

Environmental Assessment
Gila National Forest Plan Amendment Number 9
Protection of Eligible Wild, Scenic or Recreation River Areas
Gila National Forest
Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Sierra Counties, New Mexico
Catron County - Cooperating Agency

Background

In 1968, Congress enacted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, establishing a system for preserving outstanding free-flowing rivers. The Forest Service is required to evaluate rivers for potential inclusion in the System by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to Section 5(d)(1) of the Act. This section of the Act states, that

... the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic, and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternatives uses of the water and related land resources involved (PL 90-542).

The assessment of a river's potential as a wild and scenic river follows a three-step process. The steps are:

- 1) Determination of eligibility.
- 2) Potential classification (wild, scenic, or recreational).
- 3) Determination of suitability.

A 1999 Stipulation and Settlement Agreement (SW Center for Biological Diversity et al v. Forest Service) required the Gila National Forest to conduct a river assessment (eligibility and classification) for rivers within its respective jurisdiction pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Eligibility is an inventory as to whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable value(s)¹. The Gila National Forest completed an inventory of all potential rivers and/or segments within the time frame set in the agreement.

A team made up of various disciplines (wildlife, recreation, hydrology, fisheries, etc.) was identified to conduct the analysis for each ranger district on the Gila National Forest. These district interdisciplinary teams systematically identified and evaluated the free-flowing nature and existence of potential outstandingly remarkable values for rivers or river segments on the Gila National Forest. Ninety-nine rivers/river segments were evaluated and nine were determined eligible. The determination that a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values was a professional judgment on the part of each member of the interdisciplinary team. Technical information from organizations, individuals, and agencies familiar with specific river resources was sought and documented as a part of the process. A list of eligible rivers, their outstandingly remarkable values and their potential classification is included as Appendix A to this document.

¹ The eligibility of a river for the National System is determined by applying the criteria in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the USDA and USDI Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. To be eligible for inclusion a river must be free flowing and, with its adjacent 1/4 mile land area, must possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" values. One or more of the following values must be determined to be "outstandingly remarkable": 1. Scenic. 2. Recreational. 3. Geological. 4. Fish and wildlife. 5. Historical. 6. Cultural. and/or 7. Other values, including ecological. The determination that a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable" values is a professional judgment of the resource specialists team that completes the "determination of eligibility". There is no standard established for the length of a river segment considered and there are no specific requirements concerning minimum flows for an eligible segment. In addition, the fact that a river segment may flow between impoundments does not preclude its designation.

In reading and applying the criteria for eligibility, the following points are relevant:

The fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segment meet the criteria.

Rivers or river segments in or near urban areas that possess outstandingly remarkable values may qualify. Only one outstandingly remarkable value is needed for eligibility.

In addition to the specific values listed in Section 1(b) of the Act, other similar values, such as ecological, if outstandingly remarkable, can justify inclusion of a river in the national system.

The determination of whether a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable" values is a professional judgment on the part of the study team. The basis for the judgment will be documented in the study report.

There are no specific requirements concerning the length or the flow of an eligible river segment. A river segment is of sufficient length if, when managed as a wild, scenic or recreational river area, the outstandingly remarkable values are protected. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated.

The stipulated agreement also required the Gila National Forest to protect eligible rivers according to Forest Service policy as set forth in the Forest Service Handbook, Chapter 8 --“Wild and Scenic River Evaluation” and “Interim Management of Study Rivers.”

Proposed Action and Purpose and Need

The Gila National Forest proposes to amend the Gila National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Gila Forest Plan) to protect eligible² rivers (or river areas³) for their outstandingly remarkable values, and preserve their classification pending determination of their suitability for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System.⁴ This interim management applies to rivers that have been inventoried and deemed eligible on the Gila National Forest.

Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8.12) guidelines will be added to the Gila Forest Plan under Forest-wide Prescriptions as shown in Appendix B to this document. Direction taken from the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8.2) will also be included. This amendment pulls agency policy into a common place and gives better assurance that eligible rivers are protected.

The proposed action is needed in order to comply with Forest Service policy, which requires clear and appropriate management prescription for eligible rivers in Forest Plans. The Forest Service Handbook states...

The protection requirements ... must be documented in the forest plan prescriptions and continued until a decision is made as to the future use of the river and adjacent lands. (FSH 1909.12, 8.12)

The preferred process is to proceed with determining suitability by completing a river study in the draft forest plan. An alternative is to delay the suitability determination on eligible rivers until a subsequent separate study is carried out. If this latter alternative is used, the forest plan must provide for protection of the river area until a decision is made as to the future use of the river and adjacent lands. Unless the study process would be unduly delayed, subsequent study of eligible rivers may be coordinated with a general revision of the forest plan. (FSH 1909.12, 8.14).

