



The **National Wild and Scenic Rivers System** was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, or recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act safeguards the special character of these rivers while also recognizing the value of appropriate public use.

In 1980, approximately 220 miles of the **Nowitna River** (where it flows through Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge) was designated as a Wild River. The Nowitna WSR is designated as Wild because it is free of impoundments, generally inaccessible except by trail, and the watersheds and shorelines are essentially primitive with unpolluted waters.

Rivers like the Nowitna are selected for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system because they have characteristics that stand out among all our Nation's rivers. These **Outstandingly Remarkable Values** (ORVs) are river dependent and often contribute to the function of the ecosystem. They are the reason a river rises to the level of national significance and protection. The ORVs for the Nowitna WSR are ecology, fish, cultural, and scenery. These ORVs recognize both the outstanding intact ecosystems and wild nature of the river corridor and the long rich history of human dependence on the river's resources.

Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge is currently developing a management plan for the Nowitna Wild and Scenic River as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. **The Nowitna Comprehensive River Management Plan** (CRMP) will protect and enhance the river values of the Nowitna Wild and Scenic River for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

We value your input. What hunters experience on the Nowitna River is expected to change very little with the implementation of this plan. We want to ensure that quality outdoor activities on the Nowitna River continue. There will be an opportunity for **public comment** on the Nowitna CRMP this fall. Information about how to access the proposed plan and provide comments will be provided on our website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/nowitna> We expect the comment period to begin around mid-October. You are welcome to contact our office for more information.