversity of life that contrasted with the harsh, arid landscape characteristic of central Arizona. In many cases, letters of support were written for Fossil Creek's inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Fossil Creek made a surge of appearances in media outlets including newspapers, television, magazines and newsletters of interest groups. It seemed everyone—including the general public, huge corporations, Native American nations, ranchers and federal, state and municipal agencies—were in favor of permanent protections for the waters and outstanding values of Fossil Creek.

Fossil Creek is an ideal candidate for Arizona's second Wild and Scenic River. Currently, the only Wild and Scenic River in the state is the middle portion of the Verde River, into which Fossil Creek drains. The restoration of flows to Fossil Creek and (hopefully) subsequent designation as a Wild and Scenic River present an excellent opportunity to maintain and restore a native fishery for six Arizona native species. This is significant in a state where, out of the 36 fish species native to Arizona, one is officially extinct, two have been eliminated from their Arizona range and 18 are listed as threatened or endangered. The 're-birth' of Fossil Creek is also culturally significant to the Yavapai-Apache Nation, who traditionally hunted, gathered and inhabited the area and still to this day have



Photo: Matt Duperault

A travertine dam naturally formed when Calcium Carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) settles out of the water, creating pools and drops that are ideal for native fish.

strong spiritual ties with the landscape. In a more recent social context, Fossil Creek has become a recreation hotspot with 200 dispersed campsites, 2,200 day hikers, and 1,000 backpackers per year. Wild and Scenic River designation will help the U.S. Forest Service focus management on protection of the natural environment and secure increased funding for a full time ranger who can monitor and oversee protection of Fossil Creek.

## Introduction to Congress

In January of 2007, at the beginning of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) introduced legislation in the Senate while Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ) introduced twin legislation in the House to designate Fossil Creek a Wild and Scenic River. The Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Act of 2007 (S. 86 and H.R. 199) gained the support of almost the entire Arizona delegation, including Senator Jon Kyl (R). It seemed designation of Fossil Creek as a Wild and Scenic River was flowing as smoothly and unobstructed as the waters within the creek, but politics—like creeks—can take unexpected turns.



Although Senator McCain and Congressman Renzi seemed to jump out of the starting gate with enthusiasm, the progress of the legislation lost momentum. Whether it was due to other commitments or to the nature of politics in Washington is uncertain. Since introduction in 2007, only the Senate version (S. 86) of the bill has seen progress: it was read to the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources back in April of 2008.

### So Close, Yet...

With the close of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress approaching, AWC and American Rivers have been working to keep the possibility of designating Fossil Creek viable without having to reintroduce the bill to the 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional session. In June 2008,

Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 (S. 3213) which included authorizations for activities in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and additions the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, one of which is the designation of Fossil Creek. Little legislative progress has occurred with S. 3213 and with the hyperactivity of an election year in full swing, future progress is uncertain. AWC along with the many other groups, institutions, municipalities, Native American nations and members of the public can only hope Congress will see the value and ethical importance of protecting our national treasures before they are gone forever.



#### Literature Cited:

Barnes, Will C. 1960. *Arizona Place Names. Revised and enlarged by Byrd H Granger.* Tucson, University of Arizona Press

Masson, R. S. 1976. *The Child-Irving Hydro-Electric Project: A national historic mechanical engineering landmark.* The American Society of Mechanical Engineers. New York, NY

## CASE STUDY

### *River Management through Partnerships:*

# The Niobrara Council

by Kalli J. Kieborz  
Niobrara Council

[www.niobraraCouncil.org](http://www.niobraraCouncil.org)

*“Boundaries don’t protect rivers, people do.”*

— Brad Arrowsmith, former Chair of The Niobrara Council



The Niobrara River, a tributary to the Missouri River, is approximately 430 miles in length and drains over 12,000 square miles of the Sandhills, one of the largest stabilized dunefields in the world. The Ogallala Aquifer, which extends into Texas, underlies the hills. The watershed is host to numerous unique biological features including over 90 waterfalls, elk, mule and white tail deer, coyotes, red foxes, bobcats, mink and badgers. Over 200 species of birds, 29 species of amphibians and various species of fish—including trout in the cold water tributaries—also are found in the region.

In 1991, a 76-mile stretch of the Niobrara River spanning 4 counties was introduced into the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The National Park Service manages the river through partnerships with the Game and Parks Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various Natural Resources Districts and the Niobrara

Council.

## The Council

The Niobrara Council is a 16-member board whose mission is to assist in all aspects of management of the Niobrara National Scenic River. The creation of a local administrative council was mandated in the original 1991 Scenic River designation [16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(117)]; state legislation in 2000 created a State of Nebraska-recognized Council and provides further support.

