

St. Marys River

Wild and Scenic River Study

Florida and Georgia



Final Report
March 1995

Southeast Regional Office

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Color Scans

5/29/2003

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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FORWARD

The National Park Service finds the St. Marys River to be eligible but not suitable for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System at this time.

Throughout the study some local citizens and government officials have strongly opposed any form of Federal designation. To support this position the St. Marys River Management Committee has been established and an Interlocal Management Agreement signed by the four counties bordering the river. Following review of the draft Wild and Scenic Study Report, the County Commission of each of the four border counties formally opposed designation. In contrast, both the State of Georgia and the State of Florida supported designation with some form of local management.

The National Park Service feels that the designation of the St. Marys River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is vital to assure that the river's natural, cultural, and scenic resources are protected for the enjoyment of future generations. The preferred alternative presented in this report calls for national designation with local management assisted by state and Federal entities as appropriate. The Service does not believe the St. Marys River Management Commission has the long term commitment or the financial resources necessary to assure permanent protection of the St. Marys River. Oversight and appropriate assistance from state and Federal sources are needed to overcome the normal pressures from development and subsequent degradation of the quality of the river's resources. However, the lack of local political support for designation makes the St. Marys River unsuitable for designation at this time.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	7
II.	BACKGROUND	11
	Introduction	
	Study Area	
	Study Process	
III.	EVALUATION	15
	Eligibility	
	Classification	
	Suitability	
IV.	THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT	31
	Location and Recreational Access	
	Demographics	
	Landownership and Use	
	Natural Resources	
	Recreation Resources	
	Cultural Resources	
V.	SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROTECTION	47
	Federal Programs and Lands	
	State Programs and Lands	
	Local Zoning and Permitting	
	Voluntary Private Landowner Protection	
	Overall Corridor Protection	
VI.	SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	59
VII.	ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS	63
VIII.	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES	69
IX.	LIST OF STUDY PREPARERS AND PARTICIPANTS	75
	REFERENCES	79

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Table A-1.	Fishes of the St. Marys River Basin	
Table A-2.	Amphibians and Reptiles of the St. Marys River Basin	
Table A-3.	Probable Breeding Birds of the St. Marys River Basin	
Table A-4.	Mammals of the St. Marys River Basin	

