

# Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program



**York River Wild & Scenic Study Committee**

January 26, 2016

# National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

- Public Law 90-542 enacted October 2, 1968
- 208 rivers designated nationally (12,709 miles)
- Model for many state scenic river programs



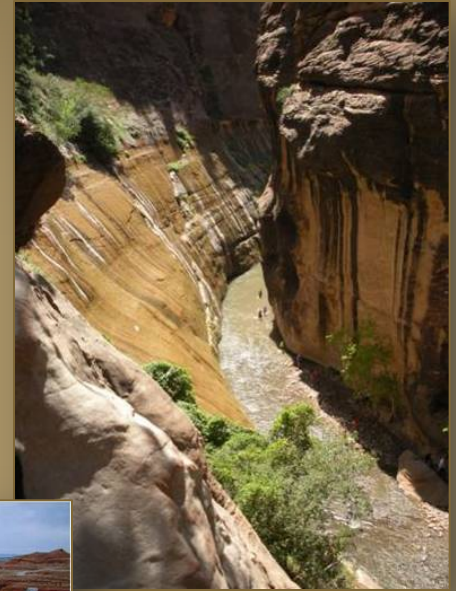
**Tlikakila River (AK)**

Photo: Natl. Geographic



# Wild and Scenic Rivers Act – Intent

- Complement national policy of dam and other construction
- Protect and enhance:
  - Free-flowing condition
  - Water quality
  - ORVs
- Establish process to add rivers to national system



Virgin River (UT)



Glen Canyon Dam (AZ)

# Outstandingly remarkable values



Little Wekiva River (FL)



SuAsCo Rivers (MA)

- Scenic
- Recreational
- Geologic
- Fish and wildlife
- Ecology, biodiversity
- Historic, archeological
- Cultural
- Other similar values

# Early river designations

- On public lands
- Federally controlled
- Most in the West



Middle Fork, Salmon River (ID)

Photo: Natl. Geographic



# Early designations in eastern US

- Allagash (1970)
- Middle Delaware – Water Gap (1978)



Allagash River (ME)

Photo: Natl. Geographic

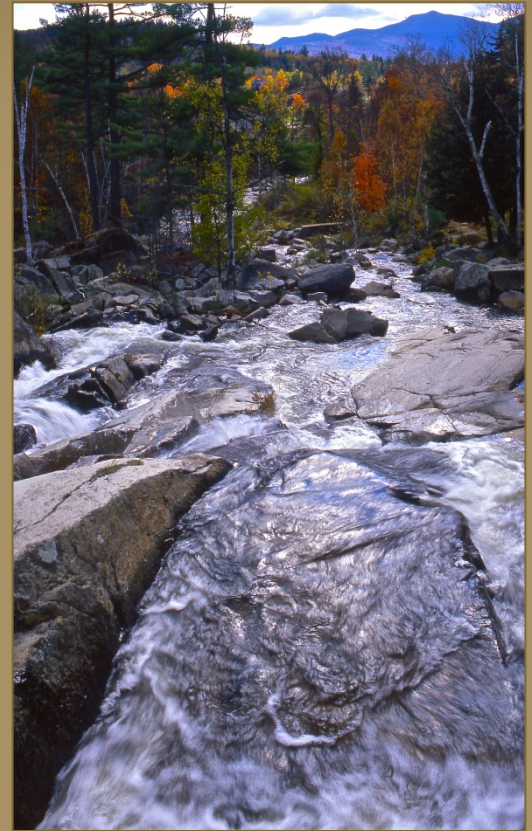


Middle Delaware River (NJ/PA)

Photo: NationParks.org

# Beginnings of partnership model

- Upper Delaware River (NY/PA)
  - 1978
  - Dam proposed on river
  - Land in private ownership
- Wildcat River (NH)
  - 1988
  - Public and private land
  - Advisory council for management outside WMNF
  - Plan written before designation



Wildcat River (NH)  
Photo: Tim Palmer



# Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Great Egg River (NJ), 1992

Maurice River, (NJ) 1993

Farmington River (CT), 1994

Lamprey (NH), 1996/2000

SuAsCo (MA), 1999

White Clay Creek (DE/PA),  
2000/2014

Lower Delaware (PA/NJ), 2000

Wekiva River (FL), 2000

Musconetcong (NJ), 2006

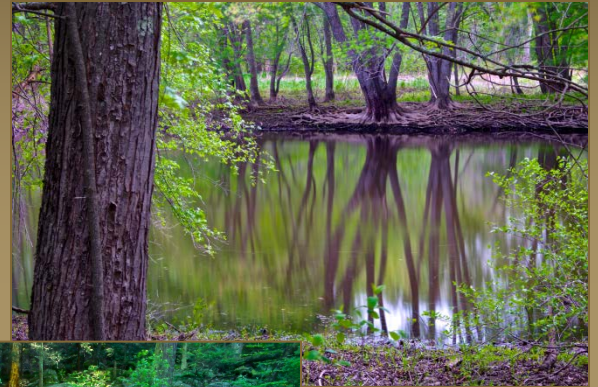
Eightmile River (CT), 2008

Taunton River (MA), 2009

Missisquoi & Trout (VT), 2014

Concord (MA)

Photo: Tim Palmer



Eightmile (CT)

Photo: Tim Palmer



Wekiva (FL)

