



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter dated November 8, 2023, to National Park Service (NPS) Director, Charles F. Sams III, requesting that the NPS conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Deerfield River to evaluate it as a candidate for potential designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the NPS.

I write to inform you that the NPS will conduct the requested reconnaissance survey to provide a preliminary assessment of the eligibility and suitability of the Deerfield River as a candidate for a wild and scenic river designation according to criteria established under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The objective of the survey is to make an initial assessment on whether Congressional authorization for a wild and scenic river study may be warranted. As requested in your letter, the survey will involve the Deerfield River and its tributaries, including: the North, South, East, and West Branches of the Deerfield River; and the major tributaries of the Deerfield River, including the Green River, North River, South River, Clesson Brook, Chickley River, Cold River, Gulf Brook, Bog Brook, and Dunbar Brook.

A summary report on the survey findings will be prepared and sent to your office when the transmittal review process is complete. Given existing NPS workloads and the number of congressionally authorized studies already underway, this reconnaissance survey will likely not begin until FY 2025. Expenditures for such reconnaissance surveys by law may not exceed \$25,000. Given the expenditure limit and limited scope, the reconnaissance survey will not be able to provide community-wide engagement.

The NPS Interior Region 1 – North Atlantic-Appalachian Park Planning and Special Studies Division will provide the overall direction of the survey. Should you have further questions, please contact Martha Droge, Division Manager, via email at Martha_J_Droge@nps.gov or at (267) 883-9779. We appreciate your interest in the NPS and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A similar response is being sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Caldwell
Associate Director
Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands