



Wild and Scenic Rivers of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

A National Resource for All

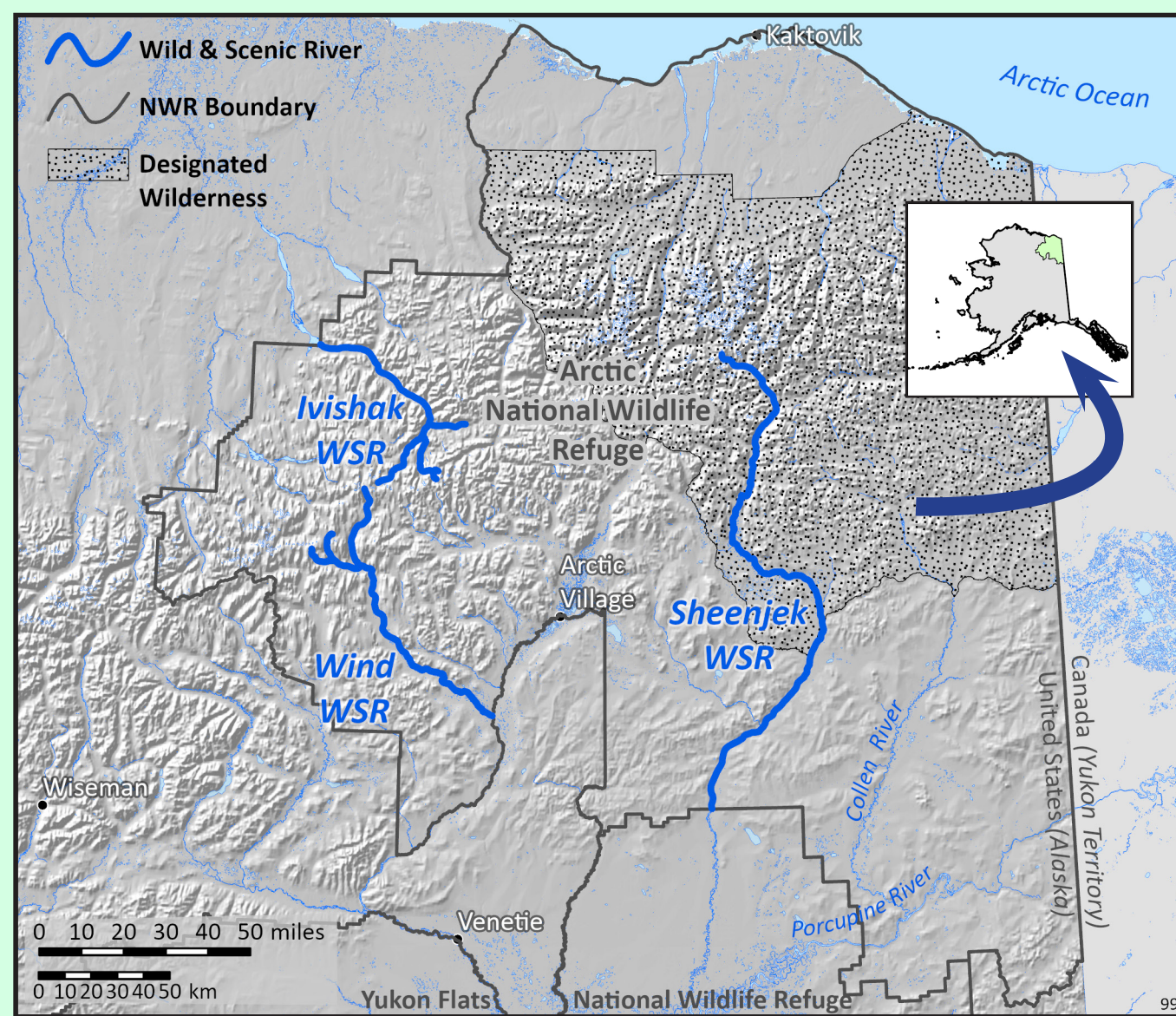
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to protect rivers with at least one **outstandingly remarkable value**. These could be scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other values. Before the legislation passed, industrialization, pollution, flood control, and other practices threatened these rivers. Now, over 13,000 miles of river are safeguarded throughout the United States. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works in tandem with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to ensure these special rivers are protected for use and enjoyment into the future.

Alaska's Remarkable Rivers

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) added twenty-five rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages seven of the Wild and Scenic Rivers in Alaska.

Arctic Refuge: home of three designated Wild and Scenic Rivers

Three Arctic National Wildlife Refuge rivers—the Ivishak, Sheenjek, and Wind—are designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and each is **classified wild** (protected to maintain minimal or no development along their banks). All of their outstandingly remarkable values are dependent on their exceptional water quality and existing levels of water flow. With no roads, trails, or facilities within the Refuge, these special rivers demand extensive remote wilderness travel skills to be experienced firsthand. With their untamed, stark beauty and diverse wildlife, these Wild and Scenic Rivers exemplify what it means to be wild.



The Ivishak Wild and Scenic River flows north from its source high in the mountains of the Brooks Range. The waters of the Sheenjek and Wind Wild and Scenic Rivers flow south and eventually join the Yukon River.



Here are postcards from all three rivers, so you can enjoy them from afar...

