

Exhibit E

Criteria for Eligibility and Classification of South Carolina State Scenic Rivers

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Scenic Rivers Program

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Introduction

The South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act in Section 49-29-70 says eligible rivers for State Scenic River designation must possess unique or outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, botanical, fish, wildlife, historic, or cultural values. To determine if a proposed river or river segment possesses any or all of these characteristics, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) conducts a study to assess the river's eligibility and classification under the Scenic Rivers Program. The study of scenic river eligibility considers a geographic area referred to as a "river corridor" which includes the riverine-aquatic environments and the adjacent riparian-wetland-terrestrial environments associated with rivers.

Eligibility Criteria for South Carolina Scenic Rivers

The following list presents a description of criteria used by the SCDNR for evaluating the eligibility of rivers in South Carolina for designation as State Scenic Rivers.

Land Use and Ownership Patterns

Land use and ownership patterns affect the character and quality of rivers and present different management alternatives for the Scenic Rivers Program. Land use and ownership patterns can be important factors affecting scenic quality, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

Two measures of land use on the river are taken: First, the acreages of general land use categories within the river corridor are measured (corridor defined by at least one-half mile on either side of river channel). Second, the river mileage that is visually affected by human development is estimated and compared to the river mileage that remains visually natural.

Ownership patterns are assessed by considering the size and distribution of land parcels along the river or within a defined river corridor.

Note: Land use conditions in the river corridor are the determining factor for how a river is classified within State Scenic River Program. After the river is determined eligible, it is classified according to the category (natural, scenic, or recreational rivers per Section 49-29-40) that best fits each eligible river segment. Classification is based on the degree of naturalness and

extent of development on the river and adjacent lands at the time of the study.

Scenic Characteristics

Evaluating the scenic resources of a river involves consideration of the overall impression created by characteristics such as landforms, vegetative diversity, natural colors in the landscape, diversity of views, human effects, and special features considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a scenic resource.

The inventory of land use and human development, described above, is considered for scenic characteristics; in particular, a comparison of river miles visually affected by human development versus river miles that remain visually natural is a measure related to scenic character.

Recreational Values

The recreational values are assessed by considering the importance of existing and potential recreational uses of the river and adjacent lands, and features considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a recreational resource. Other factors considered are river access facilities and proximity to population centers. Recreation information sources include the South Carolina Rivers Assessment, SCDNR creel surveys, SCPRT's SC Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) and related surveys, river guide books, local outfitters and county recreation officials.

Geological Resources

The geologic resources of interest on scenic rivers are features, processes, or phenomena that are considered unique, outstanding, or notable. These could include features of rare or unusual geologic composition or appearance, such as waterfalls, bluffs, unusual rock formations and outcrops, or river features/formations such as oxbow lakes and braided channels.

Botanical Values

Botanical values are assessed by considering the natural communities and species that exist within the river corridor. The extent of high quality natural communities, communities of special significance, such as unusual or diverse plant communities, and threatened or endangered species habitat are considered.

Fish and Wildlife Values

Fish and wildlife values are assessed by considering the habitat qualities and wildlife populations in the river corridor. Habitats of special significance for both game and non-game species, habitats for threatened or endangered species, and the abundance and diversity of habitats and species are considered.

Historic and Cultural Values

The historic and cultural values of the river are assessed by considering the importance of

historical and prehistorical events, uses, structures, and artifacts and other features of the river corridor that may be considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a historic or cultural resource.

Water Quality

To assess water quality, the river's water classification, water quality trends, and related water quality problems are considered. The water quality in scenic rivers should meet or exceed the relevant state water quality standards.

Streamflow

To assess streamflow, the issues of minimum flow, navigation, and natural stream conditions are considered. There should be a sufficient flow during normal rain years to support the traditional instream uses and expected aquatic-life uses of the stream. The impact of dams and water diversions on stream flow should be considered. When navigational use is important, the streamflow should be sufficient for safe navigation.

Classification of State Scenic Rivers

After a river is determined to be eligible for State Scenic River designation, it is classified as *natural*, *scenic*, or *recreational*, according to the type(s) that best fit the river; one or more classification types may be determined along the length of a given river. Land use conditions are the determining factor for how a river is classified within State Scenic River Program.

Classification is based on the degree of naturalness and extent of development on the river and adjacent lands at the time of the study. The general descriptions for the three river classifications are as follows:

- *Natural rivers* -- free flowing (without impoundment, diversion, or other modification to the waterway), generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with essentially undeveloped shorelines and unpolluted waters.
- *Scenic rivers* -- essentially free flowing with largely undeveloped shorelines and limited road access; adjacent lands are used for dispersed human activities, such as agriculture, silviculture, and others, which do not disturb the natural character of the river.
- *Recreational rivers* -- have more access and development along the shoreline and should possess outstanding river-related recreational opportunities.