

**PROPOSED DECISION NOTICE, NONSIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA
AMENDMENT NUMBER 24, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR:
THE LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER, ROCK CREEK, THE WEST FORK OF ROCK CREEK,
AND THE STILLWATER RIVER
June 1993**

DECISION NOTICE

Decision: It is my decision to amend the Forest Plan to apply the Wild/Scenic/Recreational River Forest-Wide Management Standards that were developed in Forest Plan Amendment Number 2 to the Little Missouri River, Rock Creek, the West Fork of Rock Creek, and the Stillwater River.

Rationale for the Decision: The Forest Plan Record of Decision dated June 10, 1987 identified streams eligible for consideration as wild and scenic rivers as described in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Forest Plan Amendment Number 2 incorporated Wild/Scenic/Recreational River Forest-Wide Management Standards into the Forest Plan to protect streams evaluated in that effort. The Chief in response to Forest Plan appeals by the Dakotah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, et al., and the Montana Wildlife Federation has instructed the Regional Forester to protect the streams identified in the ROD until a suitability study is completed. I am amending the Forest Plan at this time to meet the intent of the direction by the Chief of the Forest Service.

NONSIGNIFICANT NFMA AMENDMENT: This decision does not significantly alter any of the long-term projections for output production on the Custer National Forest. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under NFMA (36 CFR 219.10(f)), and Forest Service Manual 1922.51, item 1 and 3.

IMPLEMENTATION: This is a draft decision at this time. After input is received from the public and considered the decision will be implemented upon public notice. This proposed Decision Notice is public notice and will be sent to all those who have received notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the amendment process. In addition, notice of decision will be published in local newspapers.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL: This is a proposed decision notice. A decision is not being made at this time and therefore there is no decision to appeal.

CONTACT PERSON: Additional information can be obtained from:
Custer National Forest, PO Box 2556
Billings, Montana 59103, phone (406) 657-6361
Leroy White, Planning Program Officer

STEPHEN J. SOLEM
Acting Forest Supervisor

Date

**Proposed Forest Plan Amendment Number 24
Custer National Forest
Billings, Montana**

Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan will be amended as follows:

The Wild/Scenic/Recreational River Forest-Wide Management Standards as listed are applicable to the Little Missouri River, Rock Creek, the West Fork of Rock Creek, and the Stillwater River. Proposed classification by river are displayed in the following table.

Potential Wild and Scenic River Classification by Stream and Segment

RIVER/SEGMENT	Potential Classification	Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Little Missouri River	Scenic	80	C,G,N,S,W
Rock Creek Outside of the Wilderness	Recreation	13	G,R,S
West Fork of Rock Creek Outside of the Wilderness Within the Wilderness	Recreation Wild	10 10	G,R,S G,S,F
Stillwater River Outside of the Wilderness Within the Wilderness	Recreation Wild	7 20	G,R,S G,R,S,F

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: S = scenic, R = recreational, G = geologic, F = fisheries, W = wildlife, C = cultural

Potential classification only applies to those National Forest System lands administered by the Custer National Forest and does not affect private lands within the corridors. Classification for all eligible rivers covers an area extending the length of the segment and ¼ mile wide extending out from each bank.

STEPHEN J. SOLEM
Acting Forest Supervisor

Date