

STATE AND LOCAL SCENIC RIVERS

SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of the Interior is directed to encourage and assist States to consider, in their comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plans and proposals for financing assistance for State and local projects submitted pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897), needs and opportunities for establishing State and local scenic river areas. He is further directed, in accordance with the authority contained in the Act of May 28, 1963 (77 Stat. 49), to provide technical assistance and advice to, and cooperate with, States, political subdivisions, and private interests, including nonprofit organizations, with respect to establishing such scenic river areas.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed in accordance with the authority vested in him to assist, advise, and cooperate with State and local agencies and private interests with respect to establishing such scenic river areas.

(c) Upon application of the Governor of the State for the designation of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine or the segment of the Wolf River in Langlade County, Wisconsin, as part of the Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers, the Secretary of the Interior may make such designation if the State or local agency administering the area agrees to manage and protect it in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary. Such designation shall preclude the Federal Power Commission from authorizing within such areas the construction, operation, or maintenance of any new dam or any project work unrelated to an existing project under the Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a *et seq.*), except as specifically authorized by the Congress.

(d) Upon application of the Governor of a State for the designation of any additional State or local scenic river area as part of the Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers, the Secretary may make such designation, after consultation with interested Federal agencies, if the State or local agency administering the area agrees to manage and protect it in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary.

SEC. 10. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

ANALYSIS OF BILL

The bill is patterned after the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890), which established the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 1 provides for the Act to be cited as the "Scenic Rivers Act".

Section 2 sets out a statement of policy to the effect that our national policy of constructing dams and other works on certain sections of rivers needs to be complemented with a policy of preserving other sections of free-flowing rivers and related adjacent lands that possess outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation values. The section declares a congressional policy to preserve, reclaim, and appropriately develop such sections of our free-flowing rivers, and establishes a Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers composed of (1) areas designated by Congress in this Act or subsequent Acts as "national scenic river areas", and (2) State and local scenic river areas designated by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the System.

Section 3 defines the term "national scenic river area" to denote those segments of streams, tributaries, or rivers that possess outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation values and are essentially free-flowing and unpolluted, and that should be preserved in such condition, or restored thereto, for public use and enjoyment. The definition of "national scenic river area" is not limited to relatively unspoiled or wilderness types of rivers because there are only a few such rivers remaining in the United States. There are, however, many free-flowing rivers, or segments thereof, which still retain enough of their original character to provide the distinctive type of enjoyment and inspiration that increasing numbers of people are seeking.

Section 4(a) designates as the initial national scenic river areas nine rivers or segments thereof, some of which are already mostly in Federal ownership. Each of these rivers has been carefully studied by this Department and the Department of Agriculture, and is considered to be an outstanding example of the values a Nationwide System of Scenic Rivers seeks to preserve. The seg-