

[H.R. 90, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To reserve certain public lands for a National Scenic Rivers System, to provide a procedure for adding additional public lands and other lands to the system, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Scenic Rivers Act."

STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that some of the free-flowing rivers of the United States possess unique water conservation, scenic, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation values of present and potential benefit to the American people. The Congress also finds that our 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 natural and free-flowing condition, to protect the water quality and shore environment of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. It is the policy of Congress to preserve, reclaim, and make available for the benefit of all of the American people selected parts of the Nation's diminishing resources of free-flowing rivers. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Scenic Rivers System to be composed of the areas that are designated as "scenic river areas" in this Act, and the additional areas that may be designated in subsequent Acts of Congress. It is not the intent of this Act to require or to authorize acquisition of all lands within the exterior boundaries of scenic river areas but to assure preservation and proper management of the land, water, wildlife, outdoor recreational values, and scenic resources. Areas designated as "scenic river areas" by subsequent Acts of Congress shall be classified and administered in accordance with the provisions of this Act unless the subsequent Acts provide otherwise.

CLASSES OF SCENIC RIVER AREAS

(b) A scenic river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream, tributary, river, or section thereof and the related adjacent land area that possesses unique water conservation, scenic, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation values. Every scenic river in its free-flowing condition, or upon restoration to this condition, shall be considered eligible for inclusion in the national scenic rivers system and shall be classified, designated, and administered as one of the following:

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

(2) Class II scenic river areas—Those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments, with shorelines or watershed still largely primitive, and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible to places by roads.

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

NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

SEC. 3. (a) The following rivers, or segments thereof, and related, adjacent lands, most of which are public lands, as depicted in maps numbered "NSR-SAL-1000, NSR-CLE-1000, NSR-ROG-1000, NSR-RIO-1000, NSR-ELE-1000, NSR-CAP-1000, NSR-SHE-1000, NSR-GRE-1000, NSR-KLA-1000, NSR-MIS-1000, NSR-SKA-1000, NSR-FLA-1000, NSR-HUD-1000, NSR-WOL-1000, NSR-StC-1000, NSR-SUW-1000," are hereby designated as "scenic river areas":

(1) Salmon, Idaho, the Salmon from town of North Fork downstream to its confluence with the Snake River and the entire Middle Fork.

(2) Clearwater, Middle Fork, Idaho, the Middle Fork from the town of Kooshia upstream to the town of Lowell; the Lochsa River from its junction with the Sel-