

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 193

To designate a portion of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers as
a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. BASS, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To designate a portion of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord
Rivers as a component of the National Wild and Scenic
Rivers System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sudbury, Assabet, and
5 Concord Wild and Scenic River Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CON-**
2 **CORD SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS,**
3 **MASSACHUSETTS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild
6 and Scenic River Study Act (title VII of Public Law
7 101–628; 104 Stat. 4497)—

8 (A) designated segments of the Sudbury,
9 Assabet, and Concord Rivers in the Common-
10 wealth of Massachusetts, totaling 29 river
11 miles, for study and potential addition to the
12 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and

13 (B) directed the Secretary of the Interior
14 to establish the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord
15 Rivers Study Committee (in this section re-
16 ferred to as the “Study Committee”) to advise
17 the Secretary in conducting the study and in
18 the consideration of management alternatives
19 should the rivers be included in the National
20 Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

21 (2) The study determined the following river
22 segments are eligible for inclusion in the National
23 Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-
24 flowing condition and outstanding scenic, recreation,
25 wildlife, cultural, and historic values:

1 (A) The 16.6-mile segment of the Sudbury
2 River beginning at the Danforth Street Bridge
3 in the town of Framingham, to its confluence
4 with the Assabet River.

5 (B) The 4.4-mile segment of the Assabet
6 River from 1,000 feet downstream from the
7 Damon Mill Dam in the town of Concord to the
8 confluence with the Sudbury River at Egg Rock
9 in Concord.

10 (C) The 8-mile segment of the Concord
11 River from Egg Rock at the confluence of the
12 Sudbury and Assabet Rivers to the Route 3
13 bridge in the town of Billerica.

14 (3) The towns that directly abut the segments,
15 including Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln,
16 Concord, Bedford, Carlisle, and Billerica, Massachu-
17 setts, have each demonstrated their desire for Na-
18 tional Wild and Scenic River designation through
19 town meeting votes endorsing designation.

20 (4) During the study, the Study Committee and
21 the National Park Service prepared a comprehensive
22 management plan for the segment, entitled “Sud-
23 bury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River
24 Study, River Conservation Plan” and dated March
25 16, 1995 (in this section referred to as the “plan”),

1 which establishes objectives, standards, and action
2 programs that will ensure long-term protection of
3 the rivers' outstanding values and compatible man-
4 agement of their land and water resources.

5 (5) The Study Committee voted unanimously on
6 February 23, 1995, to recommend that the Congress
7 include these segments in the National Wild and
8 Scenic Rivers System for management in accordance
9 with the plan.

10 (b) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and
11 Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

12 (1) by designating the four undesignated para-
13 graphs after paragraph (156) as paragraphs (157),
14 (158), (159), and (160), respectively; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(161) SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD RIVERS,
18 MASSACHUSETTS.—(A) The 29 miles of river segments in
19 Massachusetts, as follows:

20 “(i) The 14.9-mile segment of the Sudbury
21 River beginning at the Danforth Street Bridge in
22 the town of Framingham, downstream to the Route
23 2 Bridge in Concord, as a scenic river.

24 “(ii) The 1.7-mile segment of the Sudbury
25 River from the Route 2 Bridge downstream to its

1 confluence with the Assabet River at Egg Rock, as
2 a recreational river.

3 “(iii) The 4.4-mile segment of the Assabet
4 River beginning 1,000 feet downstream from the
5 Damon Mill Dam in the town of Concord, to its con-
6 fluence with the Sudbury River at Egg Rock in Con-
7 cord; as a recreational river.

8 “(iv) The 8-mile segment of the Concord River
9 from Egg Rock at the confluence of the Sudbury
10 and Assabet Rivers downstream to the Route 3
11 Bridge in the town of Billerica, as a recreational
12 river.

