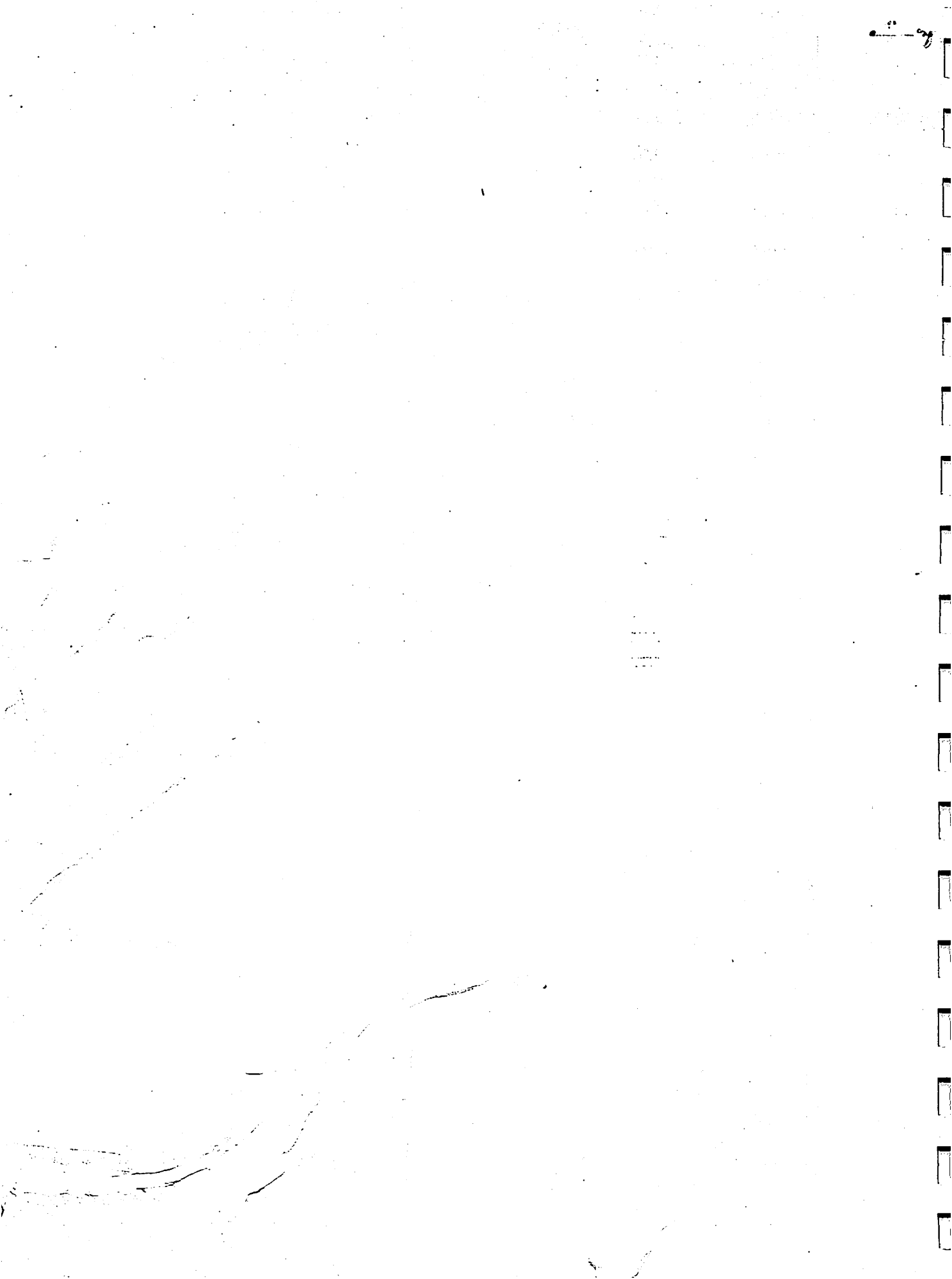


APPENDIX B



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.

