

Status of Wild and Scenic River Studies

SUMMARY

With the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on October 2, 1968 (P.L. 90-542), eight rivers or river segments were included as initial components in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System). Congress and/or the Secretary of the Interior¹ have added 155 rivers or river segments to the National System since then. (See separate listing: River Mileage Classifications for Components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.)

P.L. 90-542 also authorized 27 rivers for study as potential components of the National System. These are listed in Section 5 (a) of the Act. Amendments to the law have brought the total number of studies authorized to 138. These studies have led to 46 designations by either Congress or the Secretary of the Interior. One study led to the establishment of a National Recreation Area. Ten rivers were found ineligible. (See Attachment A for status of all congressionally authorized studies).

The number of rivers included in the National System differs from the number of rivers authorized by Congress for study for the following reasons:

- 1) designation of rivers by Congress without a pre-authorization study, e.g., the Niobrara;
- 2) designation of rivers recommended through federal agency planning processes, e.g., 40 rivers designated in Oregon in 1988;
- 3) designation of rivers by the Secretary of the Interior that were not 5 (a) study rivers.

*PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Park Planning and Special Studies Division
December 2002*

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¹ The Secretary of the Interior has authority to designate rivers pursuant to Section 2 (a)(ii) of the Act. This requires prior designation into a State System and application by the Governor of the State(s).

Attachment A

The following 138 rivers have been authorized for study by P.L. 90-542 or by amendatory legislation as indicated.² Study leadership is indicated as National Park Service (NPS), Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS), Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or Forest Service (FS). The study function was transferred within the Department of the Interior from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (formerly the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation) to the National Park Service by Secretarial Order Number 3017, January 25, 1978. All studies indicated as (BOR) were completed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation before the program was transferred to the National Park Service. The Bureau of Land Management was delegated responsibility for conducting studies on Public Lands on October 11, 1988. The Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, has always conducted Wild and Scenic River studies on national forest lands. There have been several joint Interior/Agriculture studies.

I. P.L. 90-542 (27 rivers) (Studies due 10/2/78)³

- 1) Allegheny, Pennsylvania (BOR). Letter report to Congress on January 23, 1974. River not qualified. (69.5)
- 2) Bruneau, Idaho (BOR). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on May 23, 1977. (121)
- 3) Buffalo, Tennessee (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (117)
- 4) Chattooga, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia (FS). 56.9 miles added to the National System, P.L. 93-279, May 10, 1974. (56.9)
- 5) Clarion, Pennsylvania (BOR). Letter report to Congress on February 22, 1974. River not qualified. (90)
- 6) Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York (BOR). 73.4 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (75.4)
- 7) Flathead, Montana (FS). 219 miles added to the National System, P.L. 94-486, October 12, 1976. (219)

² Numbers preceding the river name refer to numbers in section 5(a). Numbers following river study status refer to the number of miles authorized for study.

³ Studies are due by the date in parenthesis unless otherwise noted.

- 8) Gasconade, Missouri (BOR). Report transmitted to Congress on May 23, 1977. Preservation of river by State recommended. (265)
- 9) Illinois, Oregon (FS). 50.4 miles added to the National System, P.L. 98-494, October 19, 1984. (88)
- 10) Little Beaver, Ohio (BOR). 33 miles added to the National System by the Secretary of the Interior on October 23, 1975. Report transmitted to Congress on February 10, 1976. (33)
- 11) Little Miami, Ohio (BOR). 66 miles added to the National System by the Secretary of the Interior on August 20, 1973. Report transmitted to Congress on November 5, 1973. An additional 28-mile segment was added by the Secretary of the Interior on January 28, 1980. (94)
- 12) Maumee, Ohio and Indiana (BOR). Report transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1974. River not qualified. (236)
- 13) Missouri, Montana (BOR). 149 miles added to the National System, P.L. 94-486, October 12, 1976. (180)
- 14) Moyie, Idaho (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. Designation not recommended. (26.1)
- 15) Obed, Tennessee (BOR/NPS). 45 miles added to the National System, P.L. 94-486, October 12, 1976. Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Submission of final report was in abeyance pending completion of a mineral evaluation. Further designation was not recommended. (100)
- 16) Penobscot, Maine (BOR). Report transmitted to Congress on May 23, 1977. Preservation of river by State recommended. (327)
- 17) Pere Marquette, Michigan (FS). 66.4 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (153)
- 18) Pine Creek, Pennsylvania (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (51.7)
- 19) Priest, Idaho (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. (67)
- 20) Rio Grande, Texas (BOR). 191.2 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (556)