The Gila Forest Plan contains the programmatic prescriptions reviewed during a NEPA process for future proposed actions. When the Gila Forest Plan was approved in 1986, direction on how to protect eligible rivers was not included. Having direction in the Forest Plan helps assure that as proposals are designed on the Forest, mitigation measures will be incorporated to assure protection of the outstandingly remarkable values for which river segments were determined eligible.

The proposed action also meets one of the terms in a 1999 Stipulation and Settlement Agreement: protection of eligible rivers according to agency policy.

Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to amend the Gila Forest Plan to incorporate existing Forest Service policy to protect eligible river areas. The decision to be made does not include determining what rivers or river segments are eligible or identifying which rivers the Forest Service will formally recommend to Congress for designation. The responsible official is the Forest Supervisor.

Scoping and Public Participation

Scoping applies to all proposed actions that require an environmental analysis. However, the type and level of scoping and public participation is commensurate with the nature and complexity of the proposed action (FSH 1909.15, 10.3 (2a)). The proposed action is in direct response to public concerns expressed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Amigos Bravos. The proposed action would assure the public that the Forest Service will protect eligible rivers (or river segments) for their outstandingly remarkable values, and preserve their classification pending the determination on their suitability for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. This decision does not select which rivers are eligible or identify which rivers the Forest Service will formally recommend to Congress for designation. That would be

² Eligibility is an inventory as to whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values(s).

³ The river area equals the river and ¼ mile on either side, or approximately 320 acres per mile.

⁴ 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL90-542; USC§1271).

part of the next step of suitability assessments, which would be conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is when people can express support or concern on whether or not an eligible river/area is suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation.

Issues and Alternatives Considered

The 1999 Stipulation and Settlement Agreement is an expression of concern by the public that the Gila National Forest (as well as other National Forests in New Mexico) would not protect eligible rivers unless direction from the Forest Service Manual (FSM 1924.03) and Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12, 8.12; 8.2) were also incorporated into the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan. The proposed action simply duplicates existing Forest Service requirements.

No significant issues relating to copying direction from the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook into the Forest Plan were identified on which to build alternatives; therefore, only two alternatives are considered in this analysis:

- **Alternative A:** No Action; do not amend the Gila Forest Plan.
- **Alternative B:** Place direction from the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook into the Forest Plan (see attached replacement pages in Appendix B).

The purpose and need for the proposed action is to comply with existing agency direction and the 1999 Stipulation and Settlement Agreement. No other alternatives are considered in detail, since no variations on wording (standards/guidelines) from what is already stated in the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook could be made. Modifications to existing Forest Service policy and regulations would need to go through a formal rulemaking process, thus an alternative to include something different than what is already stated in agency direction would be beyond the scope of the analysis.

Environmental Effects

There are no environmental effects, significant or otherwise, because:

- Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1924.03 and 2354.21 already protects the inventoried areas. They state that, "Rivers identified for study are managed to maintain their outstanding values," so they would be protected under any alternative.
- The proposed wording already exists in the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook. The action alternative would not change it.
- There would be no action or ground disturbing activity associated with either alternative. The proposed action would only duplicate text from the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook and place it in the Forest Plan.
- The eligibility finding has no bearing on private property within or adjacent to eligible river corridors.
- Site-specific analysis will continue to be conducted as part of the evaluation process of proposed projects to access whether or not the outstandingly remarkable values of eligible river areas would be affected by the proposal or its alternatives.

The proposed action could limit/modify activities that can take place in the immediate future on inventoried areas until a final decision on suitability is made in conjunction with public input. Catron County, other agencies, and individuals have identified potential issues that include jurisdictions, private rights, and flood control. It would be speculative to say how any proposed action may or may not affect eligibility. Past activities have not affected the eligibility of the areas in the current inventory; therefore, similar activities would most likely not affect these inventoried areas.

