



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

NOV 10 1995

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A5623 (2510)

SPECIAL DIRECTIVE 90-4 (Amended)

To: Directorate, Field Directorate, and Park Superintendents

From: Director

Subject: Determination of Rivers on National Park System Lands which are Eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Designation

Section 5(d) of Public Law 90-542, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, requires that "...in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas...." To comply with this requirement, the National Park Service in all future General Management Plans, Development Concept Plans, Resource Management Plans and any other plans potentially affecting river resources, will propose no actions which could affect adversely the values which qualify a river for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In order to acquire the necessary data base for planning, the National Park Service will compile a complete listing of all rivers and river segments in the National Park System which we consider eligible for the National System.

A determination of eligibility will not necessarily mean that the National Park Service will seek designation, which would require legislation. A decision on whether to seek designation will be made pursuant to NPS-2, i.e., either in a GMP revision or a topic specific amendment to the current GMP. Rationales for proposing designation include, but are not limited to, protection of park resources from internal or external threats (particularly from hydroelectric or water resource development projects), to extend into a park a designation or proposed designation of the river on other Federal lands, to recognize the outstanding values of the river, or as an aid in managing a river area in the park.

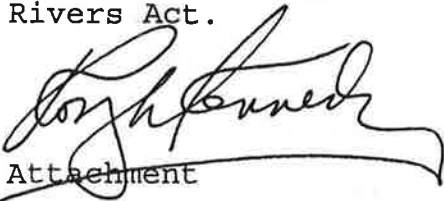
When designation is being considered, parks should be alert for possibilities to join with other Federal agencies, particularly the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, in making a joint proposal when the eligible river segment also flows across lands administered by the other agency. By becoming a cooperating agency in preparation of the necessary environmental documentation, the National Park Service work load could be eased substantially.

This directive applies only to NPS units that (1) contain rivers or segments of rivers and (2) have not previously submitted information required by the original issuance of Special Directive 90-4. Units that do not contain river resources and units that already have responded are not expected to reply.

Park units with river mileage will submit a brief report for each river which should follow the format shown in the attachment. Equal documentation will be required for ineligible and eligible rivers/river segments. Reports will be submitted to the appropriate field director.

As park units respond, each field office will send the list of eligibles to the Assistant Director for National Recreation Programs. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) will be revised to add the eligible rivers. Listing on the NRI can provide a measure of protection to park resources. Any Federal agency contemplating a project on an NRI river above or below a park unit, or assisting with a project through a license, permit, grant or technical assistance, would be required to consult with the National Park Service in an attempt to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects.

The work associated with this task should be accomplished by park staff with assistance from system support office staff and guidance from the Park Planning and Special Studies staff in Washington. In making eligibility determinations, staff will refer to the guidance provided by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas and reports prepared by either the Department of the Interior or Agriculture pursuant to Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



Attachment

REPORT OF ELIGIBILITY/INELIGIBILITY FINDINGS

Park:

State(s):

River:

- A. Length of river (include total length of river and length inside park boundaries)
- B. Eligible and ineligible river mileage within park, including description of segments (for example, 57 miles --that segment of Eagle River from its confluence with Grizzly Creek downstream to park boundary-eligible).
- C. Relationship to any other segment of the river outside park boundaries which has been determined eligible. Generally, this will be known where BLM or National Forest lands abut the park, (for example, Eagle River from where it exits High Mountain Park downstream 15 miles to its confluence with White River). Has this segment been recommended for designation by the other agency?
- D. Appropriate classification(s) if eligible and designated (wild, scenic or recreational)
- E. Outstandingly remarkable values, if any (try to rely upon existing data for natural and cultural values. Rely upon knowledge of park personnel for judgments on scenic and recreational values). If no values are deemed outstandingly remarkable, summarize basis for this judgment.
- F. Any known proposals which would alter the natural and free-flowing character of eligible river resources, especially from water resource development projects which would be located outside park boundaries
- G. Any inholdings on river banks within the park, including mineral rights (information should be readily available from the Land Protection Plan)
- H. Approximate percentage of river watershed in park
- I. Is videotape coverage of the river available?
- J. Other relevant information

