



Wild and Scenic Rivers Training



Advancing Excellence in the Stewardship of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

River Management Society Symposium
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1968

How well are we doing, given the 50 years of experience the agencies have in administering this Act?



Wild and Scenic Rivers Act - 25th Anniversary Outcome:

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council

The goal of the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council (Council) is to improve interagency coordination in administering the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, thereby improving service to the American public and enhancing protection of important river resources.





Complexity of the Act

- Understanding study requirements
- Section 7 reviews
- Defining requirements – including addressing user capacities
- Management responsibilities – non-degradation and enhancement policy for river values; other permissible uses
- Partnership provisions





Wild and Scenic Rivers Training



Interagency WSR Coordinating Council Partnerships

- Interagency River Training Program with the River Management Society
- Support for Interagency Training Program from American Rivers, American Whitewater, and River Network
- Collaborating with the University of Idaho to develop Core Competencies for River Specialists



Wild and Scenic Rivers Training



Interagency WSR Council's Training Program goal:

- ❖ **Improve consistency, collaboration, and awareness** in implementing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) among:
 - River managers and staff;
 - all agency employees;
 - and





Wild and Scenic Rivers Training



What are the interagency training program objectives?

- ❖ Agency staff working on a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) will be able to **communicate and apply the requirements** of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and agency policy.
- ❖ Every person involved in WSRs will **understand the basics** of WSR stewardship.
- ❖ Maintain the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the **global standard** for river conservation





What training was available



Train the Trainer (2010) - Training on how to teach the three Council training courses:

Sec 7

Study Process

Management of Designated WSRs

Council members teach WSR courses at every RMS Symposium and at River Rally

BLM: developed 12 Powerpoints for use and for future online training modules

NPS:

- Council curriculum based training workshops in 2 Regions
- River Value Workshops on 15 designated rivers.

Forest Service in partnership with River Management Society:

- Webinars (2013-2015) - More than 250 people participated
- WSR Workshops - 2-3 day in person training on WSR Act, Section 7, CRMP



BLM Training Initiative



Development of Powerpoints and Online Modules

- In 2012, BLM published a revised policy manual for the WSR Program
- In 2013, BLM initiated team of subject matter experts and BLM National Training Center staff to develop training to implement the new manual
- The BLM WSR Training Design Team developed a curriculum framework document consisting of 12 modules and began working on storyboards for each of the modules
- Other agency members of the Interagency WSR Coordinating Council were brought in as reviewers initially, and then as designers too
- Thirteen storyboards (powerpoints) and online distance learning modules have been developed.



Training Modules



Wild and Scenic Rivers - Distance Learning Modules

1. Introduction to the WSRA
2. Wild & Scenic River Fundamentals
3. Eligibility
4. Suitability
5. Protective Management for Eligible & Suitable Segments
6. Developing a CRMP
7. Managing a Designated WSR
8. Visitor Use and Capacity
9. Section 7(a) of the WSRA
10. Monitoring
11. Section 2(a)(ii) Rivers
12. Partnership Rivers
13. Managing Rivers in Alaska

Interagency modules

BLM policy modules



Training Modules



Module 1 - History and Importance of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

- History and significance of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Key concepts embodied in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- The role of federal land management agencies in implementing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act





Training Modules



Module 2 – Fundamentals of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Key Policies, and the Interagency WSR Coordinating Council:

- Key Provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as Amended, and Federal River Administering Agency Roles
- Other Laws and Regulations
- Interagency Wild and Scenic River Guidelines
- Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council
- www.rivers.gov contains a wealth of knowledge
- Agency Policy/Guidance



Training Modules



Module 3 – Eligibility

This module covers the implementation of the wild and scenic river eligibility process, including:

- Determine whether a stream segment is “free-flowing”
- Identify and describe outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs)
- Determine tentative classification
- Understand how these concepts fit into the eligibility process
- Document all findings



Training Modules



Module 4 – Suitability:

- An overview of the suitability analysis
- Suitability factors to consider during the process
- Developing a preliminary determination whether a stream segment is suitable or not suitable
- Suitability Report
- How suitability is addressed in NEPA
- Suitability determination in Record of Decision (ROD)
- Recommendation



Training Modules



Module 5 – Protection Management: Eligible and Suitable Stream Segments:

- Defining Protective Management
- Protective Management Scenarios
- Analyzing Protective Management in NEPA Documents
- Protective Management Provisions in BLM Land Use Plans
- Protective Management on Congressionally Authorized Study Rivers



Training Modules



Module 6 – Developing a Comprehensive River Management Plan:

- Immediate actions for a newly designated Wild and Scenic River
- Requirements and format of the Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process requirements for the CRMP
- Addressing the key elements of the CRMP



Training Modules



Module 7 – Managing Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Responsibilities
- Law, Regulation and Policy
- Protecting River Values
- Other Provisions of the Act and Agency Guidance
- Stewardship





Training Modules



Module 8 – Steps to Address User Capacities:

- Why address user capacities
- Steps to address user capacities
- Additional resources





Training Modules



Module 9 – Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

- Intent of Section 7
- Factors used in deciding whether Section 7 applies
- Standards used to evaluate projects where Section 7 applies
- Exercises: does Section 7 apply and which evaluation standard applies?
- Incorporating a Section 7 process into a NEPA analysis or permitting process
- Drafting a Section 7 evaluation and determination



Training Modules



Module 10 – Monitoring:

- Why do we monitor
- Importance of a monitoring plan
- How to develop a monitoring plan for designated rivers
- Requirements for monitoring a study river segment





Training Modules



Module 11 – Section 2(a)(ii) Rivers:

- History and intent of Section 2(a)(ii)
- List of 2(a)(ii) rivers
- Process for designation
- How 2(a)(ii) rivers differ from other Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Management responsibilities
 - a. Federal role — Section 7 and federal lands
 - b. State, tribal and/or local role
 - c. Interagency coordination



Training Modules



Module 12 – Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- History and evolution of partnership approach
- National Park Service PWSR model
- Partnership river principles
- Roles of WSR agency, state/local partners and NGOs
- Benefits of PWSR designation
- Future of partnership WSRs



Training Modules



Module 13 – Alaska:

- Overview of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)
- Major differences for WSR management in Alaska
 - River Boundaries
 - Subsistence management and use
 - Transportation and Utilities





Training module link: <http://provalenslearning.com/wild-and-scenic-rivers-course-of-study>