February 1970



PURPOSE

The following criteria supplement those listed in Section 2 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which states that rivers included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be free-flowing streams which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and other similar values.

These guidelines are intended to define minimum criteria for the classification and management of free-flowing river areas proposed for inclusion in the national system by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, and for State rivers included in the system by the Secretary of the Interior.

In reading these guidelines and in applying them to real situations of land and water it is important to bear one important qualification in mind. There is no way for these statements of criteria to be written so as to mechanically or automatically indicate which rivers are eligible and what class they must be. It is important to understand each criterion; but it is perhaps even more important to understand their collective intent. The investigator has to exercise his judgment, not only on the specific criteria as they apply to a particular river, but on the river as a whole, and on their relative weights. For this reason, these guidelines are not absolutes. There may be extenuating circumstances which would lead the appropriate Secretary to recommend, or approve pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii), a river area for inclusion in the system because it is exceptional in character and outstandingly remarkable even though it does not meet each of the criteria set forth in these guidelines. However, exceptions to these criteria should be recognized only in rare instances and for compelling reasons.

The three classes of river areas described in Section 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are as follows:

- "(1) Wild river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive

and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

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

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 10(a), states that, "Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such 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, based on the special attributes of the area."

In order to qualify for inclusion in the national system, a State free-flowing river area must be designated as a wild, scenic, or recreational river by act of the State legislature, with land areas wholly and permanently administered in a manner consistent with the designation by any agency or political subdivision of the State at no cost to the Federal Government, and be approved by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the criteria established by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the guidelines contained herein. A river or related lands owned by an Indian tribe cannot be added to the national system without the consent of the appropriate governing body.

In evaluating a river for possible inclusion in the system or for determining its classification, the river and its immediate land area should be considered as a unit, with primary emphasis upon the quality of the experience and overall impressions of the recreationist using the river or the adjacent riverbank. Although a free-flowing river or river unit frequently will have more than one classified area, each wild, scenic, or recreational area must be long enough to provide a meaningful experience. The number of different classified areas within a unit should be kept to a minimum.

Any activity, use, or development which is acceptable for a wild river is also acceptable for scenic and recreational river areas, and that which is acceptable for a scenic river is acceptable for a recreation river area. Activity and development limitations discussed below should not necessarily be interpreted as the desired level to which development or management activity should be planned. Hunting and fishing will be permitted, subject to appropriate State and Federal laws.

● The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides that rivers must be in a free-flowing natural condition, i.e., a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes which are without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modification of the waterway. However, low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures will not automatically preclude the river unit from being included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, providing such structures do not unreasonably diminish the free-flowing nature of the stream and the scenic, scientific, geological, historical, cultural, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area.

● The river or river unit must be long enough to provide a meaningful experience. Generally, any unit included in the system should be at least 25 miles long. However, a shorter river or segment that possesses outstanding qualifications may be included in the system.

● There should be sufficient volume of water during normal years to permit, during the recreation season, full enjoyment of water-related outdoor recreation activities general-

ly associated with comparable rivers. In the event the existing supply of water is inadequate, it would be necessary to show that additional water can be provided reasonably and economically without unreasonably diminishing the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of the area.

●The river and its environment should be outstandingly remarkable and, although they may reflect substantial evidence of man's activity, should be generally pleasing to the eye.

●The river should be of high quality water or susceptible of restoration to that condition. A concept of nondegradation whereby existing high water quality will be maintained to the maximum extent feasible will be followed in all river areas included in the national system.

All rivers included in the national system should meet the "Aesthetics--General Criteria" as defined by the National Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality in the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration's Water Quality Criteria, April 1, 1968. Water quality should meet the criteria for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, as defined in that document, so as to support the propagation of those forms of life which normally would be adapted to the habitat of the stream. Where no standards exist or where existing standards will not meet the objectives of these criteria, standards should be developed or raised to achieve those objectives. Wild river areas can be included in the national system only if they also meet the minimum criteria for primary contact recreation, except as these criteria might be exceeded by natural background conditions. Scenic or recreation river areas which qualify for inclusion in the system in all respects except for water quality may be added to the system provided adequate and reasonable assurance is given by the appropriate Federal or State authority that the water quality can and will be upgraded to the prescribed level for the desired types of recreation, and support aquatic life which normally would be adapted to the habitat of the stream at the prescribed level of water quality. At such time as water quality fully meets the criteria, it may be desirable to change the classification of a river.

