



What are Outstandingly Remarkable Values?

Outstandingly Remarkable Values of a Wild and Scenic River

"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." - *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968*

Outstandingly remarkable values (or ORVs) are defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the unique characteristics that make a river worthy of special protection. Only one ORV is required for a river to be designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Outstandingly remarkable values of the Tuolumne River were first identified in 1979 and are being updated during this planning process.



Photo courtesy of Edie Howe



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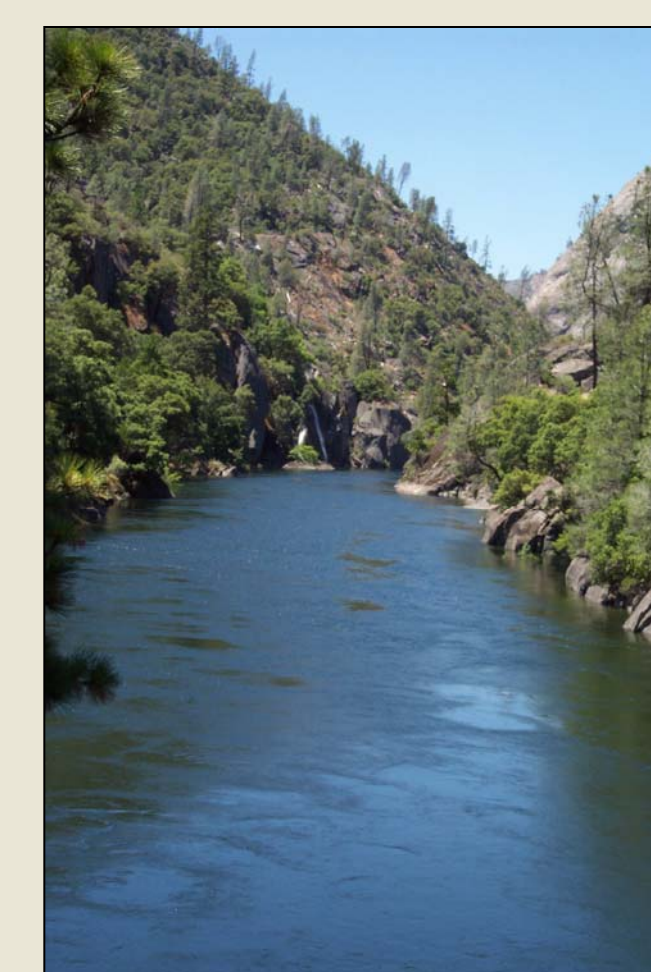


Photo courtesy of Kristina Rylands

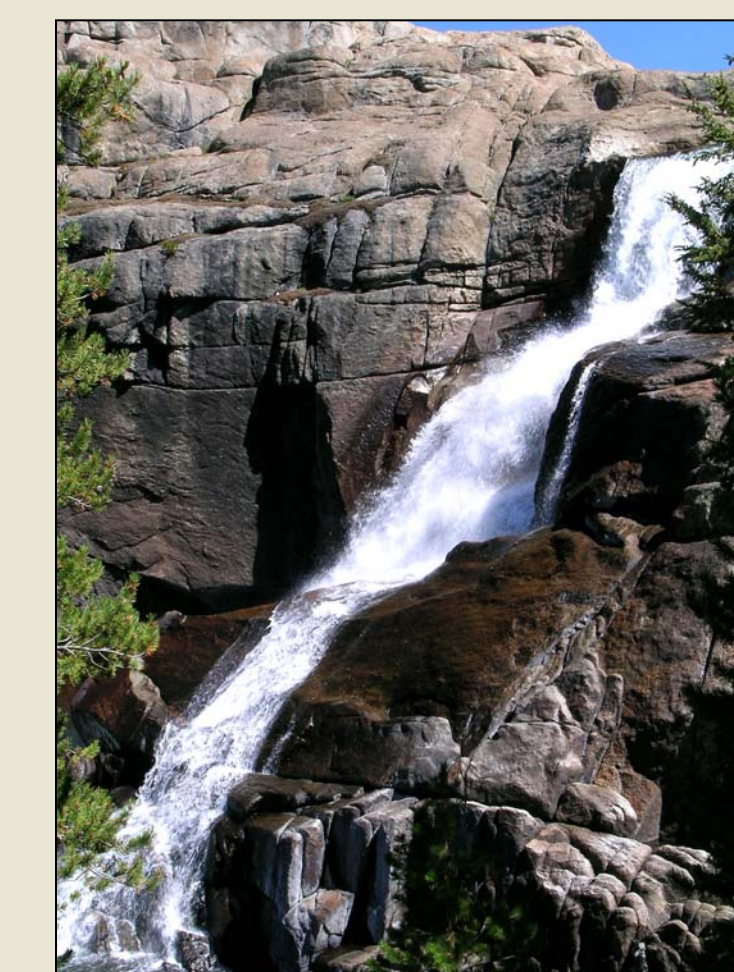


Photo courtesy of Edie Howe

Outstandingly remarkable values of a river can include natural and cultural resources, such as vegetation, wildlife, geology, hydrology, scenery, recreation, American Indian traditional values, archeology, and historic features, provided that these values are both:

- *River-related*, meaning in or adjacent to the river or owing existence to the river.
- *Rare, unique, or exemplary* in a regional or national context.



NPS Photo



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Outstandingly remarkable values of the Tuolumne River were first defined in 1979 as part of an eligibility study for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A preliminary revision of these values, captured in the *Draft ORV Report*, is available upon request.