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National Park Service

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Forest Service

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

National Park Service

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Forest Service

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas

AGENCY: National Park Service and Office of the Secretary, Interior; Forest Service and Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Publication of final revised guidelines.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Bob Brockwehl (NPS), 202/272-3566.
William R. Snyder (USFS), 202/382-8014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Guidelines for the study of potential national wild and scenic rivers and management of designated rivers were first issued jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior in 1970. On January 28, 1981 draft revised guidelines were published in the **Federal Register** for public comment (Vol. 46, No. 18, pp. 9148-9158). The document which follows was prepared after consideration of 50 letters of comment received from other Federal agencies, State governments, private industry, citizens' groups and individuals. Major comments and responses are summarized below. Many of the comments received were not addressed because they related to aspects of the wild and scenic rivers program beyond the scope of these guidelines. (See Preface of the revised guidelines.)

Comments and Responses

Comment: The definition of the term outstandingly remarkable value is too vague and too liberal. Too many rivers will be eligible for designation, unreasonably constraining economic development of natural resources. *Response:* Balancing of the need for protection versus development of each river area will be considered by the Congress in deciding whether or not to designate the river area. A determination that a particular river is eligible for designation does not necessarily imply that designation is the best use of the river in terms of the national interest.

Comment: The guidelines give inadequate emphasis to public involvement in the study process. *Response:* Public involvement is sufficiently addressed in the context of environmental statements or assessments prepared in the study process.

Comment: The guidelines do not make sufficiently clear which of the management principles apply to private lands. *Response:* The guidelines may be unclear to the general reader in this respect. The managment principles are to be implemented throughout each river area to the fullest extent possible under the managing agency's general statutory authorities and other existing Federal, State and local laws, including zoning ordinances where available. Some management principles obviously apply only to Federal lands within the river area. For instance, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not open private lands to public recreation. Management principles may apply to private lands only to the extent required by other laws such as local zoning and air and water pollution regulations.

Comment: Restriction of timber harvest to selective harvest techniques is unnecessarily limiting from both the timber production and the natural resource preservation standpoints. *Response:* The guidelines have been amended in accordance with this comment.

Comment: Specific guidance contained in the 1970 guideline with respect to the granting of rights-of-way for transmission lines is omitted from the revised draft guidelines. *Response:* The subsection on rights-of-way has been amended in accordance with this comment.

Comment: A protected study area extending one half mile from each bank of the river is excessive when the final boundaries of a river area must average no more than one quarter mile from each bank (320 acres per mile). *Response:* The half-mile figure was intended to ensure that all areas likely to be included within the boundaries of a designated river area would be considered in the study process. Setting a study boundary based on the "visual corridor" concept was considered but rejected. The one-quarter-mile figure was finally selected to avoid unnecessary limitations on resource developments. Some developments which may be initiated beyond the one-quarter-mile boundary during the study period might be affected in the future if the area under development is included in the boundaries of the river area designated by Congress.

Comment: Evaluation of the study area in its existing condition for classification purposes does not allow for the fact that a forest area growing in relatively natural condition at the time of the study may be scheduled for clearcutting at some future date. The classification process should allow for authorized and scheduled future uses which could change the condition and, thus, the classification of the river area. *Response:* The guidelines have been amended to permit consideration of alternative classifications for the river area where authorized future uses could alter classification.

The following additional changes were made in response to suggestions from the reviewing public or from reviewers within the responsible agencies.

- Unnecessary definitions were deleted.
- Quotations and paraphrases of the Wild and Scenic River Act (including the whole of Section II—Policy) were eliminated as much as possible. Instead, the guidelines will reference the appropriate sections of the Act where necessary.
- The entire subsection titled "Findings and Recommendations" and portions of the subsection titled "General Management Principles" were deleted and their content was placed in other appropriate sections.

Additional copies of the guidelines, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, and further information on the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System may be obtained from: National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Division (780), 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243.

Dated: July 12, 1982.

G. Ray Arnett,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (Interior).

Dated: August 26, 1982.

Douglas W. MacCleery,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (Agriculture).

Department of Agriculture

Department of the Interior

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas.

