

DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS ARKANSAS NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS COMMISSION

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of the Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission according to Section 2 of Act 257 of 1979 to identify and preserve those rivers in the state which possess outstanding natural, scenic, educational, geological, recreational, historic, fish and wildlife, scientific and cultural values.

II. Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission

The Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission is an agency in the Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage. It consists of twelve members; industry, forestry, agriculture, and conservation interests are each represented by one member; the other eight represent the state-at-large. See Sections 5 and 6 of Act 257 of 1979 for length and method of choosing members' terms and election of officers.

III. Advisory Council.

The Commission will seek advice and technical information from a nine-member Advisory Council composed of representatives from state and federal government agencies that have authority over Arkansas' natural resources. See Section 7 of Act 257 of 1979.

IV. Identification of Rivers

The Commission surveys, evaluates and assesses all the rivers in the state to identify those that would qualify for designation in the Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers must meet the standards defined by at least one of the categories described in Section 8 of Act 257 of 1979.

V. Method of Designating Rivers in the Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers System

According to Section 10 of Act 257 of 1979, this process must be followed for each river to be protected as part of the Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

- 1. Commission selects streams that would qualify for protection. Also, local people or any interested group may recommend streams to the Commission.
- 2. Commission talks to local people to see if they are interested in the program.

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- 3. If the people are interested, an eight-member Local Advisory Committee is appointed for the stream. The County Quorum Court appoints five local members, three of whom must own land along the stream. The other three members are Commissioners appointed by the Chairman of the Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission.
- 4. The Local Advisory Committee and the Commission write the management plan for the river.
- 5. The Local Advisory Committee, the Commission, and the Quorum Court approve the plan.
- 6. The Arkansas General Assembly approves the management plan.
- 7. The stream is now protected as part of the Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