APPENDIX B

Introductory Brochure

APPENDIX C

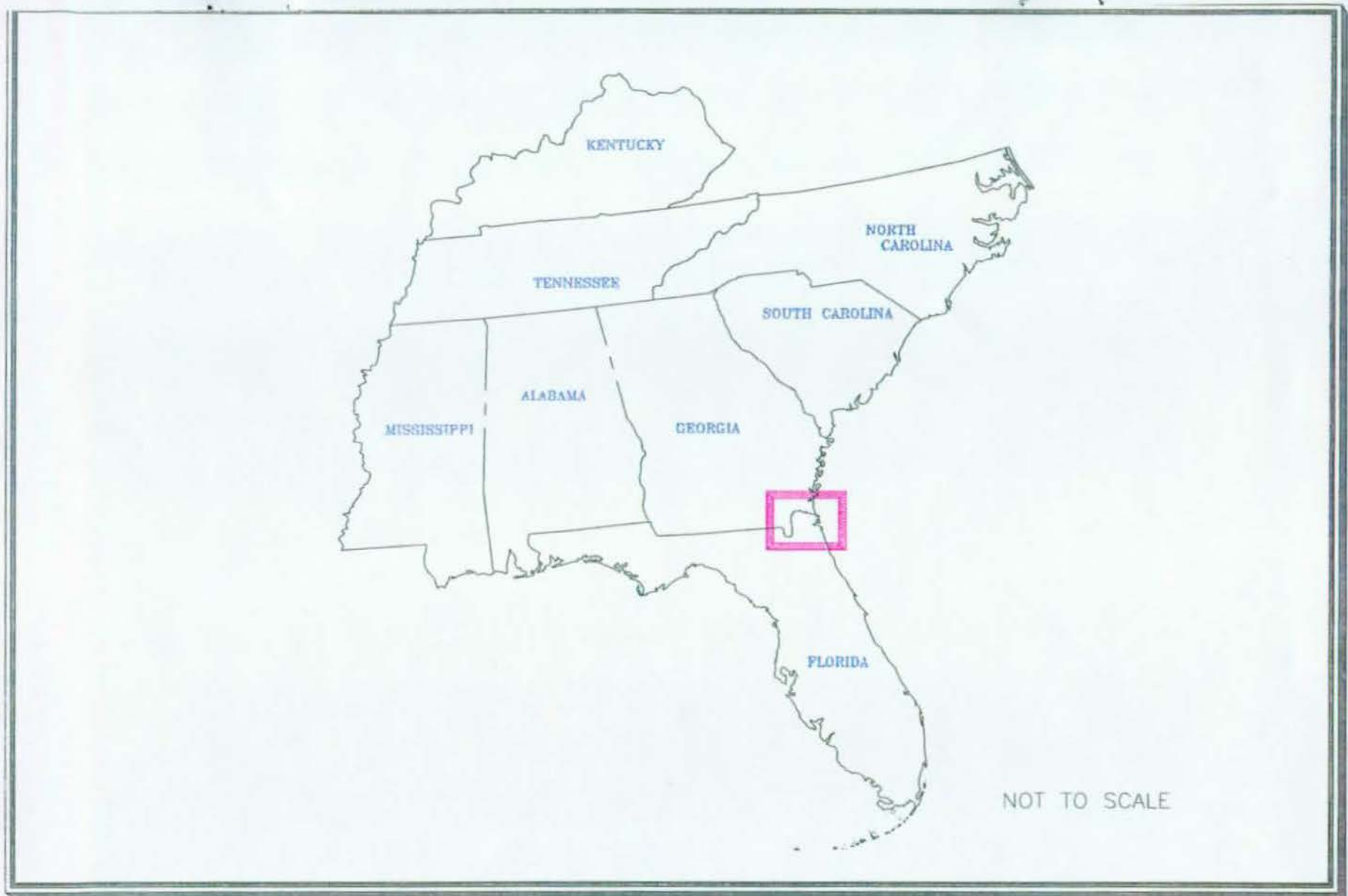
"St. Marys River Study - Preliminary Eligibility
Determination"

APPENDIX D

Public and Agency Response to "St. Marys River Wild and Scenic
River Study - Draft Report"

