

Comparing Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program to federal programs

Many states have, or are looking to develop, a scenic rivers designation program, but Virginia's is one of the oldest. Often, however, it is confused with other designation programs, especially [national programs](#).

Scenic River Designations

TITLE	National Wild and Scenic River System	American Heritage Rivers Initiative	Virginia Scenic Rivers Program
MISSION/ INTENT	to protect designated river segments	to foster community empowerment, help protect and restore the environment, revitalize the economy, renew the culture and preserve history.	to identify, designate and enhance the protection rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, cultural, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations through wise use and conservation
DESIGNATION FROM	U.S. Congress or the Secretary of the Interior	Presidential decree	Virginia General Assembly
ADMINISTRATOR	National Park Service	Environmental Protection Agency	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DATE ENACTED	1968	1997	1970
NUMBER OF RIVERS	156 (2004); none in Virginia	14; New and Potomac in Virginia	30; 728+ miles
CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION	possessing outstanding or remarkable scenic, recreational, geological, natural, historical, cultural, or other similar values	distinctive inherent characteristics of river, effective community plan of action, strength and diversity of community support, partnerships capability	river corridor vegetation, flow modifications, human development, historic, cultural, landscape, quality of fishery, endangered species, water quality, parallel roads, crossings, special features, and aesthetics
AREA DEFINED	within 1/4 mile of ordinary high-water mark	none	river bottom to ordinary low-water mark
IMPACTS/ RESTRICTIONS	free-flowing condition and are not dammed or otherwise improved.	more effective use of federal resources with help of River Navigator to facilitate community-agency interchange	No dams may be put on the river without General Assembly action
MANAGER OF CORRIDOR	ACOE, BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS and various states	localities	localities
FUNDING	through managers	none	none
HOW TO ADD	any time with complete report and acceptance of management plan	through congressional decree	request from locality and complete report
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	http://www.nps.gov/rivers/	http://www.epa.gov/rivers/	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/srmain.shtml