●New public utility transmission lines, gas lines, water

lines, etc., in river areas being considered for inclusion in the national system are discouraged. However, where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site in accordance with the general guidelines described in the Report of the Working Committee on Utilities prepared for the President's Council on Recreation and Natural Beauty, December 1968.

● Mineral activity subject to regulations under the Act must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Specific controls will be developed as a part of each management plan.

CRITERIA FOR RIVER DESIGNATION

The following criteria for classification, designation, and administration of river areas are prescribed by the Act. These criteria are not absolutes, nor can they readily be defined quantitatively. In a given river, a departure from these standards might be more than compensated by other qualities. However, if several "exceptions" are necessary in order for a river to be classified as wild, it probably should be classified as scenic. If several "exceptions" are necessary in order for a river to be classified as scenic, it probably should be classified as recreational.

Wild River Areas

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that "these represent vestiges of primitive America," and they possess these attributes:

1. "Free of impoundments"
2. "Generally inaccessible except by trail"
3. "Watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive"
4. "Waters unpolluted"

● Classification criteria.

Despite some obvious similarities, the "wildness" associated with a wild river area is not synonymous with the "wildness"

involved in wilderness classification under the Wilderness Act of 1964. One major distinction, in contrast to wilderness, is that a wild river area also may contain recreation facilities for the convenience of the user in keeping with the primitive setting.

1. An "impoundment" is a slack water pool formed by any man-made structure. Except in rare instances in which esthetic and recreational characteristics are of such outstanding quality as to counterbalance the disruptive nature of an impoundment, such features will not be allowed on wild river areas. Future construction of such structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which that river area was included in the national system, as determined by the Secretary charged with the administration of the area, would not be permitted. In the case of rivers added to the national system pursuant to Sec.2(a)(ii), such construction could result in a determination by the Secretary of the Interior to reclassify or withdraw the affected river area from the system.

2. "Generally inaccessible" means there are no roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel within a narrow, incised river valley, or if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the riverbank. The presence, however, of one or two inconspicuous roads leading to the river area will not necessarily bar wild river classification.

3. "Essentially primitive" means the shorelines are free of habitation and other substantial evidence of man's intrusion. This would include such things as diversions, straightening, rip-rapping, and other modifications of the waterway. These would not be permitted except in instances where such developments would not have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which that river area was included in the national system as determined by the Secretary charged with the administration of the area. In the case of rivers added to the national system pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii), such construction could result in a determination by the Secretary of the Interior to reclassify or withdraw the affected river area from the system. With respect to watersheds, "essentially primitive" means that the portion of the watershed within the boundaries has a natural-like appearance. As with shorelines, developments within the boundaries should emphasize a natural-

like appearance so that the entire river area remains a vestige of primitive America. For the purposes of this Act, a limited amount of domestic livestock grazing and pasture land and cropland devoted to the production of hay may be considered "essentially primitive." One or two inconspicuous dwellings need not necessarily bar wild river classification.

4. "Unpolluted" means the water quality of the river at least meets the minimum criteria for primary contact recreation, except where exceeded by natural background conditions, and esthetics as interpreted in the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration's Water Quality Criteria, April 1, 1968. In addition, the water presently must be capable of supporting the propagation of aquatic life, including fish, which normally would be adapted to the habitat of the stream. Where no standards exist or where existing standards will not meet the objectives of these criteria, standards should be developed or raised to achieve those objectives.

● Management objectives.

The administration of a wild river area shall give primary emphasis to protecting the values which make it outstandingly remarkable while providing river-related outdoor recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.