13 “(B) The segments referred to in subparagraph (A)
14 shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in
15 cooperation with the SUASCO River Stewardship Council
16 provided for in the plan referred to in subparagraph (C)
17 through cooperative agreements under section 10(e) be-
18 tween the Secretary and the Commonwealth of Massachu-
19 setts and its relevant political subdivisions (including the
20 towns of Framingham, Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln, Con-
21 cord, Carlisle, Bedford, and Billerica).

22 “(C) The segments referred to in subparagraph (A)
23 shall be managed in accordance with the plan entitled
24 ‘Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River
25 Study, River Conservation Plan’, dated March 16, 1995.

1 The plan is deemed to satisfy the requirement for a com-
2 prehensive management plan under subsection (d) of this
3 section.”.

4 (c) FEDERAL ROLE IN MANAGEMENT.—(1) The Di-
5 rector of the National Park Service or the Director’s des-
6 ignee shall represent the Secretary of the Interior in the
7 implementation of the plan, this section, and the Wild and
8 Scenic Rivers Act with respect to each of the segments
9 designated by the amendment made by subsection (b)(2),
10 including the review of proposed federally assisted water
11 resources projects that could have a direct and adverse
12 effect on the values for which the segment is established,
13 as authorized under section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic
14 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1278(a)).

15 (2) Pursuant to sections 10(e) and section 11(b)(1)
16 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e),
17 1282(b)(1)), the Director shall offer to enter into coopera-
18 tive agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachu-
19 setts, its relevant political subdivisions, the Sudbury Val-
20 ley Trustees, and the Organization for the Assabet River.
21 Such cooperative agreements shall be consistent with the
22 plan and may include provisions for financial or other as-
23 sistance from the United States to facilitate the long-term
24 protection, conservation, and enhancement of each of the

1 segments designated by the amendment made by sub-
2 section (b)(2).

3 (3) The Director may provide technical assistance,
4 staff support, and funding to assist in the implementation
5 of the plan, except that the total cost to the Federal Gov-
6 ernment of activities to implement the plan may not ex-
7 ceed \$100,000 each fiscal year.

8 (4) Notwithstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and
9 Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), any portion of a
10 segment designated by the amendment made by subsection
11 (b)(2) that is not already within the National Park System
12 shall not under this section—

13 (A) become a part of the National Park Sys-
14 tem;

15 (B) be managed by the National Park Service;
16 or

17 (C) be subject to regulations which govern the
18 National Park System.

19 (d) WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS.—(1) In deter-
20 mining whether a proposed water resources project would
21 have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which
22 the segments designated by the amendment made by sub-
23 section (b)(2) were included in the National Wild and See-
24 nic Rivers System, the Secretary of the Interior shall spe-

1 cifically consider the extent to which the project is consist-
2 ent with the plan.

3 (2) The plan, including the detailed Water Resources
4 Study incorporated by reference in the plan and such addi-
5 tional analysis as may be incorporated in the future, shall
6 serve as the primary source of information regarding the
7 flows needed to maintain instream resources and potential
8 compatibility between resource protection and possible ad-
9 ditional water withdrawals.

10 (e) LAND MANAGEMENT.—(1) The zoning bylaws of
11 the towns of Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln,
12 Concord, Carlisle, Bedford, and Billerica, Massachusetts,
13 as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, are
14 deemed to satisfy the standards and requirements under
15 section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic rivers Act (16 U.S.C.
16 1277(c)). For the purpose of that section, the towns are
17 deemed to be “villages” and the provisions of that section
18 which prohibit Federal acquisition of lands through con-
19 demnation shall apply.

20 (2) The United States Government shall not acquire
21 by any means title to land, easements, or other interests
22 in land along the segments designated by the amendment
23 made by subsection (b)(2) or their tributaries for the pur-
24 poses of designation of the segments under the amend-
25 ment. Nothing in this section shall prohibit Federal acqui-

1 sition of interests in land along those segments or tribu-
2 taries under other laws for other purposes.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
5 Interior to carry out this section not to exceed \$100,000
6 for each fiscal year.

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