

Wild and Scenic River designations:

Rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational:

- Wild river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- Scenic river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- Recreational river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Designation neither prohibits development nor gives the federal government control over private property. Recreation, agricultural practices, residential development, and other uses may continue. Protection of the river is provided through voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users and through regulation and programs of federal, state, local, or tribal governments.

Three rivers in WA are currently designated:

- Klickitat River: recreation (10.8m total)
- Skagit River: scenic (100m) and recreation (58.5m)
- White Salmon River: wild (6.7m) and scenic (21m)

It appears that the river sections described in the meeting minutes (upper Cle Elum, Waptus, Cooper, and North/Middle/West Forks of the Teanaway River) could be designated as either scenic or recreational, depending on existing and proposed development along the rivers. The Wild and Scenic River website has lots of guidance documents about how to designate rivers, how to manage them, and how development in the surrounding area should be handled.

Recreational impacts and benefits

Examples on analyzing recreation:

- Measure changes in participation from the base condition (visitor hours, days, trips, etc.)
- Effect of the proposed alternative/project on both supply and demand (quantity and quality) of recreation.
- Estimate possible benefits from current non-users beginning to recreate in the region.
- Benefits from the restoration of natural river recreation.
- Determine or "measure" the value that people (residents and non-residents, and users and non-users) place on the existence of natural river conditions.
- availability of natural resources, focusing upon factors that invite outdoor recreational users.
- identify key stakeholders in the business of recreation and tourism, including values and positions each hold toward outdoor recreation and natural resources.
- Describe the interconnectedness between socio-economic and ecological aspects of recreation.
- Identify factors that attract recreation/tourism to an area, including proximity/access to travel, quality of destination site, amenities, suitability for intended purpose, and safety.
- Analyze values and attitudes toward tourism from the perspective of various stakeholders: local residents, local businesses, local and regional land managers, state agencies, federal agencies.