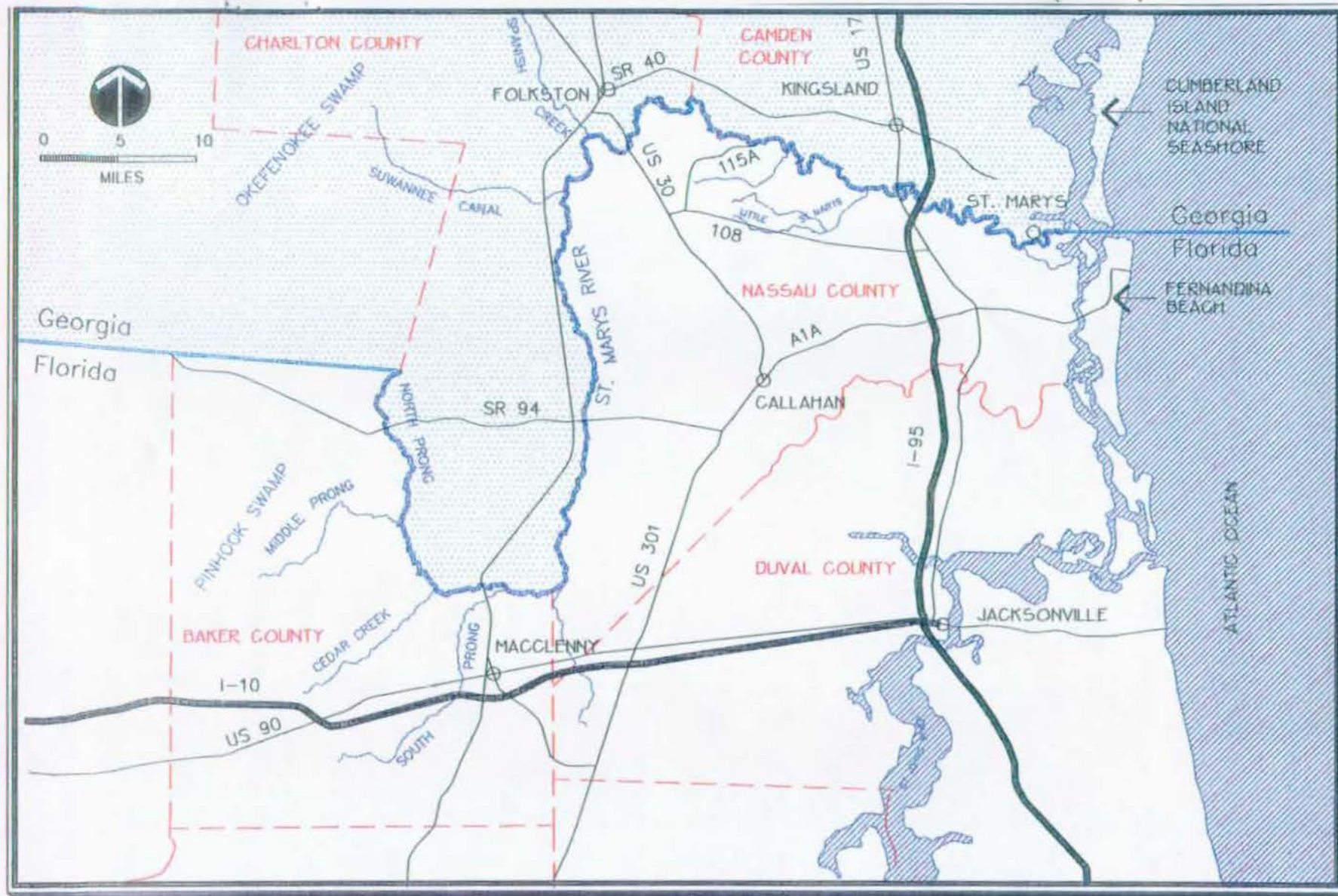
TABLES AND MATRICES

Evaluation Matrix of Lower Segment	20
Evaluation Matrix of Middle Segment	21
Evaluation Matrix of Upper Segment	22
Table 1. Partial Listing - National River Inventory Development Values	19
Table 2. NPDES Dischargers in the St. Marys River Basin	34
Table 3. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Vertebrate Animals of the St. Marys River Basin	37, 38
Table 4. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of the St. Marys River Basin	39
Table 5. Crossings and Built Features For Recreational Access	41
Table 6. Agencies, Responsibilities, and Legislation that Impact Land Use in the St. Marys River Basin	51, 52
Table 7. Resource Protection Programs Available in Florida and Georgia	55
Table 8. Regulation of Wetland Alteration Activities	56



ST. MARYS RIVER LOCATION MAP

ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE



ST. MARYS RIVER — Area Map

ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE



I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study was undertaken at the direction of the Congress to determine the potential of the St. Marys River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The 126 mile long St. Marys River is located in southeast Georgia and northeast Florida. The river flows through Camden and Charlton Counties in Georgia and Nassau and Baker Counties in Florida and forms the border between the two states for approximately 125 miles. The study area included the river from the headwaters of the North Prong of the St. Marys River at river mile 125.8 downstream to the confluence of Bells River at river mile 12. It was found that the river is free-flowing and has "outstandingly remarkable" characteristics which make it eligible for national designation from its beginning at the confluence of the North and Middle Prongs downstream to its confluence with Bells River, a total length of approximately 101.8 river miles.

