

General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Construction Activities

APPENDIX H

Wild & Scenic Rivers Guidance

1.0 Overview: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) charges administration of rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) to four federal land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service). However, to protect and enhance river values as directed in the WSRA, it is essential to use the authorities of a number of other federal agencies in administering the water column, river bed/bank, and upland river corridor.

Congress declared a policy to protect selected rivers in the nation through the WSRA. The river-administering agencies are to protect the river's identified values, free-flowing condition, and associated water quality. Specifically, each component is to be "administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) which caused it to be included in said system...."

The WSRA also directs other federal agencies to protect river values. It explicitly recognizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and any other federal department or agency with lands on or adjacent to designated (or congressionally authorized study) rivers or that permit or assist in the construction of water resources projects.

2.0 Pertinent Sections of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The full Wild and Scenic Rivers Act can be found at the website: www.rivers.gov

Pertinent Sections related to the mandate to protect river values through coordinated federal actions is found in several sections of the WSRA:

Section 1(b)

Section 7(a)

Section 10(a)

Section 12(a)

Section 12(c)

3.0 Designated Rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Contact Information

The full listing of designated rivers can be found on the website www.rivers.gov

As of the date of this publication, there are two designated rivers in Connecticut, both of which are managed under the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, through a Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives from local communities and organizations, state government and the National Park Service. More information about these rivers, their watersheds, approved management plans, the Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committees and specific contact information can be found on the websites.

1. Farmington (West Branch) River: <https://www.rivers.gov/river/farmington-west-branch>
2. Farmington (Lower) & Salmon Brook: <https://www.rivers.gov/river/farmington>
3. Eightmile River: <https://www.rivers.gov/river/eightmile>
4. Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers: <https://www.rivers.gov/river/wood-pawcatuck>
5. Housatonic River: <https://www.rivers.gov/river/housatonic>