Eligibility Findings

River Name	Segment Start Point	Segment End Point	Classification ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²									Narrative Description of Values Classification	
				S	R	G	F	W	C	H	E			
WHITE WATER CREEK	Headwaters Trail 810	Trail 810 Private boundary (T11S, R19W, S6)	WILD RECREATION		X							X		<p><u>ELIGIBLE</u>– Whitewater Creek is historically significant as the location of numerous mining-related materials dating to the 1890s and later, including remains of the town of Graham, and picturesque and intriguing remnants of a water pipeline running for at least four miles along the creek (i.e., the original catwalk). CCC activities are also represented and the modern engineering feat of the hanging Catwalk in Whitewater Canyon is an attraction of much human interest. Together, these materials form a unique historic district that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and is interpreted on site by the Gila National Forest. Not only is there no comparable historic place in the State of New Mexico, Whitewater Creek is a destination for many people interested in the 19th century mining history and associated geology of the region, and the journey of discovering these things they can take in hiking along the creek on the Catwalk National Recreation Trail. Each year, the Catwalk becomes more popular with visitors to the Gila. Thousands take the thrilling walk along the cool and colorful Whitewater Canyon, and many use the pleasant picnicking facilities at the Whitewater Picnic Grounds.</p>
SPRUCE CREEK	Headwaters	Confluence with Big Dry Creek	WILD				X							<p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> - There is an original relict population of endangered Gila Trout that is genetically distinct from all other Gila Trout lineages. This river segment currently serves as a source population for this lineage.</p>
MIDDLE FORK GILA RIVER	Gila Wilderness Boundary below Snow Lake	Gila Wilderness Boundary (T12S, R14W, S23)	WILD	X										<p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> – <i>The Middle Fork of the Gila River is one of the most visited locations in the Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the world. The Middle Fork has outstanding views of rock formations along the middle third of its 36-mile length. The Gila conglomerate has been weathered into spiracle formations in some locations and sheer rock walls of several hundred feet depth in others.</i></p> <p><i>The entire length has a rich growth of diverse riparian species intermixed with ponderosa pine and occasional stringers of mixed conifers. The riparian species, along with Virginia creeper and various species of wildflowers, adds considerable color in the fall. The trail is in the canyon bottom and crosses the meandering river about four times per mile. Because of the rugged topography and steep cliffs, there are few entry/exit opportunities along the canyon.</i></p>

¹Classification:

Wild river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

²Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

S = Scenic, R = Recreation, G = Geology, F = Fish, W = Wildlife, C = Cultural, H = Historic, E = Ecology

River Name	Segment Start Point	Segment End Point	Classification ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Narrative Description of Values Classification
				S	R	G	F	W	C	H	

WEST FORK GILA RIVER	Headwaters	North boundary of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	WILD	X						X	<p>ELIGIBLE— <i>The West Fork of the Gila River is the most visited location in the Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the world. The biggest attraction is the scenery. In the upper portions, there are sheer rock cliffs about 500' tall. At other locations, the cliffs have been weathered into spiracle formations. The entire length has a rich growth of diverse riparian species intermixed with ponderosa pine and occasional stringers of mixed conifers. The riparian species, along with Virginia Creeper and various species of wildflowers, adds considerable color in the fall. The trail is in the canyon bottom and crosses the meandering river about four times per mile. Because of the steep cliffs, there are few entry/exit opportunities along the canyon.</i></p> <p>White Creek Cabin is a nationally important historic site located in the upper reaches of the West Fork. The site first served as a homestead for the Jenks family prior to the establishment of the Gila National Forest. Aldo Leopold, one of the fathers of the wilderness movement, visited White Creek in 1922; two years later the Gila Wilderness was administratively designated as the first Forest Service wilderness area, forty years before passage of the National Wilderness Act. The New Mexico Fish and Game Department took over the abandoned Jenks log cabins and barns in 1923 and established a fish hatchery for restocking native Gila Trout. The present two-story log cabin was built for hatchery use in 1933, but the hatchery was discontinued in 1937 and White Creek became the summer headquarters for administration of the McKenna Park (Wilderness) Ranger District. In 1939, the CCCs added electrical and water systems and built an architecturally impressive 60 foot-long log barn inside America's first wilderness. In the 1950's, White Creek Cabin was a favorite backcountry destination of Senator Clinton P. Anderson, a major sponsor of the Wilderness Act of 1964. White Creek Cabin has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the history of the Gila Wilderness and the Civilian Conservation Corps.</p> <p>The West Fork contains outstandingly remarkable sites associated with the prehistoric Mogollon Culture that are interpreted at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, a national and international destination for visitors interested in the prehistory of the southwest. There are over 50 prehistoric sites recorded along the lower reaches of the West Fork, including pueblos, farmsteads, fieldhouses, agricultural fields, rock art, rock shelters, cliff dwellings, granaries and campsites. The Gila Cliff Dwellings, a southern outpost of the</p>
	North boundary of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	Eastern boundary of National Monument	RECREA TION								