To achieve these objectives in wild river areas, it will be necessary to:

1. Restrict or prohibit motorized land travel, except where such uses are not in conflict with the purposes of the Act.
2. Acquire and remove detracting habitations and other non-harmonious improvements.
3. Locate major public-use areas, such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers or administrative headquarters, outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as fireplaces, shelters, and toilets, may be provided for recreation users as necessary to provide an enjoyable experience, protect popular sites, and meet the management objectives. Such facilities will be of a design and

location which harmonize with the surroundings.

4. Prohibit improvements or new structures unless they are clearly in keeping with the overall objectives of the wild river area classification and management. The design for any permitted construction must be in conformance with the approved management plan for that area. Additional habitations or substantial additions to existing habitations will not be permitted.

5. Implement management practices which might include construction of minor structures for such purposes as improvement of fish and game habitat; grazing; protection from fire, insects, or disease; rehabilitation or stabilization of damaged resources, provided the area will remain natural appearing and the practices or structures will harmonize with the environment. Such things as trail bridges, an occasional fence, natural-appearing water diversions, ditches, flow measurement or other water management devices, and similar facilities may be permitted if they are unobtrusive and do not have a significant direct and adverse effect on the natural character of the area.

Scenic River Areas

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that scenic rivers:

1. Are "free of impoundments"
2. Are "accessible in places by road"
3. Have "shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped"

● Classification criteria.

1. An "impoundment" is a slack water pool formed by any man-made structure. Except in rare instances in which esthetic and recreational characteristics are of such outstanding quality as to counterbalance the disruptive nature of an impoundment, such features will not be allowed on scenic river areas. Future construction of such structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which that river area was included in the national system as determined by the Secretary charged with the administration of the area, would not be permitted. In the case of rivers added to the national

system pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii), such construction could result in a determination by the Secretary of the Interior to reclassify or withdraw the affected river area from the system.

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

3. "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. A modest amount of diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, and other modification of the waterway would not preclude a river from being considered for classification as a scenic river. Future construction of such structures would not be permitted except in instances where such developments would not have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which that river area was included in the national system as determined by the Secretary charged with the administration of the area.

In the case of rivers added to the national system pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii), such construction could result in a determination by the Secretary of the Interior to reclassify or withdraw the affected river area from the system. "Largely primitive" with respect to watersheds means that the portion of the watershed within the boundaries of the scenic river area should be scenic, with a minimum of easily discernible development. 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 substantially adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river or its immediate environment.

4. "Largely undeveloped" means that small communities or any concentration of habitations must be limited to relatively short reaches of the total area under consideration for designation as a scenic river area.

● Management objectives.

A scenic river area should be managed so as to maintain and provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a near natural setting. The basic distinctions between a "wild" and a "scenic" river area are degree of development, type of land use, and road accessibility. In general, a wide range of agricultural, water management, silvicultural and other practices could be compatible with the primary objectives of a scenic river area, providing such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment.

The same considerations enumerated for wild river areas should be considered, except that motorized vehicle use may in some cases be appropriate and that development of larger scale public-use facilities within the river area, such as moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters, would be compatible if such structures were screened from the river.

Modest facilities, such as unobtrusive marinas, also would be possible if such structures were consistent with the management plans for that area.

Recreational River Areas

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that recreational rivers:

1. Are "readily accessible by road or railroad"
2. "May have some development along their shoreline"
3. May have "undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past"

● Classification criteria.

1. "Readily accessible" means the likelihood of paralleling roads or railroads on one or both banks of the river, with the possibility of several bridge crossings and numerous

river access points.

2. "Some development along their shorelines" means that lands may be developed for the full range of agricultural uses and could include small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments.

3. "Undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past" means that there may be water resources developments and diversions having an environmental impact greater than that described for wild and scenic river areas. However, the degree of such development should not be to the extent that the water has the characteristics of an impoundment for any significant distance.

