

HJR

52

**HOME**

Recent  
Developments

What is the  
Initiative?

Milestones

Frequently  
Asked  
Questions

Nominating  
Your River

Your River &  
Its Watershed

Services

Contacts

# AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS



## American Heritage River Nominations Received, 1997 22 December 1997

### ALABAMA

Cahaba River  
Chattahoochee River  
Coosa River

### ARKANSAS

Arkansas River (two  
applications)  
Ouachita River

### COLORADO

Gunnison River (north fork)  
South Platte River  
Arkansas River

### DELAWARE

Broad Creek  
Delaware River

### FLORIDA

### ARIZONA

Santa Cruz River

### CALIFORNIA

Gualala River (Nomination  
withdrawn)  
Lower American River  
San Joaquin River  
San Luis Rey River  
Santa Clara River  
Santa Rosa Creek

### CONNECTICUT

Mianus River  
Connecticut River

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Anacostia River  
Potomac River

### GEORGIA

Choctawhatchee River  
 Everglades  
 St. Johns River  
 St. Lucie River

**HAWAII**

Hanalei River

**ILLINOIS**

Chicago-Illinois River  
 Mississippi River (in  
 Dubuque)  
 Kaskaskia River  
 Ohio River  
 Upper Mississippi River  
 (two applications)

**IOWA**

Cedar River  
 Mississippi River (in  
 Dubuque)  
 Missouri River (two  
 applications)

**KENTUCKY**

Licking River  
 Ohio River (two  
 applications)

**MARYLAND**

Anacostia River  
 Lower Susquehanna River  
 Patuxent River  
 Potomac River

**MICHIGAN**

Chattahoochee River  
 Coosa River  
 Savannah River

**IDAHO**

Clearwater River

**INDIANA**

Ohio River  
 Ohio River-Pigeon Creek  
 St. Joseph River

**KANSAS**

Arkansas River  
 Missouri River

**LOUISIANA**

Lower Mississippi River  
 Ouachita River

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Acushnet River  
 Blackstone-  
 Woonasquatucket River  
 Connecticut River  
 Merrimack River  
 Mystic River  
 South River  
 Taunton River  
 Westfield River  
 Winnepesaukee River

**MINNESOTA**

Detroit River  
 Grand River  
 Kalamazoo River  
 Muskegon River  
 St. Joseph River  
 St. Mary's River

Minnesota River  
 Mississippi River-  
 (Minneapolis-St. Paul)  
 St. Louis River  
 Upper Mississippi River

**MISSOURI**

**MONTANA**

Cold Water Creek  
 Missouri River  
 Osage River  
 Upper Mississippi River

Clearwater River  
 Missouri River  
 Yellowstone River

**NEBRASKA**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Missouri River

Connecticut River  
 Cocheco River  
 Merrimack River  
 Winnepesaukee--  
 Merrimack River

**NEW JERSEY**

**NEW MEXICO**

Delaware River  
 Passaic River  
 Rahway River  
 Raritan River

Rio Grande River  
 San Juan River,  
 Morning Water Child

**NEW YORK**

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Allegheny River  
 Beaverkill River  
 Boquet River  
 Bronx River  
 Buffalo River  
 Delaware River  
 Genesee River  
 Hudson River  
 Hudson River (at Sleepy  
 Hollow)  
 Mianus River  
 Niagara River

French Broad River  
 Lower Cape Fear River  
 Lower Neuse River  
 Lower Roanoke River  
 New River  
 Savannah River  
 Yadkin/Pee-Dee River

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**OHIO**

Missouri River  
 Yellowstone River

Black River  
 Cuyahoga River

Great Miami River  
Mahoning River  
Maumee River  
Mill Creek  
Muskingum River  
Ohio River (two applications)

**OKLAHOMA**

Arkansas River

**OREGON**

Columbia River (in Columbia  
County)  
Willamette River

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Allegheny River  
Delaware River  
Genesee River  
Lehigh River  
Ohio River  
Potomac River  
Rivers of Steel  
Schuylkill River  
Swatara Creek  
Upper Susquehanna--  
Lackawanna Watershed

**RHODE ISLAND**

Blackstone--  
Woonasquatucket River

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Black River  
Broad-Lower Saluda--  
Congaree Rivers  
Cooper River  
Edisto River  
Savannah River  
Waccamaw River

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Missouri River

**TENNESSEE**

Cumberland River  
French Broad River  
Mississippi River (at  
Memphis)  
Tennessee River (at  
Chattanooga)  
Tennessee River (in Decatur  
county)

