

Wild and Scenic Rivers Steering Committee Charter

Purpose

The purpose of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Steering Committee (Steering Committee) of the National Park Service (NPS) is to:

- Develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive Service-wide Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Program that meets legislative requirements of the WSR Act.
- Promote program consistency Service-wide.
- Establish Service-wide policies and guidelines.
- Improve internal and external communication and coordination.
- Educate NPS staff, stakeholders and the public about the importance of wild and scenic rivers.
- Protect and enhance river resources and associated free-flowing conditions, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values.

Reporting

The Steering Committee reports to the Associate Directors for Partnership and Visitor Experience and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science and will submit an annual work plan to the Associate Directors.

Membership

Composition

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from each of the seven regional offices: 4-6 representatives from field units, including at least 3 superintendents and 1 interpretation/education professional; 1 representative from the Natural Resource Stewardship and Science directorate; 1 representative from the Park Planning, Facilities and Lands directorate; 1 representative from the Partnerships and Visitor Experience directorate; 1 representative from the Visitor and Resource Protection directorate; and 1 representative from the Cultural Resources directorate. The WSR Program Coordinator is a standing member.

Terms

Members serve three-year terms, except that initially five members will be appointed to two-year terms and the balance of the Committee appointed to three-year terms. Membership terms are staggered so that no more than 5-6 members are replaced in any given year. Members may serve multiple terms at the discretion of their superintendent, regional director or associate director.

Selection Process

Steering Committee vacancies will be filled by the Regional and Associate Directors through whatever process is considered appropriate for their region and/or office.

Chairperson

The WSR Program Coordinator will serve as the Chair of the Steering Committee. Committee members for the Partnership and Visitor Experience, and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science directorates will serve as Committee co-chairpersons until the WSR Program obtains permanent funding and the Program Coordinator position is permanently filled. The duties of the Chairperson include:

- Facilitation of Committee conference calls, meetings and functions.
- Oversight of Committee operations, including preparation of call and meeting agendas, subcommittee operations and other activities affecting Committee purpose and functions.
- Coordination of the assignment of Committee members to various projects and duties and oversees the completion of these projects.
- Preparation and submittal of the annual work plan.

Member Duties

Members will serve as Service-wide advocates for wild and scenic river management, protection and enhancement. Members will be expected to actively support the purpose of the Committee through contributions to programs and special projects. The duties of members include attendance at and participation in Committee functions (e.g., conference calls and annual meetings), completion of Committee assignments, participation in subcommittees, and facilitation of internal and external communications with the field, regions, programmatic contacts, local, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Committee Guests

Any member of the Steering Committee may invite guests to participate in conference calls, meetings or Committee functions for the purpose of enhancing wild and scenic river protection/management and facilitating communication within and outside of the NPS. The Steering Committee also encourages the participation of NPS staff or partners on subcommittees that have been established to complete special projects. Guests will not be allowed at internally sensitive Committee meetings or have a vote in the decision making process.

Decision Making

Steering Committee decisions will be reached by consensus whenever possible. Consensus means that members “can live with” a decision reached by the Committee.

When consensus is not possible, decisions will be made by a simple majority vote. Minority reports will be prepared to memorialize dissenting views. The WSR Program Coordinator will have the tie-breaking vote.

Steering Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Associate Directors for Partnerships and Visitor Experience and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science for approval and then to the National Leadership Council for approval when necessary. The Steering Committee will make decisions about operational issues. Field and regional representatives on the Steering Committee will assure that all Committee decisions regarding wild and scenic rivers will be vetted to the field, regions and Washington directorates to incorporate their concerns and recommendations.

Changes to the Charter

The Charter will be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee and may be changed upon approval of the Committee.

Approval

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the Associate Directors of Partnership and Visitor Experience and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science.

Recommended: Joan Larn Date: 9/24/2008
WSR Program Lead

Wm. R. Dawson Date: 9/24/08
WSR Program Lead

Approved: Christopher K Jani Date: 9/24/2008
Associate Director, Partnerships and
Visitor Experience

Approved: Robert C. [Signature] Date: 9/24/2008
Associate Director, Natural Resource
Stewardship and Science