



Wild and Scenic River Bills

This list includes river protection bills that are supported by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition for reintroduction and advancement this session.

Washington

1. **Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act** (Sponsors: Murray (*Ben Merkel*) [D-WA], Kilmer (*Heather Painter*) [D-WA-06]) - 464 river miles, 19 rivers and major tributaries flowing within and out of Olympic National Park

Oregon

2. **River Democracy Act** (Sponsor: Wyden (*Isaiah Akin*) [D-OR], Cosponsor: Merkley (*Elvia Montoya*) [D-OR]) - 4,700 river miles, 2.5 million acres of riverside land, demonstrates a unique public process including Tribal participation
3. **Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act S. 162** (Sponsors: Merkley (*Elvia Montoya*) [D-OR], Cosponsors: Wyden (*Isaiah Akin*) [D-OR], Feinstein (*Rachel Bombach*) [D-CA], Padilla (*Joshua Esquivel*) [D-CA]) - 75 river miles, permanent mineral withdrawal for 58,000 acres
4. **Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act S. 440** (Sponsors: Wyden (*Isaiah Akin*) [D-OR], Cosponsor: Merkley (*Elvia Montoya*) [D-OR]) 60,000 acres of wilderness, 128,000 acres of new riverside recreation areas, and a permanent mineral withdrawal for 101,000 acres at the headwaters of several Southwestern Oregon wild and scenic rivers

California

5. **Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act** (Sponsor: Huffman (*Shane Trimmer*) [D-CA-02], Cosponsors: Chu (*Ellen Hamilton*) [D-CA-27], Carbajal (*Samantha Price*) [D-CA-24], Napolitano (*Joseph Ciccone*) [D-CA-32]) - 480 river miles, 312,000 acres of wilderness, 360-mile Big Foot National Recreation Trail
6. **Central Heritage Protection Act** (Sponsor: Carbajal (*Samantha Price*) [D-CA-24], Cosponsors: Soto (*Nicole McLaren*) [D-FL-09], Brownley (*Sharon Wagener*) [D-CA-26], Huffman (*Shane Trimmer*) [D-CA-02], Costa (*John Lynch*) [D-CA-16], Chu (*Ellen Hamilton*) [D-CA-27], Panetta (*Mark Dennin*) [D-CA-20]) - 159 river miles, 287,000 acres of wilderness, 400-mile Condor National Recreation Trail
7. **San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act** (Sponsor: Chu (*Ellen Hamilton*) [D-CA-27], Cosponsors: Barragan (*Matt Dernoga*) [D-CA-44], Brownley (*Sharon Wagener*) [D-CA-26], Carbajal (*Samantha Price*) [D-CA-24], Cárdenas (*Jaqueline Serrano*) [D-CA-29], Case (*Tim Nelson*) [D-HI-01], DeSaulnier (*Sarah Jackson*) [D-CA-11], Eshoo (*Aisling McDonough (COS)*) [D-CA-18], Gomez (*Omair Taher*) [D-CA-34], Huffman (*Shane Trimmer*) [D-CA-02], Khanna (*Kate Gould*) [D-CA-17], Lee (*Sean Ryan*) [D-CA-13], Lowenthal [former D-CA-47], Napolitano (*Joseph Ciccone*) [D-CA-32], Porter (*Jordan Wong*) [D-CA-45], Roybal-Allard (*Carlos Condarco*) [D-CA-40], Sánchez (*Cody Willming*) [D-CA-38], Schiff (*Danielle Fulfes*) [D-CA-28], Sherman (*Johan Propst*) [D-CA-30], Takano (*Juston Maturo*) [D-CA-41], Torres (*Serena Gobbi*) [D-CA-35]) - 45.5 river miles, 30,000 acres of wilderness, 109,000 acres of National Monument lands, 49,000 acres of National Recreation Area lands