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River Name	Segment Start Point	Segment End Point	Classification ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Narrative Description of Values Classification	
				S	R	G	F	W	C	H		E
MAIN DIAMOND CREEK	Headwaters	Aldo Leopold Wilderness Boundary	WILD				X				X	<p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> There is an original relict population of endangered Gila Trout that is genetically distinct from all other Gila Trout lineages. This river segment supports the only known source population of the Main Diamond lineage of Gila Trout.</p> <p>The lower section of Diamond Creek from its confluence with the East Fork Gila river to a point several miles above its confluence with Middle Diamond Creek contains a concentration of prehistoric Mimbres-Mogollon sites that is an outstandingly remarkable example of a high elevation Mimbres classic river-based community. Nestled deep in the forested uplands between the Black Range and Mogollon Mountains, the Diamond Creek community is remarkable for its comparative isolation from the desert roots of the Mimbres culture in the Mimbres and Gila-Cliff valleys. Sites recorded to date in Diamond Creek include late Mimbres Classic villages, pueblos, farmsteads, field houses, and rockshelters, as well as a few antecedent late pithouse period villages.</p>
	Aldo Leopold Wilderness Boundary	Gila Wilderness Boundary	RECREATION									
	Gila Wilderness Boundary	East Fork of the Gila River confluence	WILD									
SOUTH DIAMOND CREEK	Headwaters	Junction of Trails 707 and 68 (T12S, R11W, Sec. 35)	WILD				X					<p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> - There is an original relict population of endangered Gila Trout that is genetically distinct from all other Gila Trout lineages. This river segment supports the only known source population of the South Diamond lineage of Gila Trout.</p>

MIMBR ES RIVER	Confluen ce of the North Fork and South Fork of Mimbres River Wildernes s Boundary	Gila Wilderness Boundary North boundary of private land in T16S, R11W, S6	WILD RECREA TION						X		<p><i>ELIGIBLE</i>– <i>The Mimbres Valley is an enclosed river basin known nationally and internationally for its association with the prehistoric Mimbres branch of the Mogollon Culture and Mimbres black-on-white pottery designs. The section of the river north of the forest boundary contains two federally owned remarkably outstanding sites: the Three Circle Pithouse Village and the Cottonwood Pueblo, as well as more than 100 associated Mimbres pueblos, farmsteads, rock shelters, granaries, rock art sites, field houses and campsites recorded in the river corridor. The Three Circle site is important to the history of the Mogollon Culture because it serves as the type site for the Late Pithouse Period, “Three Circle Phase” and Three Circle red-on-white pottery, a precursor of Mimbres black-on-white pottery. The Cottonwood Pueblo contains four Mimbres Classic roomblocks and is the largest example of a Mimbres Classic village in the ponderosa pine forested uplands of the Mimbres Valley. Cottonwood Pueblo was included in the Mimbres National Monument legislative proposal of the early 1990s as a federally owned Mimbres interpretive site.</i></p>
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S = Scenic, R = Recreation, G = Geology, F = Fish, W = Wildlife, C = Cultural, H = Historic, E = Ecology

River Name	Segment Start Point	Segment End Point	Classification ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Narrative Description of Values Classification	
				S	R	G	F	W	C	H		E
HOLDEN PRONG and LAS ANIMAS CREEK	Headwaters Junction of Water Canyon and Holden Prong Wilderness Boundary	Confluence with Las Animas Creek Aldo Leopold Wilderness Boundary Forest Boundary	WILD SCENIC WILD				X				X	<p>ELIGIBLE -Historically the southernmost location of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout in New Mexico. Low elevation trout fishery unlike most Rio Grande Cutthroat trout streams. Unique native fishery including Rio Grande Sucker, Rio Grande Chub and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. This assemblage is only found in this stream.</p> <p>Las Animas Creek is historically significant as the location of a battle between the U.S. Army 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers and Victorio's band of Chiricahua Warm Springs Apaches. This battle occurred in September of 1879, and two men received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroism. Soldiers are buried on the site; and today it is marked by a monument commemorating the Battle of Las Animas. In addition, this place is considered important by the Fort Sill Warm Springs Apache living descendants of the Indian people who fought there. This is also a destination point for those interested in the Indian Wars period of American history. No historic values in Holden Prong.</p>

¹Classification:

Wild river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

²Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

S = Scenic, R = Recreation, G = Geology, F = Fish, W = Wildlife, C = Cultural, H = Historic, E = Ecology