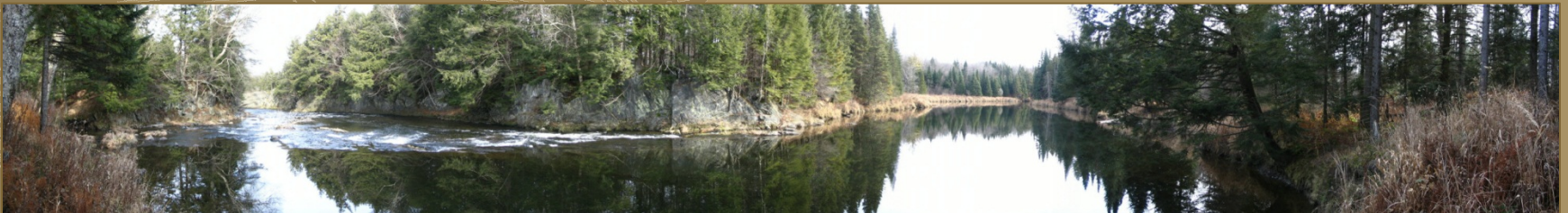
Photo: Tim Palmer



# What is a partnership river?

- No federal ownership or management of lands
- Administration through local committee
- Land use governed by existing local/state law and regulations
- Locally developed river plans—approved prior to designation—guide future management
- Management responsibilities shared among local, state, federal, and nonprofit partners
- Voluntary participation is essential to the partnership and the key to success

Missisquoi River (VT)



# Study rivers

## Section 5

- 5(a) Congressional study
  - Organize local support
  - Enact federal legislation
  - Establish study committee
  - Identify and assess outstanding resources
  - Write management plan
  - Vote locally on plan and designation
- 5(d)(1) Agency-identified rivers



Photo: Jim MacCartney

Missisquoi River (VT)



Photo: trashpaddler.com

Nashua River (MA)



# Secretarial river designations

Section 2(a)(ii)

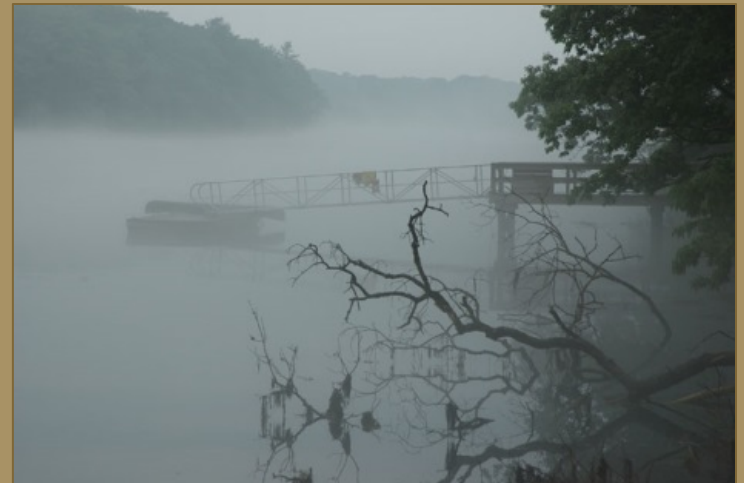


Westfield River (MA)

- Application by Governor to Secretary of Interior
- CRMP not required
- No land acquisition
- Federal agency role limited to technical assistance and Section 7

# York River Study

- 2013 NPS completes WSR Reconnaissance Survey
- December 19, 2014 – Wild and scenic study authorized by Congress (P.L. 113-291)
- Potential ORVs: natural resources, cultural and historic values, recreational and scenic values
- Study segments: “... 11.25 miles from the headwaters of the York River at York Pond to the mouth of the river at York Harbor, and any associated tributaries.”



York River (ME)

Photo: Martin Zombeck



# Benefits of designation

- National recognition and prestige
- Economic boost
- Technical and financial assistance from NPS for river plan/projects
  - Cooperative agreement
  - NPS grants: CCS, PLC, C2A
- Protection from federally-assisted projects that adversely affect river
- Locally-appointed river committee





# Management plan

## Section 3(d)

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- A photograph of a river flowing through a forest with autumn foliage. The river is in the foreground, with water reflecting the surrounding trees. The trees are mostly deciduous, with leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and green. The forest is dense, and the river is surrounded by trees on both sides. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.
- Comprehensive River Management Plan
    - WSR values, goals, desired conditions
    - Land/facility development
    - User capacities
    - Cooperation with local and state governments
    - Regulatory authorities
    - Monitoring
    - Boundaries for PWSRs waived by Congress 3(b)



# Water resources projects

## Section 7

- Only affects federally-assisted water resource projects
- New FERC hydro prohibited — keeps rivers free-flowing
- Also covers modification of waterway (active channel and hydrologically connected areas)
- Protects river and ORVs from adverse effects
- Interim protection for study rivers 7(b)



Middle Branch Westfield (MA)

Photo: Jim MacCartney



Lamprey River (NH)

Photo: Jim MacCartney

# Federal river cons. assistance Section 11(b)(1)

- Authorizes technical and limited financial assistance to state and local governments, nonprofits, and individuals
- Applies within and proximate to WSRs





# Plan implementation / river projects



- Riverbank stabilization
- Land conservation
- Habitat and flow monitoring
- River sojourn
- River festivals
- Education
- Historic dams
- Others



# Questions?

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York River (ME)

Photo: Jim MacCartney