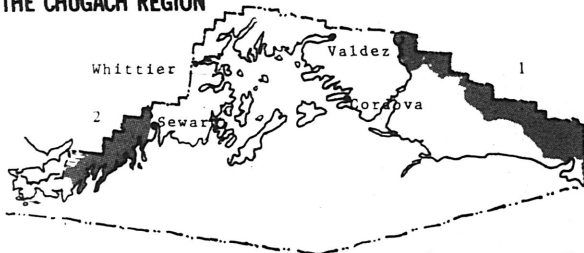




Many paths to choose from.

Rob Stapleton/Rural CAP photo

THE CHUGACH REGION



National Park System

- 1 Wrangell - St. Elias
National Park and Preserve
- 2 Kenai Fjords National Park

Alaska gets first wild and scenic rivers

Twenty-five Alaska rivers have been designated wild, scenic or recreational rivers by Congress in the Alaska Lands Act. These rivers are now part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System which is a new land classification for Alaska.

Thirteen of the rivers are within national park units and are administered by the National Park Service. Six rivers fall within national wildlife refuges and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The remaining six rivers are outside a park or refuge and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Each classification, ("wild," "scenic" or "recreational"), represents a different management approach and defines the type of Federally-funded development which may be allowed along the river. Almost no development is permitted on a wild river, moderate development may be authorized along a scenic river, and more intensive development is allowed along a recreational river.

A national river may not be impounded by construction of a dam; the river, or part of a river, must remain free-flowing. The Federal river designations ensure continued access for public use along these waterways. Other development limitations along these rivers apply only to Federal lands or Federally-funded projects.

Subsistence, sport and commercial hunting, fishing and trapping are not affected by national river classifications. Those uses can continue as usual along and on these rivers, subject to State and Federal regulations

for the area. Of course, no sport hunting is allowed along one of these rivers inside a national park.

Snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes and dog teams may be used on wild, scenic or recreational rivers. See the article on these kinds of travel on page 5.

Designated in total or in part as wild rivers are the: Alagnak, Alatna, Andreafsky, Aniachak, Beaver Creek, Birch Creek, Charley, Chilikadrotna, Delta, Fortymile, Gulkana, Ivishak, John, Kobuk, North Fork of the Koyukuk, Mulchatna, Noatak, Nowitna, Salmon, Selawik, Sheenjek, Tinayguk, Tlikakila, and Unalakleet.

A segment of the Fortymile River will be administered as a scenic river, and other segments of the Fortymile and a segment of the Delta River will be administered as recreational rivers.

A management plan for each of the twenty-five rivers must be completed by December 2, 1983, or in conjunction with management plans for the park or refuge in which the river is located.

The Alaska Lands Act also requires the Federal government to study the following rivers for possible addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: Colville, Etivluk-Nigu, Utukok, Kanektok, Kisaralik, Mejoztina, Sheenjek (lower segment), Situk, Porcupine, Yukon (Ramparts section), Squirrel and Koyuk.

Studies and reports for these rivers must be completed by December 2, 1983. Congress will make the final decision on their status.