The Niobrara Council consists of representatives from the county boards; landowners from all four counties; a local recreation industry representative; a local timber industry representative; Natural Resource District representatives; the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; a representative from a nonprofit, conservation organization; and a non-voting member from both the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Working Together

The Niobrara Council serves as the “table” where these diverse interests come together to make management decisions through partnerships and cooperative agreements. The wide spectrum of issues addressed includes education, infrastructure, sanitation, noxious weed control, conservation easements and local county zoning. The Council plays a significant role in corridor land protection, with specifically defined zoning authority and the right to purchase, accept or trade real estate and obtain conservation easements.

The Niobrara River became part of the Wild and Scenic System in 1991.



Photo: Niobrara Council

Through the coordination and mediation efforts of the Niobrara Council, many projects and issues are being addressed, including:

- ★ The installation of four permanent restroom facilities located along the canoeable stretch of the Niobrara, serving thousands of recreationalists annually;
- ★ The removal of three semi-truck loads of junk cars from the banks, and the damaged area planted with native grasses;
- ★ The formation of the Middle Niobrara Weed Awareness Group to combat noxious and invasive weeds in the Niobrara River corridor;
- ★ The use of the Niobrara River as a “classroom” by youth outdoor education camps;
- ★ Securing four million dollars earmarked through Congress for road improvements to the valley;
- ★ Ongoing conservation easement projects in all four counties;
- ★ Oversight of controlled burn projects;
- ★ Oversight of corridor zoning projects; and
- ★ Many other activities, too numerous to mention.

Today’s thriving Council provides a working model of successful resource management through dynamic local/governmental partnerships. Despite the considerable diversity of its membership, with representatives coming from all over the state, everyone knows that the Niobrara River is their main priority and the reason they have all come together.

## Lessons Learned

Always err on the side of more information.



Rocky Ford Rapid  
on the Niobrara  
River, Nebraska

With a board of the size of the Niobrara Council (sixteen), it is very important to get information out to members ahead of the monthly meeting. We have a pre-meeting packet mailing one week prior to every meeting. In that pre-meeting packet, they will receive anything that will require reading, action, anticipated lengthy discussion or possible committee meeting. We rely heavily on committees, and lean on them for recommendations to the full board at nearly every meeting, depending on the issues at hand.

## Tips for Success

Communicate! Use mail, email, phone, internet, website—whatever it takes—but to the extent possible and reasonable, remain in contact at all times. In the case of the Niobrara Council, it is very important for us to regularly communicate with our landowners in all four counties as well as our board members. We host annual landowner BBQs in various locations throughout the watershed where we discuss a current topic of concern. Themes have ranged from conservation easements to forestry fuel load reduction and instream flows. We make a strong effort to stay in touch with that very valuable group of stakeholders; they are the ones that the Council represents in management of the

*Local groups play a critical role in the designation and management of Wild and Scenic Rivers. Below is a brief look at what some groups are doing with regards to rivers being considered—or already protected—under either a state or the federal Act.*



Photo: Dan Miller

Green River, Utah

biggest obstacle we have faced in our efforts is replacing the public's and elected officials' fears and misinformation about the evils of a Wild and Scenic designation with the facts. As people learn the truth, they have become more supportive; they realize it does not lock out people, but rather is designed to ensure that when our children visit the Green River in the future, they will have the same incredible experience we can have there today. We have made progress, but a lot of work remains due to many threats to the Green River, such as a nuclear power plant and oil and gas drilling in the river corridor.

**Utah Rivers Council (UT)**  
[www.utahrivers.org](http://www.utahrivers.org)

The Skagit River (WA) was designated under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1978. The Skagit Wild and Scenic River System includes 158.5 miles of the Skagit River and its tributaries—the Sauk, Cascade and Suiattle rivers. Early in the 1990s, several organizations in the Skagit began meeting informally on sub-basin and watershed-scale issues. Over time, these groups evolved as people became familiar with each other and the interconnected nature of their interests and concerns. The Forest Service helped to coordinate informational meetings among agencies and organizations as part of the interim watershed assessment process under the Northwest Forest Plan. By 1997, these relationships were formalized as the Skagit Watershed Council, an umbrella organization of 38 members with disparate interests, missions and philosophies but with one overriding common interest: the restoration of the Skagit River watershed and its resident salmon. The Council remains an active participant in the conservation and management of the Wild and Scenic Skagit.

**Skagit Watershed Council (WA)**  
[www.skagitwatershed.org](http://www.skagitwatershed.org)

Cedar Creek is one of only three rivers designated by Indiana under its “Natural, Scenic & Recreational Rivers Act.” It achieved the lowest of the three rankings (back in 1975), attaining 15 points out of 24 (12 - 16 point rivers are designated as ‘recreational’ rivers), while the Wildcat and the Blue rivers attained either ‘Scenic’ or ‘Natural’ designations. Many others rivers have been studied, but none have attained the minimum 12 points.