Contents

Preface
The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
Addition of Rivers to the System
The Guidelines
Revision of the Guidelines

Section I
Definitions

Section II
The River Study

HeinOnline -- 47 Fed. Reg. 39454 1982

The Study Process
The Study Report
Description of the Study Area
Determination of Eligibility
Classification
Analysis of Alternatives

Section III

Management
General Management Principles

Tables

Table 1

Accelerated Study Schedule

Table 2

Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas

Appendix

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90–542 as amended through Pub. L. 96–487)

Preface

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (Pub. L. 90–542 as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1271–1287) established a method for providing Federal protection for certain of our country's remaining free-flowing rivers, preserving them and their immediate environments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Rivers are included in the system so that they may benefit from the protective management and control of development for which the Act provides.

The preamble of the Act states:

> 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. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

Addition of Rivers to the System

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides two methods for adding a river to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The first method is by an act of Congress. Congress can designate a river directly or it can authorize a river for study as a potential wild, scenic or recreational river. Upon completion of a study conducted by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, a study report is prepared and transmitted to the President who, in turn, forwards it with his recommendations to Congress for action.

The second method for inclusion of a river in the national system is through the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior in section 2(a)(ii) of the Act. Upon application by the Governor or Governors of the State or States involved, the Secretary can designate a river as a component of the national system provided that the river has been designated as a wild, scenic or recreational river by or pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State or States through which if flows to be permanently administered as a wild, scenic, or recreational river by an agency or political subdivision of the State or States concerned.

To be eligible for inclusion in the system through either method, rivers must meet certain criteria set forth in section 2(b) of the Act. Procedures for proposing State-administered rivers for designation have been issued by the Department of the Interior.

The Guidelines

Subsequent to enactment of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in October 1968, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior initiated studies of twenty-seven rivers which the Act authorized for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. As these studies progressed, it became evident that specific requirements of the Act concerning the evaluation, classification and management of these rivers were subject to differing interpretations within and between the two departments.

It was therefore agreed that a uniform evaluation and management approach should be formulated for use by the two departments, and through a cooperative effort, *Guidelines for Evaluating Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Under Section 2, Public Law 90–542* was prepared and promulgated in February 1970.

The guidelines not only provide guidance for the congressionally mandated studies under section 5(a) of the Act, but are also useful for evaluations conducted by water resource development agencies under section 5(d) and for States applying for inclusion of State-designated rivers in the national system.

Revision of the Guidelines

While these guidelines were effective throughout a decade, it became clear that revision was necessary to incorporate changes identified through use and to reflect requirements of new laws and regulations. Therefore, on August 2, 1979, the President directed in his Environmental Message that "the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall jointly revise their guidelines for evaluating wild, scenic and recreational rivers to ensure consideration of river ecosystems and to shorten the time currently used to study rivers for designation."

This revision of the guidelines has been prepared in response to the President's 1979 directive and includes:

- Clarification of the fact that free-flowing rivers which contain outstandingly remarkable ecological values are eligible for addition to the national system.
- Clarification of the fact that free-flowing river segments in or near urban areas that possess outstandingly remarkable values are eligible for addition to the national system.
- Elimination of the 25-mile minimum length guideline.
- Revision of the definition of sufficient river flow or volume of water in the river. Sufficient flow was not defined in the Act and the definition in the existing guidelines was unnecessarily limiting.
- Revised water quality guidelines to allow inclusion in the system of rivers where restoration to high water quality is planned.
- A revised section on management of designated river areas.
- A study schedule to accelerate completion of the river studies authorized by Congress.

Section I—Definitions

The following definitions are provided for the purpose of these guidelines only.

Act: The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Carrying capacity: The quantity of recreation use which an area can sustain without adverse impact on the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing character of the river area, the quality of recreation experience, and public health and safety.

Classification criteria: Criteria specified in Section 2(b) of the Act for determining the classification (wild, scenic or recreational) of eligible river segments.

Classification: The process of determining which of the classes outlined in section 2(b) of the Act (wild, scenic, or recreational) best fit the river or its various segments.

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Component: A river area designated as a unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Designation: Inclusion of a river area in the national system either by act of Congress or by authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

Development: Any manmade structure or modification of the natural or existing river environment.

Eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion in the national system through determination that it is free-flowing and with its adjacent land area possesses at least one outstandingly remarkable value.

Flow: The volume of water in a river passing a given point in a given period of time, usually expressed in terms of cubic feet per second or cubic meters per second.

Impoundment: A body of water formed by any manmade structure.

Management plan: The detailed development plan required under section 3(b) of the Act which states the boundaries and classification of the river area and presents a plan for its public use, development and administration.

Primary contact recreation: Activities in which there is prolonged and intimate contact with the water, (e.g., swimming, water skiing, surfing, kayaking, "tubing," and wading or dabbling by children.

River area: For a river study, that portion of a river authorized by Congress for study and its immediate environment comprising an area extending at least one-quarter mile from each bank. For designated rivers, the river and adjacent land within the authorized boundaries.

Secondary contact recreation: Activities in which contact with the water is either incidental or accidental, e.g., boating, fishing and limiting contact with water incident to shoreline activities.

Study agency: The agency within the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior delegated the responsibility for a wild and scenic river study.

Study report: The report on the suitability or nonsuitability of a study river for inclusion in the national system, which section 4(a) requires the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary of the Interior, or both jointly to prepare and submit to the President. The President transmits the report with his recommendation to the Congress.

Study team: A team of professionals from interested local, State and Federal agencies invited by the study agency and participating in the study.

Section II—The River Study

The Study Process

Section 4(a) mandates that all rivers designated as potential additions to the system in section 5(a) be studied as to their suitability for inclusion in the system:

> The Secretary of the Interior or, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture or, in appropriate cases, the two Secretaries jointly shall study and submit to the President reports on the suitability or nonsuitability for addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system of rivers which are designated herein or hereafter by the Congress as potential additions to such system. The President shall report to the Congress his recommendations and proposals with respect to the designation of each such river or section thereof under this Act.

The purpose of a wild and scenic river study is to provide information upon which the President can base his recommendation and Congress can make a decision. Procedures for developing the necessary information and preparing the study report may vary depending on the agency which conducts the study, but generally will include the steps shown on Table 1, Accelerated Study Schedule.

Wild and scenic river studies will comply with all applicable statutes and executive orders, which may include the following: the National Environmental Policy Act (Pub. L. 91–190), the National Historic Preservation Act (Pub. L. 89–665), the Endangered Species Act (Pub. L. 93–205), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (Pub. L. 85–264), the Water Resources Planning Act (Pub. L. 89–80), the Floodplain and Wetlands Executive Orders (E.O. 11988 and E.O. 11990), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94–588), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94–579), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (Pub. L. 90–542, as amended), and any rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

The Study Report

Each river study report will be a concise presentation of the information required in sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the Act as augmented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508).

Section 4(a):

> Each report, including maps and illustrations, shall show among other things the area included within the report; the characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the system; the current status of land ownership and use in the area; the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land an water which woud be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included in the national wild and scenic rivers system; the Federal agency (which in the case of a river which is wholly or substantially within a national forest, shall be the Department of Agriculture) by which it is proposed the area, should it be added to the system, be administered; the extent to which it is proposed that such administration, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies; and the estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the system.

In addition, section 5(c) requires that

> The study of any of said rivers * * * shall include a determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system.

Study reports may be combined with draft and final environmental impact statements (EIS) as permitted by § 1506.4 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. Study reports will be reviewed by other Federal agencies, states and the public as requried by section 4(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Each of the following subsections describes the way in which the information is generated, analyzed and presented in the report.

Description of the River Area

Each report will contain a description of the area included in the study. The study area will cover, as a minimum, an area extending the length of the river segment authorized for study and extending in width one-quarter mile from each bank of the river.

Adjacent river areas beyond one quarter mile form each river bank may be studied if their inclusion could facilitate management of the resources of the river area. For example, there may be important historic, archeological or ecological resource areas which may extend beyond the boundaries of the mandated study area, but could be better managed by inclusion in the river area. Also, management of the river area may be facilitated by extension to include established or available access points not included in the study.

