Virginia Scenic Rivers Program

Benefits of scenic river designation

- Provides opportunities to consider scenic and other resources in planning and design.
- Focuses Federal Energy Regulation Commission reviews of hydro or related project proposals.
- Encourages closer review of projects and proposals by state agencies and localities.
- Requires General Assembly authorization for dam construction.
- Provides for continued existing appropriate riparian land uses.
- Provides framework for appointment of a local Scenic River Advisory Committee.
- Provides eligibility for land use tax considerations, if locally adopted.

Scenic river designation process

The following steps are taken in the designation of a candidate river segment.

1. A local governing board asks DCR to study a river segment.
2. DCR conducts a preliminary study to see if the segment meets minimum criteria. If so, DCR further studies the segment for eligibility with local support.
3. If deemed eligible, the locality accepts DCR's report and passes a resolution endorsing designation of the qualifying river segment.
4. The local board has a state legislator sponsor a bill to designate the river segment scenic.

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

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