

Wild and Scenic River Suitability Criteria

1. Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).
2. Status of landownership, minerals (surface & subsurface), use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses.
3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and the values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS.
4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the National System.
5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, is shared by state and local agencies.
6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands or interests in land within the corridor, as well as the cost of administering the area should it be added to the National System.
7. A determination of the extent that other Federal agencies, 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 System.
8. An evaluation of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values and preventing incompatible development.
9. The state/local government's capacity to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-Federal lands. This factor requires an evaluation of the river protection mechanisms available through the authority of state and local governments. Such mechanisms may include, for example, statewide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values such as open space and historic areas.
10. The existing support or opposition of designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or nondesignation by Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; national and local publics; and the state's congressional delegation should be considered.
11. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, and policies in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the goals of tribal governments or other Federal, state, or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river that includes a scarce recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.
12. Does a NWSRS designation contribute to the river system watershed or basin integrity?
13. The potential for water resources development. Identify any proposed water resource projects that may be foregone, as designation may limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion, bridge construction, and channelization.
14. Other issues and concerns, if any?