

Environmental Impact Statement

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River
Appalachian National Scenic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Enabling Legislation and Purpose: Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River

Public Law 95-625

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
(16 USC 1274), Section 705
November 10, 1978

On November 10, 1978 the Delaware River within DEWA was designated as a scenic and recreational river in an amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) – Public Law 90-542, approved October 2, 1968.

Sec. 705. Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

“(20) Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. – The segment from the point where the river crosses the northern boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the point where the river crosses the southern boundary of such recreation area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.”

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) – Public Law 90-542, approved October 2, 1968 Section 10(a) states:

“Each component of the national wild and scenic river system shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in [the wild and scenic rivers] system without...limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protect [the area's] esthetic, scenic, historic, agricultural, and scientific features.”

Purpose and Significance

In 1968, the Delaware River within DEWA was designated as a scenic and recreational river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The provisions of the act stipulate that as a scenic and recreational river, the Middle Delaware shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in the wild and scenic rivers system without limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protect the area's aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features.