- 21) Saint Croix, Minnesota and Wisconsin (BOR). 27-mile federally administered segment added to the National System by P.L. 92-560, October 25, 1972. 25-mile State-administered segment added by the Secretary of the Interior on June 17, 1976. (52)
- 22) St. Joe, Idaho (FS). 66.3 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (132.1)
- 23) Salmon, Idaho (FS). 125 miles added to the National System, P.L. 96-312, July 23, 1980. Additional 53 miles subject to provisions of Section 7(a) of P.L. 90-542. (237)
- 23) Skagit, Washington (FS). 157.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (166.3)
- 24) Suwannee, Florida and Georgia (BOR). Report transmitted to Congress on March 15, 1974. Preservation of river by State recommended. (272)
- 25) Upper Iowa, Iowa (BOR). Report transmitted to Congress on May 11, 1972. Preservation of river by State recommended. (80)
- 26) Youghiogheny, Maryland and Pennsylvania (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (49)

II. P.L. 93-621 (29 rivers) (10/2/79, except the Dolores River due 10/2/76 and the Green and Yampa Rivers due 1/1/87)

- 28) American, California (FS). 38.3 miles added to the National System, P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978. (41.1)
- 29) Au Sable, Michigan (FS). 23 miles added to the National System, P.L. 98-444, October 4, 1984. (165)
- 30) Big Thompson, Colorado (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Designation not recommended. (13.6)
- 31) Cache la Poudre, Colorado (FS). 76 miles added to the National System, P.L. 99-590, October 30, 1986. (76)
- 32) Cahaba, Alabama (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on December 14, 1979. River not qualified. (116)
- 33) Clarks Fork, Wyoming (FS). 20.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 101-628, November 28, 1990. (23)

- 34) Colorado, Colorado and Utah (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (75.7)
- 35) Conejos, Colorado (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. (48.8)
- 36) Elk, Colorado (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982.
- 37) Encampment, Colorado (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. (19.5)
- 38) Green, Colorado and Utah (NPS). Interim final report transmitted to Congress in combination with the Yampa River study on November 14, 1983. The Secretary recommended that Congress delay action on this river pending outcome of several issues. River remains in "study" status. (91)
- 39) Gunnison, Colorado (NPS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. (29)
- 40) Illinois, Oklahoma (HCRS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (115)
- 41) John Day, Oregon (NPS). 147.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 100-557, October 28, 1988. (149)
- 42) Kettle, Minnesota (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (79)
- 43) Los Pinos, Colorado (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. (54)
- 44) Manistee, Michigan (FS). 26 miles added to the National System, P.L. 102-249, March 3, 1992. (232)
- 45) Nolichucky, Tennessee and North Carolina (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. River not qualified. (110)
- 46) Owyhee, Oregon (NPS). 120 miles added to the National System, P.L. 98-494, October 19, 1984. (192)
- 47) Piedra, Colorado (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. (53)

- 48) Shepaug, Connecticut (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (28)
- 49) Sipsey Fork, Alabama (FS). Sixty-one miles added to the National System, P.L. 100-547, October 28, 1988. (71)
- 50) Snake, Wyoming (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. (50)
- 51) Sweetwater, Wyoming (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on November 14, 1979. Designation not recommended. (9.5)
- 52) Tuolumne, California (NPS/FS). 83 miles added to the National System, P.L. 98-425, September 28, 1984. (92)
- 53) Upper Mississippi, Minnesota (BOR). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on August 25, 1977. (466)
- 54) Wisconsin, Wisconsin (NPS/FS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State recommended. (82.4)
- 55) Yampa, Colorado (NPS). Interim final report transmitted to Congress in combination with Green River report on November 14, 1983. The Secretary recommended that Congress delay action on this river pending outcome of several issues. River remains in "study" status. (47)
- 56) Dolores, Colorado (BOR/FS). Report recommending Congressional designation transmitted to Congress on May 23, 1977. (105)

III. P.L. 94-199 (1 river) (10/1/79)

- 57) Snake, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (33)

IV. P.L. 94-486 (1 river) (10/1/80)

- 58) Housatonic, Connecticut (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on October 2, 1979. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (51)

V. P.L. 95-625 (17 rivers) (10/1/84)

- 59) Kern (North Fork), California (FS). 151 miles of North and South Forks added to the National System, P.L. 100-174, November 24, 1987. (74)

- 60) Loxahatchee, Florida (NPS). 7.5 miles added to the National System by the Secretary of the Interior on May 17, 1985. (25)
- 61) Ogeechee, Georgia (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State recommended. (246)
- 62) Salt, Arizona (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. Designation not recommended. (22)
- 63) Verde, Arizona (FS). 40.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 98-406, August 28, 1984. (78)
- 64) San Francisco, Arizona (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on September 13, 1982. Designation not recommended. (29)
- 65) Fish Creek, East Branch, New York (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (49)
- 66) Black Creek Mississippi (FS). 21 miles added to the National System, P.L. 99-590, October 30, 1986. (122.8)
- 67) Allegheny, Pennsylvania (FS). 85 miles added to the National System, P.L. 102-271, April 20, 1992. (128)
- 68) Cacapon, West Virginia (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (114)
- 69) Escatawpa, Alabama and Mississippi (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (72)
- 70) Myakka, Florida (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State recommended. (37)
- 71) Soldier Creek, Alabama (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. River not qualified. (.2)
- 72) Red, Kentucky (FS). 19.4 miles added to the National System, P.L. 103-170, December 2, 1993. (19.4)
- 73) Bluestone, West Virginia (NPS). 10 miles added to the National System, P.L. 100-534, October 26, 1988. (40)

