



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Barrasso:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Study*. The study was completed pursuant to Public Law 113-291, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, which directed the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study to determine if segments of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed in Connecticut and Rhode Island are eligible and suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Study was conducted based on the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model. In the Partnership model, citizen groups and divisions of government are actively engaged in developing a plan for the protection of river resources. Between May and August 2018, the governing bodies of all 12 communities abutting the study area voted to endorse the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River designation and support implementation of the Stewardship Plan completed as part of the study process. The study found that seven rivers, covering 110 miles, within the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed are eligible for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-flowing condition, their high water-quality, and the presence of one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values in each segment.

In March 2019, the NPS was completing the study process when Congress designated all of the segments included in the study of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Public Law 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act). Given the Congressional designation, the study has been concluded. The study is being transmitted to Congress to complete the study process and meet the requirement of the law. Local and NPS emphasis is now focused on planning to ensure the successful management of the area into the future.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service. A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Joe Manchin III, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S.

House of Representatives; and the Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives. The affected members of the Connecticut and Rhode Island delegations will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ**  Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.11.10
12:20:52 -05'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Chris Murphy
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
The Honorable Joe Courtney
The Honorable Jim Langevin



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ**  Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.11.10
12:15:54 -05'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

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 The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
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 The Honorable Joe Courtney
 The Honorable Jim Langevin



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The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin:

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ**  Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.11.10
12:15:12 -05'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

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The Honorable Jim Langevin



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Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Westerman:

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Sincerely,

**SHANNON
ESTENOZ**  Digitally signed by
SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.11.10
12:21:51 -05'00'

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

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 The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
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