For the purposes of study and determining eligibility and classification, the river area may be divided into segments.

The description of the river area will identify the outstandingly remarkable values and the extent of man's activity in the river environment to provide a clear basis for findings of eligibility and classification. While only one

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outstandingly remarkable value is necessary for eligibility, the study report should carefully document all values of the river area.

In addition to the information required by Sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the Act, this section of the report will describe any existing zoning ordinances or other provisions of law governing land use in the study area.

If the study report and the environmental impact statement are combined, the same chapter may describe both the river area and the affected environment. For EIS purposes and for general information, a brief description of the regional setting will also be included.

Determination of Eligibility

Each report will contain a determination as to the eligibility of all portions of the authorized study area.

Section 2(b) of the Act states that "a * * * river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream and the related adjacent land area that posseses one or more of the values referred to in section 1, subsection (b) of this Act." The terms "river" and "free-flowing" are defined in section 16 of the act.

In reading and applying the criteria for eligibility, the following points are relevant:

- The fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segment meet the criteria.
- Rivers or river segments in or near urban areas that possess outstandingly remarkable values may qualify. Only one outstandingly remarkable value is needed for eligibility.
- In addition to the specific values listed in Section 1(b) of the Act, other similar values, such as ecological, if outstandingly remarkable, can justify inclusion of a river in the national system.
- The determination of whether a river ara contains "outstandingly remarkable" values is a professional judgment on the part of the study team. The basis for the judgment will be documented in the study report.
- There are no specific requirements concerning the length or the flow of an eligible river segment. A river segment is of sufficient length if, when managed as a wild, scenic or recreational river area, the outstandingly remarkable values are protected. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated.

Classification

Study reports will indicate the potential classification which best fits each eligible river segment as viewed in its existing condition. Section 2(b) of the Act states that rivers which are found eligible and included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems shall be classified as one of the following:

(1) Wild river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccesible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a. "Free of impoundments." Wild river areas shall be free of impoundments.

b. "Generally inaccessible except by trail." Wild river areas will not contain roads, railroads, or other provisions for vehicular travel within the river area. The existence of a few inconspicuous roads leading to the boundary of the river area at the time of study will not necessarily bar wild river classification.

c. "Watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive." Wild river areas will show little or no evidence of human activity. Shorelines and watersheds within the river area should be essentially free of structures including such things as buildings, pipelines, powerlines, dams, pumps, generators, diversion works, rip-rap and other modifications of the waterway or adjacent land within the river corridor. The existence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, at the time of study need not bar wild classification.

A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production may be considered "essentially primitive." There should be no row crops or ongoing timber harvest and the river area should show little or no evidence of past logging activities.

d. "Waters unpolluted." The water quality of a wild river will meet or exceed Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the stream, and for primary contact recreation except where exceeded by natural conditions.

(2) Scenic river areas—Those rivers or sections or rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a. "Free of impoundments." Scenic river areas will be free of impoundments.

b. "Shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive." To qualify for scenic classification, the rivers segment's shorelines and immediate environment should not show substantial evidence of human activity. The portion of the watershed within the boundary of the scenic river may have some discernible existing development. "Largely primitive" means that the shorelines and the immediate river environment still present an overall natural character, but that in places land may be developed for agricultural purposes. Row crops would be considered as meeting the test of "largely primitive," as would timber harvest and other resource use, providing such activity is accomplished without a substantial adverse effect on the natural appearance of the river or its immediate environment.

c. "Shorelines largely undeveloped" means that any structures or concentration of structures must be limited to relatively short reaches of the total area under consideration for designation as a scenic river area.

d. "Accessible in places by road" means that roads may reach the river area and occasionally bridge the river. The presence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or railroads will not necessarily preclude scenic river designation. In addition to the physical and scenic relationship of the free-flowing river area to roads or railroads, consideration should be given to the type of use for which such roads or railroads were constructed and the type of use which would occur within the proposed scenic river area.