- 74) Gauley, West Virginia (NPS). A 25-mile segment established as a National Recreation Area on October 26, 1988. (164)
- 75) Greenbrier, West Virginia (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on January 7, 1993. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (175)

VI. P.L. 96-199 (1 river) (10/1/84)

- 76) Birch, West Virginia (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Preservation of river by State and local action recommended. (20)

VII. P.L. 96-487 (12 rivers) (10/1/84, except the Sheenjek and Squirrel Rivers due 1/1/87)

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) added the following rivers:

- 77) Colville, Alaska (NPS). Study submitted to Congress on April 12, 1979, as part of 105(c) study mandated by P.L. 94-258. This was prior to passage of ANILCA. (428)
- 78) Etivluk-Nigu, Alaska (NPS). Study submitted to Congress on April 12, 1979, as part of 105(c) study mandated by P.L. 94-258. This was prior to passage of ANILCA. (160)
- 79) Utukok, Alaska (NPS). Study submitted to Congress on April 12, 1979, as part of 105(c) study mandated by P.L. 94-258. This was prior to passage of ANILCA. (250)
- 80) Kanektok, Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (75)
- 81) Kisaralik, Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (75)
- 82) Melozitna, Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. River not qualified. (270)
- 83) Sheenjek (lower segment), Alaska (NPS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on January 19, 2001. (109)
- 84) Situk, Alaska (FS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (21)
- 85) Porcupine, Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (75)

- 86) Yukon (Ramparts section), Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. Designation not recommended. (128)
- 87) Squirrel, Alaska (Initiated by NPS/completed by BLM). Final report/EIS issued January 26, 1999. Designation not recommended. (72)
- 88) Koyuk, Alaska (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on April 26, 1985. River not qualified. (159)
- VIII. P.L. 98-323 (1 river) (10/1/90)
- 89) Wildcat Creek, New Hampshire (NPS). 14.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 100-554, October 28, 1988. (21)
- IX. P.L. 98-484 (1 river) (10/17/87)
- 90) Horsepasture, North Carolina (FS). 4.2 miles added to the National System, P.L. 99-530, October 27, 1986. (4.2)
- X. P.L. 98-494 (1 river) (10/1/88)
- 91) North Umpqua, Oregon (FS). 33.8 miles added to the National System, P.L. 100-557, October 28, 1988. (33.8)
- XI. P.L. 99-590 (2 rivers) (10/30/89 for Great Egg Harbor and 10/1/90 for Farmington)
- 92) Farmington, West Branch, Connecticut and Massachusetts (NPS). 14 miles added to the National System, P.L. 103-313, August 26, 1994. Report transmitted to Congress on December 13, 1995. (25)
- 93) Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey (NPS). 129 miles added to the National System, P.L. 102-536, October 26, 1992. (127)
- XII. P.L. 99-663 (2 rivers) (10/1/90)
- 94) Klickitat, Washington (FS). Draft report issued June 1990. Final report completed, but not transmitted to Congress. (30)
- 95) White Salmon, Washington (FS). Report recommending congressional designation transmitted to Congress on July 7, 1997. (20)

XIII. P.L. 100-33 (3 rivers) (10/1/90)

- 96) Maurice, New Jersey (NPS). 10.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 103-162, December 1, 1993. (14)
- 97) Manumuskin, New Jersey (NPS). 14.3 miles added to the National System, P.L. 103-162, December 1, 1993. (3.5)
- 98) Menantico Creek, New Jersey (NPS). 7.9 miles added to the National System, P.L. 103-162, December 1, 1993. (7)

XIV. P.L. 100-149 (1 river) (10/1/91)

- 99) Merced, California (BLM). 8 miles added to the National System, P.L. 102-432, October 23, 1992. (8)

XV. P.L. 100-557 (6 rivers) (10/1/92)

- 100) Blue, Oregon (FS). Study initiated in 1989. River determined ineligible, but report not transmitted to Congress. (9)
- 101) Chewaucan, Oregon (FS). Study initiated in 1989. River determined ineligible, but report not transmitted to Congress. (23)
- 102) North Fork Malheur, Oregon (BLM/FS). River determined eligible, but report not transmitted to Congress. (15)
- 103) South Fork McKenzie, Oregon (FS). Study initiated in 1989 with plans to complete at revision of the Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (26)
- 104) Steamboat Creek, Oregon (FS). Final report completed in 1993, but report not transmitted to Congress. (24)
- 105) Wallowa, Oregon (FS). 10 miles added to the National System by the Secretary of the Interior on July 25, 1996. (10)