**TEXAS**

Brazos River  
Rio Grande River  
Rio Grande River (at  
Brownsville)  
Sabine River  
San Antonio River

**UTAH**

Jordan River  
San Juan River - Morning Water Child

**VERMONT**

Connecticut River

**VIRGINIA**

James River  
Levisa River  
New River  
Potomac River  
Rappahannock River  
Tripps Run

**WASHINGTON**

Puyallup River  
Snohomish River

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Cheat River  
Kanawha River  
New River  
Ohio River  
Potomac River

**WISCONSIN**

Mississippi River (in  
Dubuque)  
Fox River  
Milwaukee River Basin  
Rock River  
Upper Mississippi River  
Wolf River

**WYOMING**

Yellowstone River



[Email your suggestions](mailto:)

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/rivers/nominees.html>  
Revised January 16, 1998

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
JEANNETTE JAMES

P O Box 56622  
North Pole, Alaska 99705  
(907) 488-1546  
FAX (907) 488-427



White in Juneau  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182  
(907) 465-3743  
FAX (907) 465-228

## House Of Representatives

House District 34

---

### AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### Representative Jeannette James

HJR 52: Relating to opposition to the designation of any rivers in Alaska as American Heritage Rivers under the American Heritage Rivers initiative.

Many of you will be wondering, "What is the American Heritage River initiative?" It has not been a widely publicized program. President Clinton first announced it on February 4, 1997 in his State of the Union message. Then in May and September there were announcements in the Federal Register. Since his State of the Union message President Clinton issued Executive Order 13061 directing agencies to establish and implement the initiative.

The program has two objectives: (1) to enhance our citizens' enjoyment of the historic, cultural, recreational, economic and environmental value of our rivers and (2) to protect the health of our communities by delivering federal resources more effectively and efficient. The President's purpose is to support communities within existing laws and regulations by providing them with better information, tools and resources, and encouraging local efforts deserving of special recognition.

We wonder. It all sounds very good, and quite innocent, just like so many federal Acts and Initiatives in the past. They all seem innocent and even beneficial until they begin touching the lives and rights of real people.

For instance, it was a false promise when people were told there is a self-defense provision in the Endangered Species Act.

- John Shuler of Montana killed grizzly bear after it attacked him late one night. Federal officials rendered the "self-defense" provision a nullity saying that Mr. Shuler was at fault for going into the "zone of imminent danger." That zone happened to be his own back yard.

It was another false promise when they adopted Wilderness legislation saying that there was a provision for the protection of "valid existing rights." The promise was that no private land would be taken into wilderness areas without the consent of the owner, that only federal land would

become wilderness, and that no buffer zones would be created. Not so, according to Kathy Stupak-Thrall of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

- Kathy Stupak-Thrall has been compelled to fight government attorneys who say the provisions have no meaning, or they do not apply to her private property and her "valid existing rights." These lawyers say that Congress didn't know what the language of the phrase "valid existing rights" meant. Therefore, they can interpret it any way they wish.

I would say there is good reason for the distress throughout our country regarding the President's American Rivers proposal, particularly with an attitude like that driving government attorneys. The American people are not stupid. They are well aware that a legacy of betrayals and broken promises are attached to these types of well-intentioned, pleasant sounding, feel-good programs.

For this reason, many states are joining with U.S. Representative Helen Chenoweth of Idaho who has introduced legislation asking for the complete withdrawal of the initiative. There are three major areas of concern: 1) the lack of congressional approval, 2) the vague language and absence of definitions, and the excess federal control over private property and state water rights. As a sovereign state, it also conflicts with our rights to control and manage our navigable waters.

One important point is that congress should be making rules and regulations Respecting Federal lands and resources, not the president or his appointees. We are again faced with the President stepping beyond the boundaries of his office. As Chenoweth stated in a press release after a House Resources Committee meeting:

"We are doing things exactly backwards here today. Instead of Congress making the proposal and the Administration commenting on it, we are actually in a position today of taking testimony not on the creation of a new program, but on how to stop it."

In addition, there is no justification of the need for such an initiative, and the details of the initiative are insufficient. It does not include any details on how the cleanup will be accomplished, what will actually be done, or who will do the work. Allowing more time for the public process is another concern. As it is, there has not been sufficient time for reviews and comments by the public on the initiative. Some people believe it is another intrusion of the federal government and a way to get control of all our lands. To protect our sovereignty this initiative must be stopped. I urge you now to vote yes on this legislation.