

## *SAR - CRD - Interests - WS Rivers*

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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0021654-002	Further, I support a Wild designation for ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers and lakes in the Copper River Delta, including the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
0021604-004	And, in closing, designate the Copper, martin, Bering, and Katalla Rivers, including Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes as wild and Scenic or wilderness.
0021718-002	Please recommend all eligible wild and scenic rivers for designation, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes. In addition the Forest Service should recommend the most protective classification for which a river is eligible.
0021822-001	I have some serious reservations about the possibility of designating the Martin river area with one of the Congressionally approved Wild & Scenic River designations. This in my opinion will produce the same as designating this area Wilderness.
0021891-002	I In addition all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest-wide should be recommended for that status. This includes the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
0021898-002	Additionally, I think all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest-wide should be recommended, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough; and Martin and Bering Lakes.
0022184-002	Recommend ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers. Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
0022220-002	I strongly recommend all eligible wild and scenic rivers be designated as such, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

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- 0022221-002    Please recommend ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
- 0022319-002    Further, we support a Wild designation for ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers and lakes in the Copper River Delta, including the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes,
- 0022320-002    Further, I support a Wild designation for ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers and lakes in the Copper River Delta, including the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
- 0022326-002    I support the recommendation of wilderness designation for all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest wide including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, and the Alaganik, Slough, Martin, and being lakes.
- 0022488-003    I recommend inclusion of ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers on the Forest, including the Copper, Bering, Martin, and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
- 0022509-004  
  
and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla rivers.
- 0022827-002    We support a Wild designation for all eligible wild and scenic rivers and lakes along the Copper River Delta, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
- 0022970-004    all eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla rivers.
- 0023022-002    urge you to adopt the citizens alternative for wild and scenic river designations. The Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla rivers should be wild and scenic with mile-wide protected corridors.

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0023030-003    including all eligible wild and scenic parts of the Copper, martin, Katalla and Bering rivers!

0023153-002    In addition, please recommend all eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Bering, and Martin (change scenic to wild), Katalla, and Martin and Bering lakes.

0026969-001    In addition, please recommend ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin. Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

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0034169-003

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Forest Service's treatment of the rivers on the Copper River Delta was typical. It found that seven rivers and glaciers on the Delta were remarkably outstanding, yet it recommended only the Martin River and Martin Glacier for inclusion into the national system, and only then at the scenic classification. The Forest Service's decisions with regard to some of the nation's wildest and most pristine rivers are mystifying. For instance, the Martin River was variously described in the DEIS as follows: "The scenery and visual, features of the Martin River are regionally and nationally significant with high relief and steep snowcapped mountains at the headwaters of the river and along sides of this major drainage . . . Recreational values of the area are regionally and nationally significant . . . The Martin River area is of pristine quality. It is located on the East Delta, is remote, with wilderness character and is undeveloped. This river system is the 'heart' of the east delta. It provides opportunities for 'primitive' recreation experiences of high quality along the entire length of river . . . It has exceptional overall fisheries habitat quality." The DEIS's description of the Martin practically defines a wild river, yet the Forest Service, without explanation, recommends the mediocre protection of a scenic classification.

The agency's failure to recommend the Delta's other rivers for any designation whatsoever is even more baffling. The Bering River was found to be outstandingly remarkable for its scenery, visual features, recreation values, and fisheries values. According to the DEIS: "The area is of pristine quality. It is located on the East Delta and is extremely remote, with wilderness character, completely undeveloped. The area is very 'wild' country. The presence of panoramic views is common with outstanding scenic quality. The diversity and abundance of wildlife including wolves, wolverine, brown bear, moose, mountain goats, trumpeter swans, dusky Canada geese, and bald eagles make this a popular area for Forest visitors." Despite the glowing description, and the fact that this is arguably the wildest and most remote river in the entire national forest system, the Forest Service makes no recommendation with respect to the Bering River. (It also erroneously found, based on an outdated development plan from Chugach Alaska Corporation, that the lower 25.2 miles of the Bering River meet only the criteria for scenic classification and not wild classification.) Again, the Forest Service provides no explicit explanation for its decision, although it suggests that designation is unnecessary because "[l]ittle change in the outstanding values of the area are [sic] expected since the primary purpose of management activities in this area is for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats." However, like the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is intended to protect a range of environmental values that may be unrelated to conservation of fish and wildlife. There are

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many potential forest uses that may not significantly affect fish and wildlife populations but can still diminish scenery, visual features, and recreation values-some of the very qualities that make the Bering River outstandingly remarkable.

The Forest Service has an opportunity, and an obligation, to recommend permanent protection for some of the nation's last remaining wild rivers. That is the policy established by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and also the desire of most Alaskans. According to the public survey conducted by the Forest Service and Alaska Pacific University, the majority of Alaskans from communities in or near the Chugach, including Cordova, support designating all eligible rivers. NWF urges the Forest Service to recommend that the Martin River, Lake, and Glacier; Bering River and Lake; Katalla River, and upper and lower Copper River be designated as wild rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We also request that the Forest Service follow the precedent created by ANILCA and establish management boundaries encompassing an average of six hundred and forty acres per mile on both sides of each river.

0030216-002

Please also designate all eligible wild & scenic rivers and lakes in the Copper River Delta as wild.