Future construction of impoundments, diversions, straightening, rip-rapping, and other modification of the waterway or adjacent lands would not be permitted except in instances where such developments would not have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which that river area was included in the national system as determined by the Secretary charged with the administration of the area. In the case of rivers added to the national system pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii), such construction could result in a determination by the Secretary of the Interior to reclassify or withdraw the affected river area from the system.

● Management objectives.

Management of recreational river areas should be designed to protect and enhance existing recreational values. The primary objectives will be to provide opportunities for engaging in recreation activities dependent on or enhanced by the largely free-flowing nature of the river.

Campgrounds and picnic areas may be established in close proximity to the river, although recreational river classification does not require extensive recreational developments. Recreational facilities may still be kept to a minimum, with visitor services provided outside the river area.

Adopted:

Harrison Loesch 2-2-70
Department of the Interior (Date)

Edward P. Cliff 2-3-70
Department of Agriculture (Date)

SUMMARY 1/
Attributes and management objectives of the three river classifications for
inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System

	Wild	Scenic	Recreation
Attributes	<p>1. Free-flowing. Low dams, diversion works or other minor structures which do not inundate the natural riverbank may not bar consideration as wild. Future construction restricted.</p> <p>2. Generally inaccessible by road. One or two inconspicuous roads to the area may be permissible.</p> <p>3. Shorelines essentially primitive. One or two inconspicuous dwellings and land devoted to production of hay may be permitted. Watershed natural-like in appearance.</p> <p>4. Water quality meets minimum criteria for primary contact recreation except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics ^{2/} and capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to habitat of the stream.</p>	<p>1. Free-flowing. Low dams, diversion works or other minor structures which do not inundate the natural riverbank may not bar consideration. Future construction restricted.</p> <p>2. Accessible by roads which may occasionally bridge the river area. Short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or railroads paralleling river area may be permitted.</p> <p>3. Shoreline largely primitive. Small communities limited to short reaches of total area. Agricultural practices which do not adversely affect river area may be permitted.</p> <p>4. Water quality should meet minimum criteria for desired types of recreation except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics ^{2/} and capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to habitat of the stream, or is capable of and is being restored to that quality.</p>	<p>1. May have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. Water should not have characteristics of an impoundment for any significant distance. Future construction restricted.</p> <p>2. Readily accessible, with likelihood of paralleling roads or railroads along river banks and bridge crossings.</p> <p>3. Shoreline may be extensively developed.</p> <p>4. Water quality should meet minimum criteria for desired types of recreation except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics ^{2/} and capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to habitat of the stream or is capable of and is being restored to that quality.</p>
Management objectives	<p>1. Limited motorized land travel in area.</p> <p>2. No unharmonious or new habitations or improvements permitted.</p> <p>3. Only primitive-type public use provided.</p> <p>4. New structures and improvement of old ones prohibited if not in keeping with overall objectives.</p> <p>5. Unobtrusive fences, gauging stations and other management facilities may be permitted if no significant adverse effect on natural character of area.</p> <p>6. Limited range of agriculture and other resource uses permitted.</p>	<p>1. Motorized vehicles allowed on land area.</p> <p>2. No unharmonious improvements and few habitations permitted.</p> <p>3. Limited modern screened public use facilities permitted, i. e. campgrounds, visitor centers, etc.</p> <p>4. Some new facilities allowed, such as unobtrusive marinas.</p> <p>5. Unobtrusive fences, gauging stations and other management facilities may be permitted if no significant adverse effect on natural character of area.</p> <p>6. Wide range of agriculture and other resource uses may be permitted.</p>	<p>1. Optimum accessibility by motorized vehicle.</p> <p>2. May be densely settled in places.</p> <p>3. Public use areas may be in close proximity to river.</p> <p>4. New structures allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.</p> <p>5. Management practice facilities permitted.</p> <p>6. Full range of agriculture and other resource uses may be permitted.</p>

^{1/} To be used only in conjunction with the text.

^{2/} Federal Water Pollution Control Administration's Water Quality Criteria, April 1, 1968.

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