 **2024 National Wild & Scenic River Awards** 

**Nomination Information**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service annually honors employees, volunteers, and organizations who have demonstrated significant contributions to the protection and enhancement of rivers in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System or to the study of rivers for their potential addition to the National System.

**National Wild & Scenic Rivers Award Categories:**

* Outstanding Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship
* Outstanding River Manager
* Outstanding Support to the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program

**Instructions:**

Please use the enclosed nomination form for each nomination. Also, please avoid elaborate nomination packages.

The nomination form should include:

* Award Category
* Nominee Information: *Name, Title, Organization, Address, Phone Number, Email*
* Sponsor Information: *Name, Title, Organization, Address, Phone Number, Email, signature of sponsor*
* Nomination Narrative: *Brief summary of the work or accomplishment followed by description of outcomes and achievements. Address these using the specific criteria identified for each award. Include demonstration of significant accomplishments in the category.*

Outstanding Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

Forest Service employees, partners, volunteers - individuals or groups - demonstrating excellence in wild & scenic rivers management.

OBJECTIVE:

Recognize program excellence or sustained contributions in wild & scenic rivers management or in conducting a wild & scenic rivers study.

CRITERIA:

* Contributes to excellent management of a wild & scenic river program
* Serves as an effective change agent in improving the stewardship of a wild & scenic river or wild & scenic rivers study
* Leads efforts to develop a comprehensive river management plan, complete wild & scenic rivers study evaluations, and pursue other wild & scenic rivers-related inventory and monitoring work
* Identifies and implements actions to address wild & scenic rivers resource issues
* Actively champions a wild & scenic river, advancing internal and external awareness and support
* Work supports communities whose members historically lack adequate access to outdoor education, recreation and/or other stewardship opportunities.

Outstanding River Manager/River Ranger

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

Forest Service River Managers and River Rangers.

OBJECTIVE:

Recognize sustained high-performance in managing a wild & scenic river.

CRITERIA:

* Exhibits leadership in protecting and enhancing river values
* Works effectively with others (e.g. Federal, State and local agencies; Tribal governments; user groups; landowners and the public)
* Work supports communities whose members historically lack adequate access to outdoor education, recreation and/or other stewardship opportunities.
* Establishes long-term partnerships within and external to the Agency
* Facilitates the formation or contributes to the growth of a wild & scenic river stewardship group or other significant partnership building effort

Outstanding Support to the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

Forest Service Line Officers, Staff, and Researchers demonstrating sustained contributions to a wild & scenic river or the wild & scenic rivers program.

OBJECTIVE:

Recognize Line Officers, Staff, and/or Research Scientists who provide strong, sustained support to a wild & scenic river or the wild & scenic rivers program.

CRITERIA:

* Demonstrates outstanding personal commitment to protecting and enhancing river values
* Advances program awareness
* Implements and supports effective wild & scenic river protection strategies
* Establishes long-term partnerships within and external to the Agency
* Work supports communities whose members historically lack adequate access to outdoor education, recreation and/or other stewardship opportunities.
* Tested or advanced a research concept with on-the-ground implications for wild & scenic rivers management and protection