A current struggle exists between a developer and the citizens who wish to protect Cedar Creek. The developer wants to insert a ‘forced main’ sewer line under the floodplain and the creek, extending development to the north. A poetic defense, with photos, may be found on a local blog site:

<http://berrystreetbeacon.wordpress.com/2008/06/10/cedar-creek-an-ill-wind-blowing/>

The main risk, aside from the forced main’s ultimate, inevitable leakage (chaos does indeed occur if given time), is the reduction in scenic beauty, increased erosion/sedimentation and loss of view from the ‘utility’ cut through the unbroken timber of Cedar Creek’s valley walls and lowlands, as well as the houses/decks perched along the top of the geologically-denominated ‘tunnel’ ridge line.

Unfortunately, Indiana’s Act provides no real protection to the river. The Department of Natural Resources, which administers the program, has no funds or mandate to purchase conservation easements—the mechanism supposedly in place to enforce the designation—and can only ‘study’ the issues upon request. It appears the most likely result of such a study would be the threat of ‘delisting’ the river.

## *Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, Inc. (IN)*

[www.angelfire.com/in3/cedarcreek](http://www.angelfire.com/in3/cedarcreek)



Photo: Chuck Buresz

The White Clay Creek watershed (DE/PA) is the first designated Wild and Scenic River in the United States admitted on a watershed basis instead of the typical river corridor designation. The watershed spans the states of Delaware and Pennsylvania, rural and urban landscapes, piedmont and coastal plain habitats and has a celebrated history of grassroots support for conservation. The Watershed Management Committee is made up of private, nonprofit and governmental organizations from both states. The group has been very effective in preserving open space, conducting educational community outreach and monitoring resources and potential impacts to those resources. Seventeen percent of the watershed is protected open space. On June 3, 2008, the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration-Water Resources Agency presented a State of the

**White Clay Creek** Watershed report to more than 100 partners of the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River program during a celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic River Act.

## *Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek (DE/PA)*

[www.whiteclay.org](http://www.whiteclay.org)



# Resources & References

American Rivers' **Go Wild! Campaign** seeks to secure Wild and Scenic designation for our last, best rivers—to preserve their beauty, health and wonder for current and future generations. [www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)

**The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI)** is a listing of more than 3,400 free-flowing river segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance. A free CD with the information is also available. [www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rta/nri/](http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rta/nri/)

**The National Wild & Scenic Rivers webpage**, maintained by the National Park Service, contains information about existing Wild & Scenic Rivers, management, managing agencies, publications, links and more. All of the above documents can be downloaded from: [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov) – click on “publications.” Resources include:

- ★ **A Compendium of Questions & Answers Relating to Wild & Scenic Rivers:** Everything you wanted to know about wild and scenic rivers in a Q&A format. These Q&As can also be accessed through a searchable data base.
- ★ **Agency-By-Agency Mileage/Management Chart:** This is a self-extracting zipped Excel file with the complete National Wild and Scenic Rivers System broken down into who manages the rivers.
- ★ **An Introduction to Wild & Scenic Rivers:** A concise primer on wild and scenic rivers and what designation means to you.
- ★ **Designating Rivers Through Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:** This paper describes a process for designating rivers into the National System at the request of a state.
- ★ **Implementing the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act:** Authorities and Roles of Key Federal Agencies: What responsibilities do other agencies have for wild and scenic rivers? Here's the answer.
- ★ **Protecting Resource Values on Non-Federal Lands:** How wild and scenic rivers are protected where the federal government doesn't manage the surrounding area.
- ★ **Questions & Answers on the Interagency Council:** Quick answers to some of the questions we've been asked about ourselves.
- ★ **Selected Bibliography of Wild & Scenic River Publications:** A compilation of some of the publications that best explain the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and how river protection is accomplished in this country.
- ★ **State-By-State Mileage Chart:** A self-extracting zipped Excel file with the complete National Wild and Scenic Rivers System broken down into mileage by state.
- ★ **The Wild & Scenic River Study Process:** This paper explains the wild and scenic river study process for congressionally authorized and agency-identified study rivers.
- ★ **The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act: Section 7:** This paper describes the standards and procedures used in evaluating the effects of proposed water resources projects.
- ★ **Water Quantity and Quality as Related to the Management of Wild & Scenic Rivers:** How to protect water quality and instream flows.
- ★ **Wild & Scenic River Management Responsibilities:** Considerations in managing—and developing management plans for—wild and scenic rivers.
- ★ **Wild & Scenic Rivers Reference Guide:** The purpose of the Reference Guide is to improve interagency coordination and increase consistency in the interpretation and application of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The contents includes information about the Council, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and System, and technical papers developed through the Council. Extensive peer review and the contribution of many river managers have greatly enhanced the content of these papers.
- ★ **Wild & Scenic Rivers Table:** The full listing of designated wild and scenic rivers, complete with mileage, classifications, and managing agencies.
- ★ **Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide For Riverfront Property Owners:** A concise guide for landowners along designated rivers that outlines their responsibility for management, how Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act applies to their lands, and how best to protect the value of their lands as well as the values of the river.



Photo: Katherine Luchter

Mule Creek Canyon on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, Oregon

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is available online at: [www.rivers.gov/wsract.html](http://www.rivers.gov/wsract.html)

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