



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region



July 2017

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Inyo National Forest

Overview

We have updated the Inyo National Forest's wild and scenic rivers (WSR) eligibility study in response to public comments on the draft environmental impact statement ([released May 2016](#)). The public provided river-related values and outstandingly remarkable values we hadn't considered in our draft analysis, and questioned our rationale in determining why river-related values were not outstandingly remarkable values. Updates to the eligibility study are responsive to public comment and the planning rule (36 CFR sec. 219.7(c)(2)(vi)) that directs us to inventory and determine WSR eligibility during forest planning.

Several rivers that were not considered eligible in the draft environmental impact statement are now eligible due to information provided by the public and updated evaluation of resource outstanding remarkable values. Accordingly, we have updated the values listed for all rivers inventoried, including for those rivers that eligibility did not change. Some public comments questioned why the river-related values we listed for several rivers were not considered outstandingly remarkable values. To address this concern we've created a table to explain why each river related value does not meet the criteria for an outstandingly remarkable value. Similarly, public input critiquing our regions of comparison criteria led us to update, clarify and refine that criteria for historic and pre-historic river values and for some wildlife and fish species. This updated evaluation will appear as an appendix in the final EIS to be released later this fall.

All updates to the wild and scenic rivers eligibility study are based on public input and include:

- Several rivers are now eligible that were not previously due to additional outstandingly remarkable values provided by the public.
- Added outstandingly remarkable values and river-related values to several eligible rivers. This additional information did not change the rivers' eligibility status.
- Added river-related values to non-eligible rivers. This additional information did not change the rivers' eligibility status.
- Revised the region of comparison for historic and pre-historic outstandingly remarkable values.
- Created a table of all non-eligible rivers with at least one river-related value to explain why the river does not contain an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Revised maps depicting updated wild and scenic rivers segment eligibility.

Visit our [website](#) for more information, frequently asked questions, and maps.