Colorado

8. **Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act (Sponsor: Bennett (*Brian Appel*) [D-CO], Cosponsor: Hickenlooper (*Kate Cassling*) [D-CO]** - 68,000 acre National Conservation Area and Special Management Area on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, protecting the free-flowing character of 76 miles of the Dolores River

New Mexico

9. **M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act (Sponsor: Heinrich (*Dominic Saavedra*) [D-NM], Cosponsor: Lujan (*Graham Mason*) [D-NM])** - 450 river miles, 144,000 acres of riverside land

Montana

10. **Montana Headwaters Legacy Act (Sponsor: Tester (*Thomas Culver*) [D-MT])** - 385 river miles, 20 river segments including iconic streams like the Yellowstone, Madison, and Smith Rivers

Massachusetts

11. **Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act S. 4631 (Sponsor: McGovern (*Cindy Buhl*) [D-MA-2], Cosponsors: Neal (*William Traghese (COS)*) [D-MA-1], Welch (*Meagan Roster*) [D-VT-At large])** - initiates a wild and scenic river study of the river

Vermont

12. **Nulhegan and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Designation H.R. 1063 (Sponsor: Welch (*Meagan Roster*) [D-VT-At large])** - initiates a wild and scenic river study of the river

Emerging River Protection Campaigns

This list includes river protection campaigns, supported by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, that are in development.

Alabama

- **Little Wild and Scenic River** - The Little River flows on top of Lookout Mountain in northeastern Alabama, sculpting a system of canyons that exceed 600 feet in depth and creating one of the deepest river gorges in the eastern US. The shallow, rocky riverbed is home to rare and endemic plant species such as Kral's water-plantain and green pitcher plants. World-class whitewater paddling and canyon rim and waterfall sightseeing are important recreational opportunities. Future legislation would initiate a wild and scenic river study and ultimately designation of the Little River as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River.
 - Learn more: <https://keeplittleriverwild.org/>

Arizona

- **Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River** - The 38-mile Upper Verde River, located east of Paulden to the town of Clarkdale, is one of the most clean, healthy, economically important, and culturally significant free-flowing rivers remaining in the state. The Wild and Scenic eligible Upper Verde River has been found to possess Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for Culture (54 sites), Scenery, Native Fish (10 species), Wildlife (17 species), Recreation (12 listed types), Geology, and Botany. Maintaining and enhancing these values is vitally important to help to address biodiversity loss, climate change, aridification, ecological fragmentation, and ever-increasing development in the region.
 - Learn more: <https://www.wildverderiver.org/>

Colorado

- **Crystal Wild and Scenic River** - The 39-mile Wild and Scenic eligible Crystal River, south of Carbondale, begins in the snow-capped peaks of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. The scenery, historic, and recreational ORVs inventoried in the river corridor add to the deep cultural, native fish, and wildlife values that draw residents and visitors to the valley. A facilitated, multi-stakeholder process exploring Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River is kicking off in Spring 2023.
- **Deep Creek Wild and Scenic River** - The 15-mile Wild and Scenic eligible section of Deep Creek, flowing from Deep Lake through a 2000-foot deep gorge in the Flat Tops Plateau, is a largely undisturbed environment featuring a high variety of karst caves and rock formations. The ORVs Deep Creek possesses are its ecological condition—it contains several state and globally rare species along with occurrences of very high-quality natural communities; its scenic canyon with very little disturbance from human activity; and finally, the geologic values associated with cave formations within the canyon. A stakeholder process is working on draft bill language.

North Carolina

- **Nolichucky Wild and Scenic River** - One of the last free-flowing southern rivers, the Nolichucky Gorge flows between Poplar, NC and Erwin, TN. As a regionally-known fishing and whitewater recreation destination, protecting the river safeguards wildlife habitat and vital businesses in an economically-depressed area. Future legislation would designate 7 miles of the Nolichucky Gorge flowing through Forest Service lands as wild and scenic.
 - Learn more: <https://www.noliwildandscenic.org/>