



# What is the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

## The National Wild and Scenic River System

In 1968, Congress took action to balance the established policy of dredging and damming rivers for water supply and other utilitarian benefits with a new policy—that of protecting the values of selected free-flowing rivers for public benefit and enjoyment via a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A Wild and Scenic River is one that has been identified by Congress as having distinctively unique or outstandingly remarkable values that set it apart from all other rivers, making it worthy of special protection. **The goal of designating a river as Wild and Scenic is to preserve its free-flowing character and unique qualities for the benefit of present and future generations.**



Photo Courtesy of PDPhoto.org

## Why is a River Management Plan Needed?

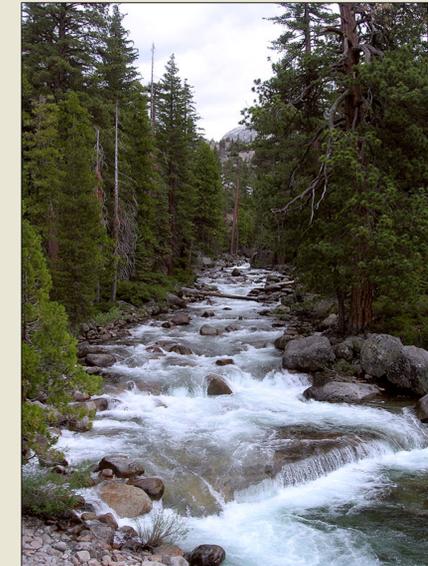


Photo Courtesy of Harold Poskanzer

A Wild and Scenic River designation increases protection for the river, but does not necessarily disallow use or some types of development.

Agencies that manage a Wild and Scenic River are mandated to prepare a comprehensive river management plan to address levels of use and development that are permitted in the river corridor, with the goal of protecting and enhancing the river and its immediate environment.

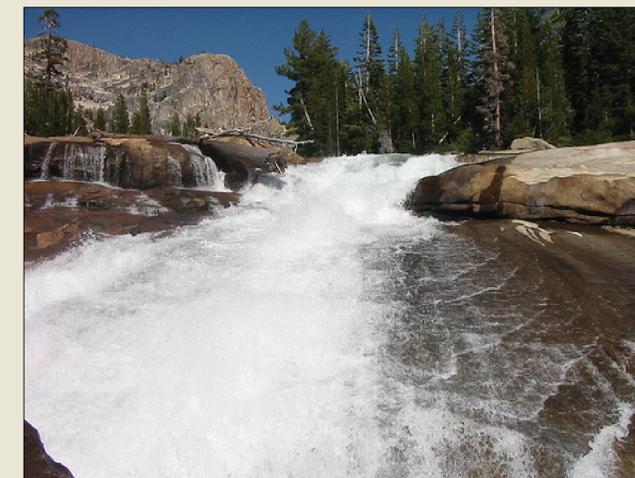


Photo Courtesy of Yoshi Ito

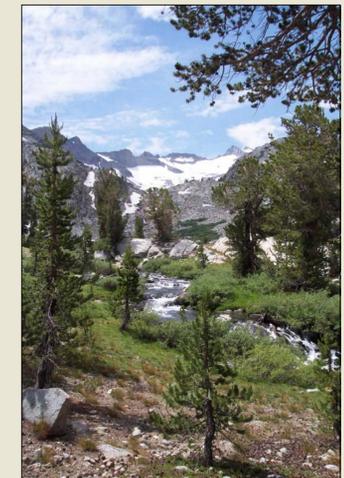


Photo Courtesy of Kristina Rylands

“In spite of the durability of rock-walled canyons and the surging power of cataracting water, the wild river is a fragile thing—the most fragile portion of the wilderness country”.

- John Craighead, biologist and one of the architects of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act