

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS CARSON FOREST PLAN - OVERVIEW

Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated by Congress. Once designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, rivers receive special management direction that ensures the maintenance of the free-flowing nature and the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values of the river segment.

Public land agencies must take into consideration **potential** Wild and Scenic Rivers during land management planning (WSRA Section 5(d)(1)). Once rivers are identified as eligible for Wild and Scenic protections during this evaluation process, **they must be given Wild and Scenic protections** until either they are officially designated or they are removed from the eligibility list during a suitability process. The Carson already completed an extensive Wild and Scenic evaluation in 2001.

The Carson is now redoing their Wild and Scenic evaluation as part of the current 2019 Forest Planning Process. If finalized as proposed this will result in the following:

- Many (**62 River Segments!**) rivers losing eligibility status completely and thus losing Wild and Scenic Protections.
- Many rivers being downgraded from Wild Rivers to less protective Scenic Rivers or Recreational Rivers.
- Many rivers losing specific Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs). ORVs help determine how the river is protected.

Wild and Scenic river segments are required to be classified as wild, scenic, or recreational:

Wild Rivers – 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 Rivers – 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 Rivers – Those rivers or river 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.