(3) Recreational river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a. "Readily accessible by road or railroad." River areas classified as recreational may contain existing parallel roads or railroads in close proximity to one or both banks of the river as well as bridge crossings and roads fording or ending at the river.

b. "Some development along their shorelines." Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses, may show evidence of past and ongoing timber

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harvest, and may include some residential, commercial or similar development.

c. "Some impoundment or diversion in the past." There may be some existing impoundments, diversions and other modifications of the waterway having an impact on the river area. Existing low dams, diversion works, rip-rap and other minor structures will not bar recreational classification, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.

The classification criteria are summarized in Table 2, appended to these guidelines.

There are several points which all participants and observers of the study process should bear in mind when reading and applying the classification criteria:

- It is important to understand each criterion, but it is more important to understand their collective intent. Each river segment and its immediate environment should be considered as a unit. The basis for classification is the degree of naturalness, or stated negatively, the degree of evidence of man's activity in the river area. The most natural rivers will be classified wild; those somewhat less natural, scenic, and those least natural, recreational.
- Generally, only conditions within the river area determine classification; however, occasionally conditions outside the river area, such as developments which could impact air and water quality, noise levels or scenic views within the river area, may influence classification.

For the purpose of classification, a river area may be divided into segments. Each segment, considered as a whole, will conform to one of the classifications. In segmenting the river the study team should take into account the management strategies necessary to administer the entire river area and should avoid excessive segmentation.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides no specific guidance on water quality for scenic and recreational rivers. However, the Clean Water Act has made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable, and provides the legal means for upgrading water quality in any river which would otherwise be suitable for inclusion in the system. Therefore, rivers will not necessarily be excluded from the system because of poor water quality at the time study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable State and Federal laws.

- Although each classification permits certain existing development, the criteria do not imply that additional inconsistent development is permitted in the future.
- The classification criteria provide uniform guidance for professional judgment, but they are not absolutes. It is not possible to formulate criteria so as to mechanically or automatically classify river areas. Therefore, there may occasionally be exceptions to some of the criteria. For example, if the study team finds that strict application of the statutory classification criteria would not provide the most appropriate classification for a specific river segment, the study report may recommend for congressional consideration an exception to the classification criteria.

Analysis of the Alternatives

To provide for decisionmaking and to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, study reports will include an analysis of alternatives. The study team will develop an array of alternative plans encompassing all reasonable proposals for use of the river area including uses which may be incompatible with designation of the river area as a component of the national system. Where appropriate, alternative plans for the river area may be based on, but not limited to:

- Alternative managing agencies for the river area;
- Alternative protective measures other than national designation;
- Alternative uses of the area incompatible with designation as a component of the national system; and
- Alternative classifications for the river area. Occasionally there may be authorized but not yet constructed projects, which if constructed would alter the classification of the river area. In such cases, alternatives may be presented to permit consideration of the river area as it would be classified both with and without the authorized project. Authorized projects may include approved land management plans prepared by a Federal land management agency under its statutory authorities.

The study report will present at least one alternative plan calling for national designation through either Congressional or Secretarial designation of all eligible segments of the congressionally authorized study area.

If the study team finds a segment ineligible for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, but still worthy of protection, alternatives for State, local or private preservation may be presented, as well as protection under other Federal programs.

If areas adjacent to the study area have been studied and found eligible, the report may present alternatives which incorporate such areas into the river area proposed for designation. Such expansion of the original study area either in length or in width may be desirable to preserve and facilitate management of river ecosystems, historic or archeological areas or other special areas.

Section III—Management

Wild and scenic rivers shall be managed with plans prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act, other applicable laws, and the following general management principles. Management plans will state: General principles for any land acquisition which may be necessary; the kinds and amounts of public use which the river area can sustain without impact to the values for which it was designated; and specific management measures which will be used to implement the management objectives for each of the various river segments and protect esthetic, scenic, historic, archeologic and scientific features.

If the classification or classifications determined in the management plan differ from those stated in the study report, the management plan will describe the changes in the existing condition of the river area or other considerations which required the change in classification.

General Management Principles

Section 10(a) states,

Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archeologic, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development on the special attributes of the area.