The eligible portion of the river was divided into the following segments for purposes of classification:

<u>Beginning of Segment</u>	<u>End of Segment</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Confluence of N. Prong and Middle Prong (RM 113.8)	Trader's Hill (RM 59)	Scenic
Trader's Hill (RM 59)	Approx. 1 mi. downstream of U.S. 301 crossing (RM 55)	Recreational
Approx. 1 mi. downstream of U.S. 301 crossing (RM 55)	Approx. 1 mi. upstream of Flea Hill (RM 42)	Scenic
Approximately 1 mi. upstream of Flea Hill (RM 42)	Confluence of Bells River and St. Marys (RM 12)	Recreational

Four alternatives were developed and are presented under Section VII. Alternatives and Conclusions. These include 1. No Action/Existing Trends; 2. Designation with National Park Service management; 3. Designation with cooperative Georgia/Florida state management; 4. Designation with special legislation to allow local management by a local river management council.

Alternative 4 was the recommended alternative in the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study - Draft Report which was sent out for public comment. It involved designation of the approximately 71.8 miles of the St. Marys River from the North and Middle Prong confluence to approximately 1 mile upstream of Flea Hill as a locally managed component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.



II. BACKGROUND

II. BACKGROUND

Introduction

Beginning with our early days of settlement, Americans have viewed our nation's abundance of rivers as a vast resource. After decades of harnessing our rivers for growth and development, our environmental conscience was awakened in the 1960s to the fact that clean, natural waterways are not in endless supply. Congress, acting upon this growing public concern, passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) in 1968. This Act recognizes the value of rivers and their environs as outstanding natural treasures that must be protected for the enjoyment of future generations. Several rivers were designated for immediate protection and additional rivers were authorized for study as potential components of the Federally protected system. Through the years Congress has responded to the desires of the citizenry by amending the Act to either designate or authorize study of additional rivers. In 1990 Congress passed Public Law 101-364, which authorized the National Park Service (NPS) to study the St. Marys River (Georgia and Florida) to determine if it qualifies and is suitable for National Wild and Scenic River status.

Study Area

The St. Marys River Basin drains an area of approximately 1,500 square miles of the coastal plains of southeast Georgia and northeast Florida. Of the total, approximately 540 square miles are located in Georgia and 960 square miles are located in Florida. The headwaters of both the St. Marys River and Suwannee River originate in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. Delineation of the St.

Marys River and Suwannee River watersheds in the Okefenokee Swamp is difficult.

The North Prong of the St. Marys River leaves the Okefenokee Swamp near Baxter, Florida and flows in a southerly direction to where it joins the Middle Prong of the St. Marys River, forming the St. Marys River.

The St. Marys River continues in a southerly direction and joins the South Prong of the St. Marys River near Macclenny, Florida. It is in this area where the river cuts through Trail Ridge (a Pleistocene relict barrier) and then flows in a northerly direction to Folkston, Georgia. The stream flows in an easterly direction from Folkston to the Cumberland Sound near the town of St. Marys, Georgia. The St. Marys River forms the boundary between the States of Georgia and Florida.

The topography of the drainage basin is relatively flat with poor drainage conditions. Overland slopes range from 4 percent along Trail Ridge to less than 0.1 percent at the Okefenokee Swamp and the mouth of the St. Marys River. Elevations in the watershed range from over 170 feet mean sea level (msl) at the crest of Trail Ridge to msl at the tidally influenced Cumberland Sound. The soil composition of the basin is primarily sandy loam.

