

Office of the Secretary

Approval for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as State Administered Components

AGENCY: Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Pursuant to the authority granted the Secretary of the Interior by Section 2 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906 16 U.S.C. 1273), and upon proper application of the Governor of the State of California, five California rivers are hereby designated as State administered components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This action is based on the designation of the rivers by the State of California and the protections offered these rivers and their immediate environments by and pursuant to applicable State laws and regulations.

On July 18, 1980, the Governor of California petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to add all or portions of the Eel, Smith, Trinity, Klamath and American Rivers to the National System. (See Federal Register of August 7, 1980, page 52459.) These rivers had been designated in the State Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1972. The following river segments are now components of both the California and National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems and will continue under State administration except for adjacent Federal lands:

(a) *Klamath River*. The main stem from 3600 feet below Iron Gate Dam to the Pacific Ocean; the Scott River from the mouth of Shackleford Creek west of Fort Jones to the river mouth near Hamburg; the Salmon river from Cecilville Bridge to the river mouth near Somesbar; the North Fork of the Salmon river from the intersection of the river with the south boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to the river mouth; Wooley Creek, from the western boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to its confluence with the Salmon River.

(b) *Trinity River*. The main stem from 100 yards below Lewiston Dam to the river mouth at Weitchpec; the North Fork of the Trinity from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Primitive Area downstream to the river mouth at Helena; New River from the intersection of the river with the Southern Boundary of the Salmon Trinity Primitive Area downstream to the river mouth near Burnt Ranch; South Fork of the Trinity from the junction of the river with State

Highway 36 to the river mouth near Salyer.

(c) *Eel River*. The main stem from 100 yards below Van Arsdale Dam to the Pacific Ocean; the South Fork of the Eel from the mouth of Section Four Creek near Branscomb to the river mouth below Weott; Middle Fork of the Eel from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Middle Eel-Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area to the river mouth at Dos Rios; North Fork of the Eel from Old Gilman Ranch downstream to the river mouth near Ramsey; Van Duzen river from Dinsmores Bridge downstream to the river mouth near Fortuna.

(d) *American River*. The Lower American from Nimbus Dam to its junction with the Sacramento River.

(e) *Smith River*. The main stem from the confluence of the Middle and South Forks to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, the Middle Fork Smith River from its source about 3 miles south of Sanger Lake as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the confluence with the South Fork; the South Fork Smith River from its source about 0.5 miles southwest of Bear Mountain as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River; the North Fork Smith River from the California-Oregon boundary to the confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River; the Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River from its source about 0.7 miles southeast of Broken Rib Mountain as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River; and the South Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River from its source about 0.6 miles southwest of Buck Lake as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the confluence with Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River.

Also included are the following smaller tributaries in the Smith River System:

Rowdy Creek, Dominie Creek, Savoy Creek, Little Mill Creek, Mill Creek, Lower West Branch of Mill Creek, East Fork of Mill Creek, Bummer Lake Creek, Still Creek, Diamond Creek, High Plateau Creek, Bear Creek, North Fork Diamond Creek, Myrtle Creek, Kelly Creek, Patrick Creek, Shelly Creek, East Fork Patrick Creek, West Fork Patrick Creek, Monkey Creek, Packsaddle Creek, Griffin Creek, Knopki Creek, Craigs Creek, Coon Creek, Rock Creek, Gordon Creek, Canthook Creek, Goose Creek, East Fork of Goose Creek, Hurdygurdy Creek, Jones Creek, Muzzleloader Creek, Buck Creek, Quartz Creek, Eight Mile Creek, Williams Creek, Prescott Fork Smith River.

The beginning and ending points for designation of these smaller tributaries shall be as defined in INT FEIS 80-53.

The river resources involved in the State's application are protected to a great extent by their inclusion in the State System. Inclusion in the National System as well will have two major effects: (1) It will prevent Federal participation and assistance in the development of water resource projects which would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the rivers have been designated (anadromous fishery resources in all cases, as well as whitewater boating in the cases of the North Fork Smith and Middle Fork Eel and recreation in the case of the American River), and (2) it will require Federal land-managing agencies (primarily the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management) to reassess management policies, plans, regulations and contracts on lands adjacent to river segments, and to conform them with the intent of Wild and Scenic River designation. Designation will also prohibit new mining claims on Federal lands within a quarter mile of segments classified as "wild" and will impose environmentally protective conditions on other mining operations within river corridors.

For purposes of inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and as management direction to Federal agencies administering Federal lands adjacent to the above-described segments, the designated rivers will be managed in accordance with the classifications "wild," "scenic" and "recreational" as determined appropriate by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and as stated in Appendix D of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, INT FEIS 80.53, "Proposed Designation of Five California Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System" with the exception of the Smith River System. In the case of the smaller Smith River tributaries, beginning with Rowdy Creek and ending with Prescott Fork Smith River, these are classified as "recreational."

This action is taken following substantial public involvement and consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies as required by Section 4(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Public scoping meetings to identify important issues which needed to be covered in the environmental impact statement were held in four California locations in August. Public meetings were held in

five California locations in October to receive comments on the adequacy of the draft environmental statement and the merits of the Governor's proposal. All comments received throughout the application process have been carefully considered.