This section is interpreted as stating a nondegradation and enhancement policy for all designated river areas, regardless of classification. Each component will be managed to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated, while providing for public

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recreation and resource uses which do not adversely impact or degrade those values. Specific management strategies will vary according to classification but will always be designed to protect and enhance the values of the river area. Land uses and developments on private lands within the river area which were in existence when the river was designated may be permitted to continue. New land uses must be evaluated for their compatibility with the purposes of the Act.

The management principles which follow stem from section 10(a). Managing agencies will implement these principles to the fullest extent possible under their general statutory authorities and existing Federal, State and local laws. Because of these limitations, however, implementation of the principles may differ among and within components of the system depending on whether the land areas involved are federally, State, locally or privately owned.

Carrying Capacity. Studies will be made during preparation of the management plan and periodically thereafter to determine the quantity and mixture of recreation and other public use which can be permitted without adverse impact on the resource values of the river area. Management of the river area can then be planned accordingly.

Public Use and Access. Public use will be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance (by allowing natural recovery where resources have been damaged) the resource values of the river area. Public use may be controlled by limiting access to the river, by issuing permits, or by other means available to the managing agency through its general statutory authorities.

Basic Facilities. The managing agency may provide basic facilities to absorb user impacts on the resource. Wild river areas will contain only the basic minimum facilities in keeping with the "essentially primitive" nature of the area. If facilities such as toilets and refuse containers are necessary, they will generally be located at access points or at a sufficient distance from the river bank to minimize their intrusive impact. In scenic and recreational river areas, simple comfort and convenience facilities such as toilets, shelters, fireplaces, picnic tables and refuse containers are appropriate. These, when placed within the river area, will be judiciously located to protect the values of popular areas from the impacts of public use.

Major Facilities. Major public use facilities such as developed campgrounds, major visitor centers and administrative headquarters will, where feasible, be located outside the river area. If such facilities are necessary to provide for public use and/or to protect the river resource, and location outside the river area is infeasible, such facilities may be located within the river area provided they do not have an adverse effect on the values for which the river area was designated.

Motorized Travel. Motorized travel on land or water is generally permitted in wild, scenic and recreational river areas, but will be restricted or prohibited where necessary to protect the values for which the river area was designated.

Agricultural and Forestry Practices. Agricultural and forestry practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation. Generally, uses more intensive than grazing and hay production are incompatible with wild river classification. Rowcrop production and timber harvest may be practice in recreational and scenic river areas. Recreational river areas may contain an even larger range of agricultural and forestry uses. Timber harvest in any river area will be conducted so as to avoid adverse impacts on the river area values.

Other Resource Management Practices. Resource management practices will be limited to those which are necessary for protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of the river area resources. Such features as trail bridges, fences, water bars and drainage ditches, flow measurement devices and other minor structures or management practices are permitted when compatible with the classification of the river area and provided that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices or structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.

Water Quality. Consistent with the Clean Water Act, water quality in wild, scenic and recreational river areas will be maintained or, where necessary, improved to levels which meet Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics and fish and wildlife propagation. River managers will work with local authorities to abate activities within the river area which are degrading or would degrade existing water quality.

Additional management principles stem from other sections of the Act as follows:

Land Acquisition: Section 6
Water Resource Development: Section 7
Mining: Section 9
Management of Adjacent Federal Lands: Section 12(a)
Hunting and Fishing: Section 13(a)
Water Rights: Section 13(b)–(f)
Rights-of-Way: Section 13(g)

The following policies are consistent with and supplement the management principles stated in the Act:

Land Use Controls. Existing patterns of land use and ownership should be maintained, provided they remain consistent with the purposes of the Act. Where land use controls are necessary to protect river area values, the managing agency will utilize a full range of land-use control measures including zoning, easements and fee acquisition.

Rights-of-Way. In the absence of reasonable alternative routes, new public utility rights-of-way on Federal lands affecting a Wild and Scenic River area or study area will be permitted. Where new rights-of-way are unavoidable, locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and other values of the river area.

Other legislation applicable to the various managing agencies may also apply to wild and scenic river areas. Where conflicts exist between the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and other acts applicable to lands within the system, the more restrictive provisions providing for protection of the river values shall apply.