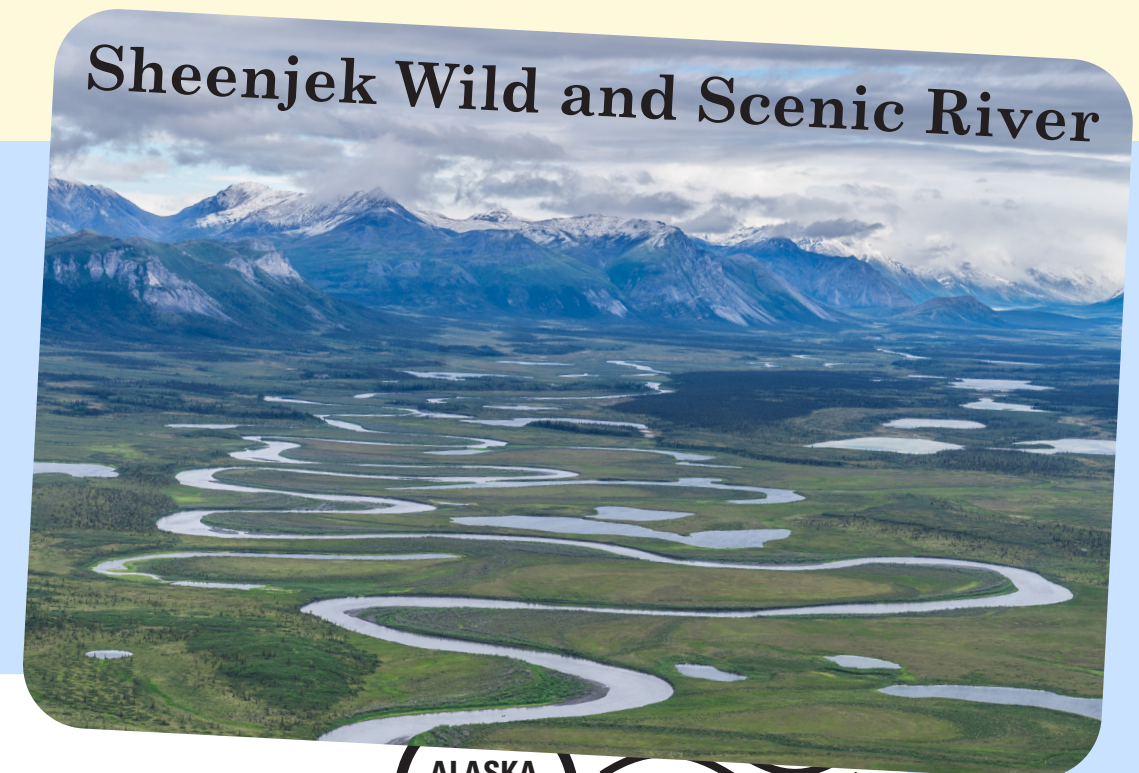


POST CARD

ALASKA
99701

Greetings from the crystal-clear Ivishak Wild and Scenic River, which is fed by spring waters of constant temperature. The river dazzles with 20-foot-deep, clear, blue pools, and has exceptional fish spawning and overwintering habitats.

All 80 designated miles of the north-flowing *Ivishak Wild and Scenic River* possess the outstandingly remarkable values of scenery, recreation, fish, and hydrology. Uniquely, the upper reaches of the Ivishak are fed by year-round mountain springs. Porcupine Lake, one of the largest of the few mountain lakes in the Brooks Range, flows into the upper reaches of the Ivishak River. Another distinctive river feature is the largest aufeis field (layers of ice frozen from successive winter flows of water) on the North Slope of Alaska, which forms where the Ivishak River flows out of the mountains. The river offers the unusual possibility of a road-accessible takeout (rather than by aircraft) beyond its lowest confluence, which is a unique recreational opportunity compared to other rivers in Arctic Refuge and on the North Slope of Alaska.



POST CARD

ALASKA
99701

Hello from the Sheenjek Wild and Scenic River, where you can be immersed in the same vast landscape that inspired conservation leaders to establish the wilderness movement within the United States.

The south-flowing *Sheenjek Wild and Scenic River* has an outstandingly remarkable value based on its historic role in the establishment of the mid-20th century conservation movement. This river provided inspiration for the creation of both the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Wilderness Act. The Sheenjek also possesses outstandingly remarkable values for scenery and recreation throughout its 160-mile Wild and Scenic River designation. Beginning in the glaciers of its headwaters, the upper reaches of the river flow past steeply rising cliffs and craggy outcroppings, while the lower portion meanders broadly across gravel outwash and is forested with thick stands of spruce, willow, poplar and birch. In the flats, the river slows, and views from the river, now more restricted, are often of cut banks and sloughs. Visitors appreciate this river's opportunity for long recreational float trips where advanced whitewater skills are not required.



POST CARD

ALASKA
99701

Howdy from the Wind Wild and Scenic River, where the variety of gradients, rocks and rapids provides recreational boaters with excitement and demands of constantly changing conditions.

The *Wind Wild and Scenic River* is a stunning example of a river that flows completely within the Brooks Range mountains. The river's entire 140-mile length is designated and includes all headwaters and one unnamed tributary. The Wind received this designation because it possesses two outstandingly remarkable values along its entire length—its rare scenery and unique recreation. Where the Wind River originates, vast and unrestricted views display a stark landscape with sparse vegetation. The river then winds through an open valley scattered with large and small lakes and wetlands within a landscape that progressively gives way to spruce tree forests. The river's steepness varies significantly, with the upper and lower sections descending more quickly than the middle portion. Throughout the river's length there are exposed rocks and sections of rapids.

More information about these and the other Wild and Scenic Rivers is available at rivers.gov.

Water is essential to life. Free-flowing rivers are the arteries of our Alaska landscape, necessary for maintaining thriving populations of fish, wildlife, and people.