Notice is hereby given that effective upon this date, the above-described rivers and river segments are approved for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as wild, scenic and recreational river areas to be administered by the State of California except for affected Federal lands.

The primary author of this notice is John Haubert, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20243, phone 202/343-4793.

Dated: January 19 1981, 7:45 p.m. E.S.T.

Cecil D. Andrus,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 81-2557 Filed 1-21-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-03-M

[516 DM 6, Appendix 2]

National Environmental Policy Act; Revised Implementing Procedures

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of final revised instructions for the United States Geological Survey.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a final Appendix to the Department's NEPA procedures for the U.S. Geological Survey. The final Departmental procedures were published in the Federal Register on April 23, 1980 (45 FR 27541).

DATE: The Appendix was adopted January 19, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Blanchard, Director, Office of Environmental Project Review, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240; telephone (202) 343-3891, FTS 343-3891. For Geological Survey, contact Priscilla Woll, telephone (703) 860-7455.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Appendix to the Departmental Manual (516 DM 6, Appendix 2) provides more specific NEPA compliance guidance to the U.S. Geological Survey (GS). In particular it provides information about GS organizational responsibilities for NEPA compliance, advice to applicants, actions normally requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS), and categorical exclusions. The Appendix must be taken in conjunction with the Departmental procedures (516 DM 1-6) and the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508). In

addition, the Survey will prepare a handbook(s) or other technical guidance on how to apply these procedures to its principal programs.

Response to comments. The proposed Appendix was published in the Federal Register on November 14, 1980 (45 FR 75336) and comments were received from two oil companies and one in behalf of the North Slope Borough in Alaska. As a result of these comments and other internal review, several technical and clarifying changes were made to improve the instructions. Responses to comments are as follows:

Major Actions Normally Requiring an EIS. There has been some confusion about Section 2.3 and the purpose it serves. It must be read in conjunction with Sections 1501.4 and 1507.3 of the CEQ regulations and Sections 516 DM 2.3E and 6.5A(3) of the Departmental Manual. Actions listed in this section neither require the preparation of an EIS in all cases nor do they prevent the preparation of an EIS when other factors are present. The actions listed are merely thresholds which would normally lead to the preparation of an EIS. Their listing allows GS to bypass the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA), and informs the public that if an EIS is not prepared an EA will be prepared for public review prior to a decision.

The commentator in behalf of the North Slope Borough requested that paragraph 2.3A(2) be revised to include the approval of all OCS oil and gas development and production plans in all OCS areas or regions other than Gulf of Mexico. In contrast, an oil company commentator requested that the paragraph be revised to include only the approval of the first such plan in a frontier area. We have not adopted either approach and will continue to follow the environmental review process established for the GS in 30 CFR 250.34-4. Accordingly, we will, prior to approval of a development and production plan, review the environmental impacts of the activities proposed to determine if approval constitutes a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, if so determined, we will prepare an EIS for such a plan. In conjunction with this we will, in any area or region of the OCS, except in the western Gulf of Mexico, prepare at least one development/production plan EIS pursuant to subsection 25(e) of the OCS Land Act Amendments of 1978.

In addition we have revised the wording of paragraph 2.3A(2) in order to follow more precisely the language of the OCS Land Act Amendments.

Another commentator from an oil company felt the 640 acre thresholds identified for surface mines (paragraph 2.3A(3)) and underground uranium mines (paragraph 2.3A(5)) were unwarranted and that EAs should suffice. He felt that this was establishing an arbitrary limitation which would require extended delays in preparing EISs. We would remind the commentator that the NEPA criteria for preparing an EIS is not changed by these paragraphs. As stated earlier these are thresholds to provide guidance to GS personnel, applicants and the public. We believe that the effects of one square mile (640 acres) of surface disturbance and the subsurface and surface effects of the development of and production from an underground uranium mine of 640 acres are normally significant. If, in a given case, these effects are not considered significant, and EA will be prepared in accordance with paragraph 2.3B.

Format.

Chapter 6 (516 DM 6) Managing the NEPA Process

Appendix 2 Geological Survey
2.1 NEPA Responsibility
2.2 Guidance to Applicants
2.3 Major Actions Normally Requiring an EIS

2.4 Categorical Exclusions

Other Bureaus. Final Appendices have been published in the Federal Register as follows:

1. Fish and Wildlife Service (45 FR 47941)
3. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (45 FR 76801)
4. Bureau of Indian Affairs (in publication)
6. Bureau of Mines (45 FR 85528)
7. National Park Service (46 FR 1042)
8. Office of Surface Mining (in publication)
9. Water and Power Resources Service (45 FR 47944)

Proposed Appendices have been published for the following: 5. Bureau of Land Management, December 15, 1980 (45 FR 82367)

Dated: January 19, 1981.

Cecil S. Hoffman,

Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Appendix 2

[516 DM 6]

Geological Survey

2.1 NEPA Responsibility

A. *Director* is responsible for NEPA compliance for U.S. Geological Survey (GS) activities.

B. *Assistant Director, Resource Programs*, is responsible for approving