

Proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers Within the Wild Olympics Act of 2014

What is included in this bill?

This proposal would designate 19 rivers and 7 of their major tributaries on the Olympic Peninsula as Wild and Scenic Rivers. This designation would apply to the stretches of river on state or federal land and would not add any regulations to landowners downstream of the federal designation.



Sol Duc River

What Rivers are included?

- Matheny Creek
- Elwha River
- Dungeness River
 - Graywolf River
- Big Quilcene River
- Dosewallips River
- Duckabush River
- Hamma Hamma River
- South Fork Skokomish River
- Middle Fork Satsop River
- West Fork Satsop River
- Wynoochee River
- East Fork Humptulips River
- West Fork Humptulips River
- Quinault River
- Queets River
 - Matheny Creek
 - Sam's River
- Hoh River
 - South Fork Hoh River
- Bogachiel River
- South Fork Calawah River
 - Sitkum River
- Sol Duc River
 - North Fork Sol Duc River
 - South Fork Sol Duc River
- Lyre River

What are Wild and Scenic Rivers?

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* was passed in 1968 to protect our nation's last, best, free-flowing rivers. *Wild and Scenic* designation — the strongest protection a river can receive — ensures that the free-flowing character, water quality, and outstanding values of these rivers are protected for generations to come.

To be eligible for designation under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, a river must be free-flowing

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and contain at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) that is scenic, recreational, geological, fish-related, wildlife-related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific.

What does the designation mean?

- Protects and enhances a river's "outstandingly remarkable" values that can include wildlife, recreation, fisheries, cultural attributes, geology, scenery, or other regionally significant values.
- Protects and enhances values for which the river is designated that can include recreational activities such as fishing and boating.
- Protects a river's free-flowing character and prohibits federally-licensed dams and other harmful water projects.
- Establishes a 1/4-mile corridor on both sides of the river representing the zone of management focus; any changes to public land management practices are made with the full input of local residents and stakeholders without giving the federal government control over private property.
- Requires the creation of a cooperative river management plan developed through a public process that addresses resource protection, land development and facilities, public use, and overall management.
- Can often help leverage federal funding for improved recreation access and habitat restoration projects.
- Requires an Act of Congress (legislation).

Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System are administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values for which they were designated. Designation does not give the federal government control over private property. Recreation, forestry practices, and other uses may continue.



Matheny Creek