Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

“Protecting Nationally Designated Rivers Through Locally Based Partnerships”
Wild and scenic rivers program

Federally-administered Model
- Managed by NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS
- Mostly on federal land

Partnership Model
- Managed through locally-led partnership
- Mostly non-federal land

River Connections
Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic Film Festival
Managed as “units” of the National Park System

- Superintendent
- Rangers/Law Enforcement
- Federal boundaries
- Special use permits — manage recreation
- Federal lands — Federal acquisition
- Federal leadership and control

NOT managed as “units” of the National Park System

- Local empowerment and control
- NPS in *support* role
- Local, state, private, tribal lands
- No rangers, no uniforms
- No federal acquisition
- Local leadership
NPS Partnership Rivers

- Great Egg Harbor, NJ (1992)
- Maurice, NJ (1993)
- West Branch Farmington, CT (1994)
- Lamprey, NH (1999)
- Sudbury/Assabet/Concord, MA (1996/2000)
- White Clay Creek, DE/PA (2000/2014)
- Wekiva, FL (2000)
- Eightmile, CT (2008)
- Taunton, MA (2009)
- Missisquoi and Trout, VT (2014)

Study: York, ME (1992)
Study: Wood-Pawcatuck, RI (1993)
Could pwsr be a good fit for My river?

• Is there a history of high local involvement and commitment to the river?
• Is there a mix of land ownership and/or mostly non-federal land ownership?
• Are there special resources highly valued at the local level?
• Do I have good local and agency partners to work with?
• Would my congressional representatives be potentially receptive?
• Others?
Background  Explore  Study  Designate
Components of study legislation

- Define study segments
- Define federal agency
- Direct a report to Congress within 3 years

Does PWSR study legislation differ from other WSR study legislation?

No (not necessarily!)

Toolkit Reference: NPS Testimony sample on PWSR study legislation
How does the study committee function?

- Local leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer)
- NPS participation in an advisory role
- $$$ and technical support through Cooperative Agreements

TOOLKIT REFERENCE: SC bylaw examples
How does a study cooperative agreement work?

• Needs local partner that has right local stature
• Provides funds for use by Study Committee
• Funds can only be spent with vote of Study Committee
• Annual workplan and budgets developed by Study Committee

TOOLKIT REFERENCE: CA workplace examples and CA language
How does the management plan get developed?

Management plan is a local document

ORV research and **community** engagement

What do people value about the river?

• May or may not be ORVs...
  • Ex: Missisquoi River – agriculture large feature of Plan but not ORV
  • Expression of local value and commitment to river
  • NPS technical assistance ensures it will meet WSR needs as well

Study committee may form Management Plan Subcommittee to write plan

• Sometimes ORV research (sub-committee) takes on Plan once values are researched
• Outreach Sub-committee interface with town boards, stakeholders
• “Workshops” good tool to review ORV research to get input on Plan

**KEY POINT**

**TOOLKIT REFERENCE:** Workshop agenda and draft ORV
Building support for plan

- Key stakeholders must support the “vision”
- ORVs that “ring true” at local level

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION

TOOLKIT REFERENCE: SC outreach plans plus samples
How will local support be demonstrated?

Local constituents can show support by voting to adopt the Management Plan and its recommendations including whether or not to seek designation. This can be accomplished in the best way for local communities including:

TOOLKIT REFERENCE: town hall sample resolutions
Good practices

- Seek out dialog with potential opposition early and often
- Outreach, outreach, outreach!
- Use clear, accurate information
- Identify key stakeholders
- Meet with likely allies first, then identify potential adversaries
- Engage skeptics early in the process
- Repeat again and again what designation does NOT do
- Highlight benefits, but don’t club people over the head
- Reassure folks that designation isn’t required at end of the study
- Listen!
Where is the toolkit located?

Link to online toolkit: https://rms.memberclicks.net/PWSRToolkit

Toolkit contacts:
Shana Stewart

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