



What is Wild and Scenic Designation?

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSR) was authorized by Congress in 1968 to protect rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and/or recreational values for the enjoyment of present and future generations. WSR preserves the special character of these rivers while allowing appropriate use and development, encouraging thoughtful management public participation.

How a River Gains Wild and Scenic Status

Rivers are assessed by federal land management agencies in a multistep process:

Step 1 - Eligibility Is the river free flowing? Does it possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) such as scenic, recreational, geological, fish/wildlife, historical, cultural, botanical, hydrological, or paleontological? ORVs make a river unique, rare or exemplary within their region and rivers contain enough water to support those values. The Crystal River has already been deemed eligible for WSR status.

Step 2 - Suitability This collaborative process works to identify how to best protect and/or enhance ORVs through an EIS and Land Use Planning process. Stakeholders are asked to share input on the positive and negative impacts of designation.

Step 3 - Congressional Action Only congress or the Secretary of the Interior (under special circumstances) can designate a river as Wild and Scenic. This decision takes into account the two previous steps.

Wild and Scenic Designation ALLOWS:

- Management with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that facilitated the initial designation
- The continuation of recreation, agriculture and residential development
- Voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users
- Protection of the river via regulation and programs of federal, state or local governments

Wild and Scenic Designation DOES NOT:

- Prohibit development
- Give government control of private property
- Allow federal government to support actions that would harm the river's free-flowing, water quality or outstanding resource values, such as the construction of dams or other detrimental instream activities
- Effect existing water rights or the existing jurisdiction of states and the federal government over waters as previously established by law.

www.roaringfork.org/crystalriver

Roaring Fork Conservancy is working to educate the public about a possible Wild and Scenic River designation for the Crystal River.



