

A BILL To reserve certain public lands and other lands for a Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers, to provide a procedure for adding additional 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. The Congress finds that some of the free-flowing rivers of the United States and related adjacent land areas possess outstanding 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 on 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 of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. It is the policy of Congress that selected parts of the Nation's diminishing resource of free-flowing rivers, and their related adjacent lands should be preserved, reclaimed, and appropriately developed for the benefit of all the American people. For this purpose there is hereby established a Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers to be composed of (a) the areas designated by this Act or subsequent Acts as "national scenic river areas", and (b) the State and local scenic river areas designated by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the System. Areas designated as "national scenic river areas" by subsequent Acts of Congress shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this Act unless the subsequent Acts provide otherwise.

DEFINITION OF NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER AREA

SEC. 3. A national scenic river area eligible to be included in the System is a stream or any section of a stream, tributary, or river—and the related adjacent land area—that possesses outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation values; that is essentially free-flowing and unpolluted, and that should be preserved in such condition, or restored thereto, in order to promote public use and enjoyment.

NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER AREAS

SEC. 4. (a) The following rivers, or segments thereof, and related adjacent lands are hereby designated as "national scenic river areas":

(1) Salmon, Idaho: the segment from the town of North Fork downstream to the town of Riggins, and the entire Middle Fork.

(2) Clearwater, Middle Fork, Idaho: the Middle Fork from the town of Kooskia upstream to the town of Lowell; the Lochsa River from its junction with the Selway River at Lowell, forming the Middle Fork, upstream to the Powell Ranger Station; and the Selway River from Lowell upstream to its origin.

(3) Rogue, Oregon: the segment from the Route 101 highway bridge above Gold Beach upstream to the Applegate River.

(4) Rio Grande, New Mexico: The segment from the State Highway 96 crossing upstream to the Colorado State line, and the lower four miles of the Red River.

(5) Eleven Point, Arkansas and Missouri: the segment from its confluence with the Black River in Arkansas upstream to Thomasville in Missouri.

(6) Cacapon, West Virginia: the Cacapon from its mouth to its source, the entire Lost River, and the North River upstream to the U.S. 50 highway bridge.

(7) Shenandoah, West Virginia: the segment of the river located in the State of West Virginia.

(8) Saint Croix, Minnesota and Wisconsin: the segment beginning at St. Croix Falls and extending upstream to the dam near Gordon, Wisconsin, and its Namekagon tributary.

(9) Wolf, Wisconsin: the segment beginning at Keshena Falls and extending upstream to the Langlade-Menominee County line.