

Part 610 – National Environmental Compliance Handbook

Subpart H – Exhibits

610.115 Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheet

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS EVALUATION PROCEDURE GUIDE SHEET

Note: States may need to modify these procedures to accommodate State-designated wild, scenic, or recreational rivers and river segments.

STEP 1

Could the proposed action or alternative have an effect on the natural, cultural, and recreational values of any nearby rivers?

If "No," additional evaluation is not needed concerning wild and scenic rivers. **Document the finding on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.**

If "Yes," analyze the potential effects and develop alternatives, as necessary, that would mitigate potential adverse effects, then **go to Step 2.**

STEP 2

Is there a Federal or State-designated wild, scenic, or recreational river segment or a river listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory in or near the planning area?

If "No," no additional evaluation is needed concerning wild and scenic rivers. **Document the finding, including the reasons, on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.**

If "Yes," and there is still potential for effect consult your State environmental liaison to assist with determining the nature and significance of the effect. **Go to Step 3. Note:** The State office may request the National Park Service (NPS) to assist you in developing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. (Remember that if an action or activity has not been sufficiently analyzed to determine if it may be significant, an EA or EIS may be required)

If "Unknown," consult section II of the FOTG for a list of the location of wild, scenic, or recreational rivers or river segments (or see the NPS list of wild and scenic rivers and the Nationwide Rivers Inventory) and **repeat Step 2.**

STEP 3

Upon further analysis, could the proposed action or alternative have an **adverse effect** on the natural, cultural and recreational values of the wild, scenic, or recreational river segment that cannot be avoided or minimized?

If "No," document the finding, including the reasons, on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.

If "Yes," go to Step 4.

STEP 4

Is NRCS providing financial assistance or otherwise controlling the proposed action or alternative?

If “No,” go to Step 5.

If “Yes,” consultation with the NPS is required to determine whether the proposed action could foreclose options to classify any portion of the river segment as wild, scenic or recreational and to develop avoidance or mitigation measures. In cases where NRCS has determined there could be an adverse impact and foreclosure of options to classify a river segment as wild, scenic, or recreational has been made by NPS, An environmental assessment (EA) or, if the effects are significant, an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared. Select Option "5" in Section Q of the NRCS-CPA-52 and provide documentation regarding the action or activity to your State environmental liaison for further analysis.

STEP 5

Will a Federal agency other than NRCS provide funding or otherwise control implementation of the action?

If "No," inform the client that a permit may be required for their activities and they should consult with the NPS. The permit authorization should be reflected in the final plan and documentation. Continue planning, but a permit is required prior to implementation.

If “Yes,” indicate on the NRCS-CPA-52, that the lead agency should consult with the NPS.