Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Eligibility Report Summary

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (Pub. L. 90-543 as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) (the Act) establishes a method for providing federal protection for certain free-flowing rivers and preserving them and their immediate environments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The function of the wild and scenic river review is to inventory and study the rivers and water bodies within the boundary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) to determine whether they merit inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).

Minimum Wild and Scenic River Criteria

To be eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River, a river or river segment and its immediate environment is required to possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable value" (ORV) and be free flowing.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

The Refuge Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Review evaluated the seven ORVs mentioned in the Act: scenic, recreational, geological, fish, wildlife, historical, and cultural. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, ORVs must be directly river-related. They should:

1. Be located in the river or on its immediate shore;
2. Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
3. Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

If a river was found to meet the eligibility criteria, it was evaluated to determine the tentative classification.

Wild and Scenic River Classification

"1) ***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.*

"2) ***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.*

"3) ***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."*

A comprehensive list was identified of all named refuge rivers and river segments from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Geographic Names Information System and the National Hydrography Dataset. A total of 160 rivers and creeks were identified, all of which are free flowing. Rivers with known river-related public use were identified to be reviewed further. For a further explanation of the process, see the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Eligibility Report (at http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm). The findings of that report are included in the following summary table.

Eligible Rivers

River System	Description	*Segment Length	Preliminary Classification	Remarkable Values
Atigun River	The Atigun River flows into the refuge from bordering State and BLM lands and can be accessed by the Dalton Highway. The portion that's on the refuge is often referred to as Atigun Gorge. The Gorge ends just before the confluence with the Sagavanirktok River.	11.08	Wild	Geology
Canning River	The Canning River is the longest north flowing river within the Refuge. It forms the western boundary of the Refuge as it flows through mountains, to foothills, to the coastal plain, and finally to the arctic coast.	125.50	Wild	Wildlife, Fish
Marsh Fork – Canning River	The Marsh Fork begins and ends in the precipitous Phillip Smith Mountains, flowing through spectacular vistas of rocky peaks. Just before reaching the foothills, the Marsh Fork joins the main stem of the Canning.	53.84	Wild	Recreation
East Fork – Chandalar River	The East Fork has its headwaters near the Romanzof Mountains in the eastern Brooks Range. It's surrounded by Refuge until Arctic Village, where it then forms the Refuge's southern boundary. The East Fork eventually flows into the main stem of the Chandalar River.	203.71	Wild	Culture
Hulahula River	The Hulahula begins in glaciers of the Romanzof Mountains, flows west and then about 100 miles north, through valleys between Mt. Chamberlin and Mt. Michelson, onto the coastal plain, and ending in Camden Bay.	96.64	Wild	Recreation
Jago River	The Jago River is flanked by the Romanzof Mountains and is fed by the McCall Glacier on Mt. Itso. It flows through the mountains to the coastal plain and finally to the arctic coast.	83.77	Wild	Wildlife

Eligible Rivers (continued)

River System	Description	*Segment Length	**Preliminary Classification	Remarkable Values
Kongakut River	The Kongakut is the only major refuge river whose entire course is within designated wilderness. Originating high in the mountains of the eastern Brooks Range, the river flows generally north through miles of rugged mountains to the coastal plain and emptying into Beaufort Sea.	116.27	Wild	Recreation, Scenery, Geology
Okpilak River	The silt-laten Okpilak begins in the heart of the most active glacial area of the Refuge. The river churns as it flows north through a classic U-shaped valley containing moraines, fans, sand dunes and other glacial features. The water then abruptly flattens as it flows onto the coastal plain to the arctic coast.	73.25	Wild	Scenery, Geology
Neruokpuk Lakes	These lakes are the two largest and most northern arctic alpine lakes in North America. The two large, deep, connected lakes are surrounded by steep slopes rising to some of the highest peaks in the Brooks Range.	9.86	Wild	Scenery, Geology, Fish
Porcupine River	The Porcupine is one of the largest tributaries of the Yukon River and a historically important travel route. The Refuge portion begins at the Canada/US border and flows downstream for approximately 85 miles.	84.77	Wild	History, Culture, Geology, Wildlife, Fish

*Segment Length is approximate

** Preliminary classifications are interim classifications and can change through Suitability, Recommendation or Designation.