



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *York River Wild and Scenic River Study*. The study was conducted pursuant to Public Law 113-291, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, which directed the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study to determine if the York River in Maine is eligible and suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The York River Wild and Scenic River Study was conducted based on the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model. In the Partnership model, citizen groups and divisions of government are actively engaged in developing a plan for the protection of river resources. In fall 2018, four communities within the study area voted to support the comprehensive Stewardship Plan developed as part of the study and seek designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The study found that approximately 30.8 miles of the York River and its major tributaries are eligible and suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides for three possible classifications of eligible river segments: wild, scenic, or recreational. The NPS has assigned a preliminary classification of recreational to the York River and its major tributaries that are eligible for designation. There is substantial local, state, and partner support; nearly all comments received during the public review period in spring 2020 expressed support for designation.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service. A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Joe Manchin III, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; and the Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives. The affected members of the Maine delegation will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ** Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.07.13
15:51:11 -04'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Angus King
The Honorable Susan Collins



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Westerman:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *York River Wild and Scenic River Study*. The study was conducted pursuant to Public Law 113-291, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, which directed the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study to determine if the York River in Maine is eligible and suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ** Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.07.13
13:35:09 -04'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Angus King
The Honorable Susan Collins



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Barrasso:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *York River Wild and Scenic River Study*. The study was conducted pursuant to Public Law 113-291, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, which directed the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study to determine if the York River in Maine is eligible and suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ** Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.07.13
13:33:17 -04'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Angus King
The Honorable Susan Collins



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The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin:

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ**  Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.07.13
13:35:58 -04'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

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The Honorable Angus King
The Honorable Susan Collins