The St. Marys River corridor is heavily canopied, with southern blackwater river swamp communities and southern pine woodlands on the sand ridges. The pine woodlands are extensively managed as timber farms and are quite dominant in the watershed. Pine woodlands come down to the river bank in a number of areas affecting erosion of the sand banks. Development

influences within the corridor occur mostly near the communities of Folkston, St. Marys, and Kingston, Georgia. Special features within the corridor include the St. Marys River and its excellent blackwater, white sand bar riverscape; the large areas of wooded waterscape; the coastal marsh and delta area; the swollen-based swamp communities; the sand ridge communities; the tributary swamps and creeks; and the large number of historic settlements along the river such as Trader's Hill and Camp Pickney.

The river is home to typical Coastal Plains fauna such as raccoon, deer, mice, dove, quail, various bats, fox, bobcat shrew, and moles. As on all coastal plain rivers, the reptiles and amphibians are abundant. The Eastern box turtle, Eastern painted turtle, spotted turtle, and mud turtle are found along with various frogs and salamanders. Some of the snakes include the brown water snake, banded water snake, hognose snake, rat snake, corn snake and pigmy rattlesnake.

Vultures, hawks, mallards, woodcocks, woodpeckers, egrets, ibises, and grackles are a few of the birds present. The redbreast sunfish, channel catfish, bullhead catfish, and the spotted sucker are all found in fairly large numbers. Tables A-1 through A-4 in Appendix A list additional species present in the St. Marys River Basin.

Tree farming is an active land use, with the area being nearly totally forested. The majority of the forest land within the corridor is managed for its timber production. The managed areas are clearly evident with their monoculture stands of pines.

With very few crossings, excellent water quality, and natural beauty, the St. Marys corridor is unusual in its relatively pristine environmental condition.

Study Process

In January 1991, the NPS began evaluating the river's natural resource values and assessing the local interest in a river protection plan. The study team gathered information about the river's natural resources, held public meetings, and studied the river by land, boat and airplane in order to make a determination of the river's eligibility for National Wild and Scenic River designation. A number of protection alternatives were considered for making recommendations to Congress concerning the river's future protection and suitability for designation.

The County Commission Chairman in each of the four study area counties was asked in August 1991 to suggest local representatives to serve on a study advisory group to assist the study team. The concept of a local management committee had previously been suggested by local interests at the Congressional sub-committee hearings on the study authorization. The St. Marys River Management Committee was subsequently established and began monthly meetings in November 1991. This group decided that their primary goal would be to gain an understanding of existing Federal, state and local regulations affecting the St. Marys River, and to determine what additional local actions would be needed to assure protection of the river's resources. A number of the representatives on this committee openly opposed Federal involvement in the river's future protection. A second local citizens group, Friends of the St. Marys River, was formed in January 1992 by environmental interest in south Georgia and north Florida for the sole purpose of promoting national wild and scenic river designation for the St. Marys River. Representatives of both groups were asked to review and comment on sections of this draft study report during its preparation to assure that the plans and alternatives developed by the study team reflect local ideas and interests.



III. EVALUATION

III. EVALUATION

Eligibility:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that in order for a river to be eligible for designation, it must be free-flowing and must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

