

Attachment 2

Forest Service Suitability Criteria *Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 80*

A suitability study is designed to answer these questions:

1. Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected through designation? Is designation the best method for protecting the river corridor? In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of wild and scenic river designation must be evaluated and alternative protection methods considered.
3. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

As provided in sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968, the following factors should be considered and, as appropriate, documented as a basis for the suitability determination of each river.

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National System. These characteristics are described in the act (paragraphs 2 through 7) and may include additional suitability factors in paragraphs 8 through 13.
2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area.
3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System.
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, be shared by state and local agencies.
6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area should it be added to the National System.
7. A determination of the degree to which 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.

The following additional suitability factors may also be considered:

8. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development.
9. The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on nonfederal 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. Support or opposition to 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, or policies and 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 limited 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. The contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach, for example, expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits may result from managing an entire river or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.
13. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the act is to preserve selected rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion, and channelization.