



# 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 *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers 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 the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers in Massachusetts are eligible and suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers 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. In spring 2018, all eleven communities abutting the study area voted to endorse the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Wild and Scenic River designation and support implementation of the Stewardship Plan completed as part of the study process. The study found that approximately 27 miles of the Nashua River, 16.3 miles of the Squannacook River, and 9.5 miles of the Nissitissit River are eligible and suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-flowing condition and the presence of one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

In March 2019, the NPS was completing the study process when Congress designated all of the studied portions of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers 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 Massachusetts delegation will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON  
ESTENOZ**

Digitally signed by  
SHANNON ESTENOZ  
Date: 2021.12.13  
15:29:09 -05'00'

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

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Edward Markey  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Lori Trahan



# 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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members of the Massachusetts delegation will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON  
ESTENOZ**

Digitally signed by  
SHANNON ESTENOZ  
Date: 2021.12.13  
15:29:31 -05'00'

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

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Edward Markey  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Lori Trahan



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

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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Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives. The affected members of the Massachusetts delegation will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON  
ESTENOZ**

Digitally signed by  
SHANNON ESTENOZ  
Date: 2021.12.13  
15:29:52 -05'00'

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

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Edward Markey  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Lori Trahan



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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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Massachusetts delegation will also receive a copy of the study report and this letter.

Sincerely,

**SHANNON  
ESTENOZ**

Digitally signed by  
SHANNON ESTENOZ  
Date: 2021.12.13  
15:30:09 -05'00'

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

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The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Lori Trahan