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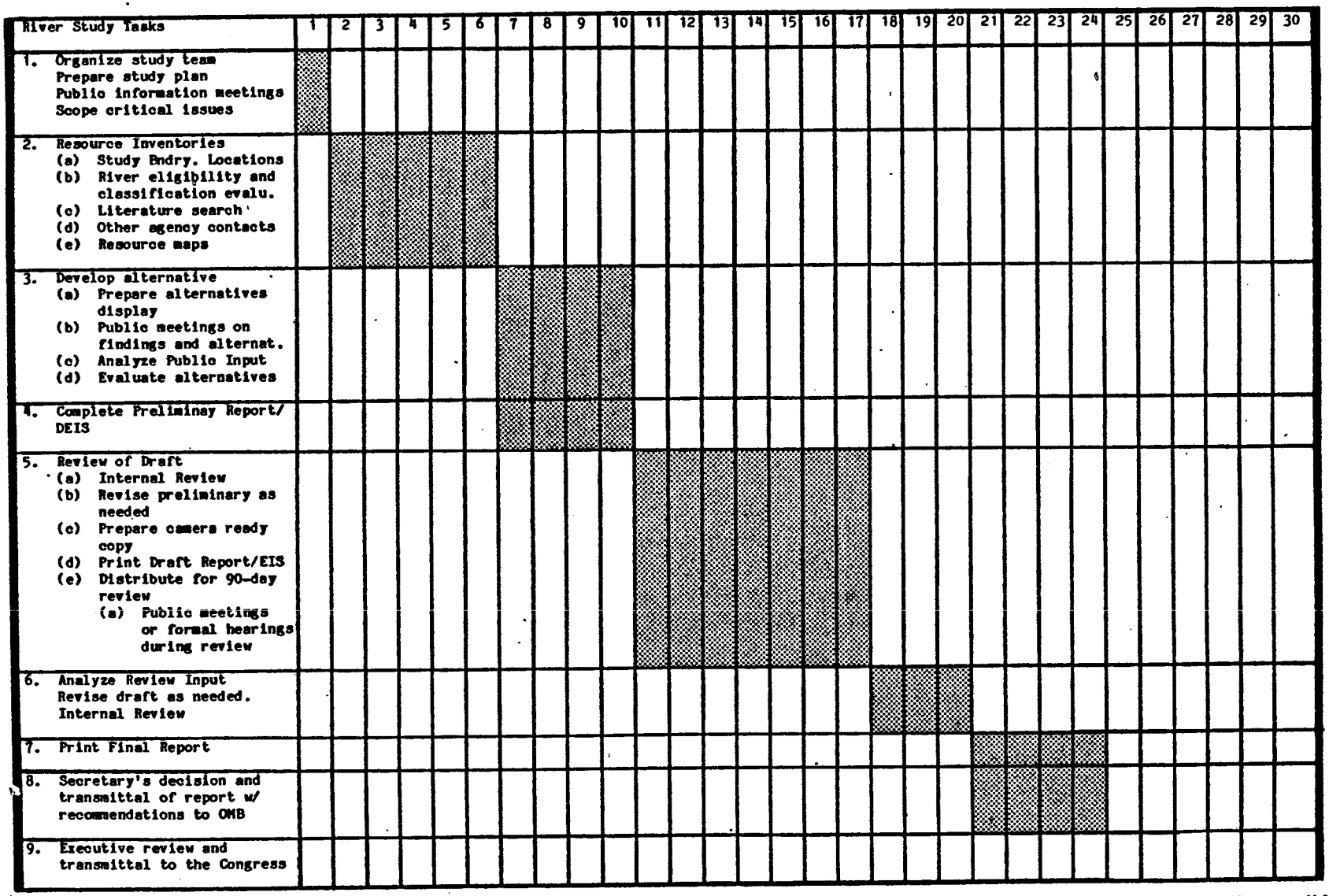
TABLE 1.

ACCELERATED STUDY SCHEDULE

MONTHS



This schedule does not take into account the possibility of delays due to Congressional concern, interagency or intradepartmental concerns or other possible outside influences that cannot be planned for.

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TABLE 2.

CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS *

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Resources Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessibile except by trail. No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.	

* Table to be used only in conjunction with text.

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