Appendix B Replacement Pages for the Gila National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	APPLICABLE AREA	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
ELIGIBLE WILD/ SCENIC/ RECREATION/ RIVER AREAS	A01, F02 J12, T01	ALL	<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers</p> <p>River corridors identified in the National River Inventory, or otherwise identified for suitability study, will be protected in the following ways:</p> <p>Manage wild and scenic river study areas to protect existing characteristics through the study period and until designated or released from consideration. [FSM 2354.21]</p> <p>Rivers identified for study are managed to maintain their outstanding values. [FSM 1924.03]</p> <p>To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law, control stream impoundments and diversions. The free flowing characteristics of the identified river cannot be modified. [FSH 1909.12, Section 8.12]</p> <p>Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river area must be protected and, to the extent practicable, enhanced. [FSH 1909.12, Section 8.12]</p> <p>Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational). [FSH 1909.12, Section 8.12]</p> <p>The protection requirements will continue until a decision is made as to the future use of the river and adjacent lands. [FSH 1909.12, Section 8.12]</p> <p>Congressionally authorized rivers will be protected, as specified in Section 12(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, until action is taken by the Congress. [FSH 1909.12, Section 8.12]</p>

WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATION RIVERS ELIGIBILITY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Wild Rivers [FSH 1909.12, 8.2]

Timber Production: Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and protection of users) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire). Timber outside the boundary, but within the visual corridors, will be managed and harvested in a manner to provide special emphasis to visual quality.

Water Supply: All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited.

Hydroelectric Power: No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted.

Flood Control: No flood control dams, levees, or other works are allowed in the channel or river corridor. The natural appearance and essentially primitive character of the river area must be maintained.

Mining: Locatable - Existing or new mining activity on 5(d)(1) study rivers is subject to regulations in 36 CFR 228, Subpart A and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and to the extent practicable, harmonize operations with scenic values. River values will be protected through reasonable mitigation and reclamation measures.

Leasable - For existing leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws, reasonable conditions of approval may be applied to protect identified river values according to 36 CFR 228, Subpart E. New leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws would include stipulations to protect the eligible river's values. Saleable - In wild river corridors, prohibit new authorizations for disposal of saleable mineral material to protect river values. In scenic and recreational river corridors, identified river values will be protected through reasonable mitigation and reclamation measures according to 36 CFR 228, Subpart C.

Road Construction: No roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel would be permitted within a narrow incised river valley or, if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the riverbank. A few inconspicuous roads leading to the boundary of the river area at the time of study will not disqualify wild river classification. Also, unobtrusive trail bridges could be allowed.

Agriculture: Agricultural use is restricted to a limited amount of domestic livestock grazing and hay production to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are prohibited.

Recreation Development: Major public-use areas, such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters are located outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as fireplaces or shelters may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings.

Structure: A few minor existing structures could be allowed assuming such structures are not incompatible with the essentially primitive and natural values of the watershed. New structures would not be allowed except in rare instances to achieve management objectives (i.e. structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement programs could be allowed).

Utilities: New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site.

Motorized travel: Motorized travel on land or water could be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.

Scenic Rivers [FSH 1909.12, 8.2]

Timber Production: A wide range of silvicultural practices could be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area should be maintained in its near natural environment. Timber outside the boundary but within the visual scene area should be managed and harvested in a manner that provides special emphasis on visual quality.

Water Supply: All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited.

Hydroelectric Power: No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be allowed.

Flood Control: Flood control dams and levees would be prohibited.

Mining: Subject to regulations at 36 CFR 228 that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. However, mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

Road Construction: Roads may occasionally bridge the river area and short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or screened railroads could be allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use for which roads are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area.

Agriculture: A wider range of agricultural uses is permitted to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are not considered as an intrusion of the "largely primitive" nature of scenic corridors as long as there is not a substantial adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river area.

Recreation Development: Larger scale public use facilities, such as moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Modest and unobtrusive marinas also can be allowed.

Structures: Any concentrations of habitations are limited to relatively short reaches of the river corridor. New structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on river values would not be allowed.

Utilities: This is the same as for wild river classifications.

Motorized Travel: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted to protect the river values.

Recreational Rivers [FSH 1909.12,8.2]

Timber Production: Timber harvesting would be allowed under standard restrictions to protect the immediate river environment, water quality, scenic, fish and wildlife, and other values.

Water Supply: Existing low dams, diversion works, rip rap and other minor structures are allowed provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance.

New structures are prohibited.

Hydroelectric Power: No development of hydroelectric power facilities is allowed.

Flood Control: Existing flood control works may be maintained. New structures are prohibited.

Mining: Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue. Mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

Road Construction: Paralleling roads or railroads could be constructed on one or both riverbanks. There can be several bridge crossings and numerous river access points.

Agriculture: Lands may be managed for a full range of agricultural uses, to the extent currently practiced.

Recreation Development: Campgrounds and picnic areas may be established in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development.

Structures: Small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures are allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.

Utilities: This is the same as for wild and scenic river classifications.

Motorized Travel: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters.