

## **Appendix G – Definitions of Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

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### Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

The information below was excerpted from: *The Wild & Scenic River Study Process*, Technical Report of the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council, December 1999. Contact Jackie Diedrich and Cassie Thomas, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, Portland, Oregon and Anchorage, Alaska.

“While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related. That is, they should:

Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);

Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or

Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following eligibility criteria are offered to foster greater consistency with the federal river-administering agencies. They are intended to set minimum thresholds to establish ORVs and are illustrative but not all-inclusive. If utilized in an agency’s planning process, these criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison, and additional criteria may be included.

- 1) **Scenery:** The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors-such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed-may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.
- 2) **Recreation:** Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating.
  - Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
  - The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
- 3) **Geology:** The river or the area within the river corridor contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures).
- 4) **Fish:** Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- **Populations:** The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species, Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species, Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”
  - **Habitat:** The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”
- 5) Wildlife:** Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”
  - *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”
- 6) Prehistory:** The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest values(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by NPS.
- 7) History:** The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.
- 8) Other Values:** While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the “other similar values” category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.”