XVI. P.L. 101-356 (1 river) (8/10/93)

- 106) Merrimack, New Hampshire (NPS). Draft report issued October 7, 1999. (22)

XVII. P.L. 101-357 (1 river) (8/10/93)

- 107) Pemigewasset, New Hampshire (NPS). Report transmitted to Congress on May 5, 1998. Designation not recommended. (36)

XVIII. P.L. 101-364 (1 river) (8/15/93)

- 108) St. Marys, Florida (NPS). Draft report issued on March 16, 1994. River was determined eligible. Final report not transmitted to Congress. (120)

XIX. P.L. 101-538 (1 river) (9/30/94)

- 109) Mills, North Carolina (FS). Final report completed in 1996 but not transmitted to Congress. (33)

XX. P.L. 101-628 (1 river) (9/30/94)

- 110) Concord, Assabet and Sudbury, Massachusetts (NPS). 29 miles added to the National System, P.L. 106-20, April 9, 2000. (29)

XXI. P.L. 102-50 (1 river) (9/30/94)

- 111) Niobrara, Nebraska (NPS). 6 miles added to the National System on May 24, 1996, by provisions in P.L. 102-50. (6)

XXII. P.L. 102-214 (1 river) (12/11/94)

- 112) Lamprey, New Hampshire (NPS). 11.5 miles added to the National System, P.L. 104-333, November 12, 1996. 12 miles added to the National System, P.L. 106-192, May 5, 2000. (10)

XXIII. P.L. 102-215 (1 river) (12/11/94)

- 113) White Clay Creek, Pennsylvania and Delaware (NPS). 190 miles added to the National System, P.L. 106-357, October 24, 2000. (23+)

XXIV. P.L. 102-249 (11 rivers) (9/30/95)

- 114) Brule, Michigan and Wisconsin (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (33)

- 115) Carp, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (7.6)

- 116) Little Manistee, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (42)

- 117) White, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (75.4)
- 118) Ontonagon, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (32)
- 119) Paint, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (70)
- 120) Presque Isle, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (13)
- 121) Sturgeon (Ottawa N.F.), Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (36)
- 122) Sturgeon (Hiawatha N.F.), Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (18.1)
- 123) Tahquamenon, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (103.5)
- 124) Whitefish, Michigan (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (26)

XXV. P.L. 102-271 (2 rivers) (9/30/95)

- 125) Clarion, Pennsylvania (FS). 51.7 miles added to the National System, P.L. 104-333, October 19, 1996. (104)
- 126) Mill Creek, Pennsylvania (FS). Study initiated in 1993. (18)

XXVI. P.L. 102-301 (5 rivers) (9/30/95)

- 127) Piru Creek, California (FS). Study initiated in 1998 with plans to complete at revision of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (49)
- 128) Little Sur, California (FS). Study initiated in 1998 with plans to complete at revision of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (23)
- 129) Matilija Creek, California (FS). Study initiated in 1998 with plans to complete at revision of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (16)
- 130) Lopez Creek, California (FS). Study initiated in 1998 with plans to complete at revision of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (11)
- 131) Sespe Creek, California (FS). Study initiated in 1998 with plans to complete at revision of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. (10.5)

XXVII. P.L. 102-432 (1 river) (9/30/95)

- 132) North Fork Merced, California (BLM). Study is being delayed until the Folsom Resource Management Plan amendment is initiated in 2004. (15)

XXVIII. P.L. 102-460 (1 river) (10/23/93)

- 133) Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey (NPS). 67.3 miles added to the National System, P.L. 106-418, November 1, 2000. (70)

XXIX. P.L. 102-525 (1 river) (10/26/93)

- 134) New, Virginia and West Virginia (NPS). Study initiated in 1993. (20)

XXX. P.L. 103-242 (1 river) (5/4/97)

- 135) Rio Grande, New Mexico (BLM). Final report issued on January 4, 2000, but not transmitted to Congress. 7.6 miles determined eligible. (8)

XXXI. P.L. 104-311 (1 river) (10/19/98)

- 136) Wekiva, Florida (NPS). 41.6 miles added to the National System, P.L. 106-299, October 13, 2000. (27)

XXXII. P.L. 106-318 (1 river) (10/19/2003)

- 137) Taunton, Massachusetts (NPS). Study initiated in 2001. (22)

XXXIII. P.L. 107-65 (1 river) (11/06/04)

- 138) Eight Mile, Connecticut (NPS). Study initiated in 2002. (15)