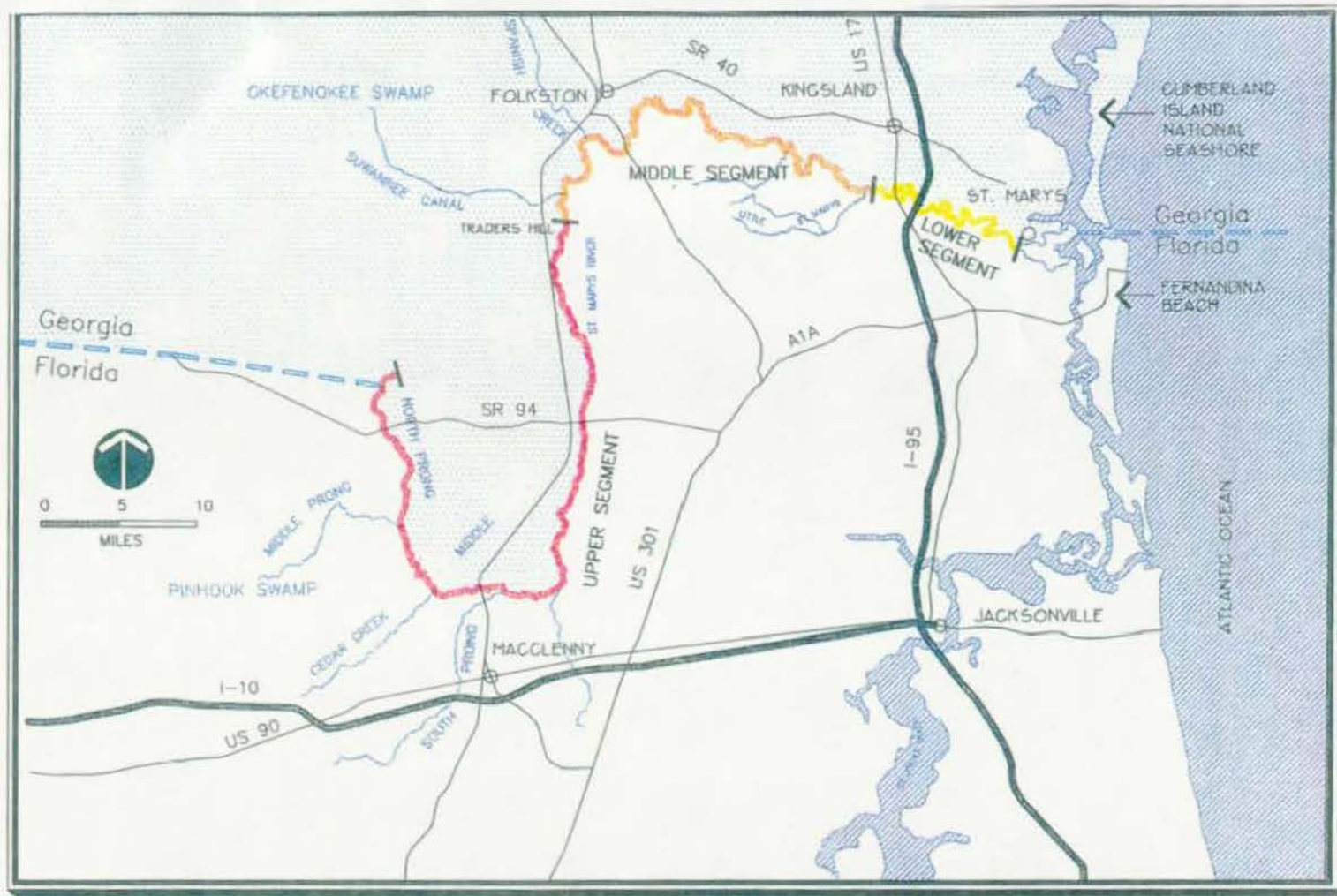
The St. Marys River has three distinct natural zones along its course. In order to treat each zone equally, the river was divided into three segments and each segment was evaluated separately. The map on page 17 shows the approximate location of the "lower," "middle" and "upper" segments of the river. The lower segment includes approximately 18 river miles (RMs), from the Bells River confluence (RM 12) to approximately 3 RMs above the U.S. Highway 17 bridge crossing (RM 27). This lower segment is tidal and represents a coastal estuary environment.

The middle segment includes approximately 29 RMs, from the upper limit of the middle segment (RM 30 in the vicinity of White Oak Plantation) to approximately RM 59 in the vicinity of Trader's Hill. This segment has tidal influence, with the river channel becoming more defined and the shoreline vegetation changing

character from marsh land to typical wetland vegetation and extensive bald cypress and blackgum swamp forest.

The upper segment includes approximately 66 RMs, from the upper limit of the middle segment to approximately RM 125 at the headwaters of the North Prong in the Okefenokee Swamp. Due to public request during the course of the study, approximately 12 RMs of the Middle Prong was also evaluated jointly by the NPS and the U.S. Forest Service. The Middle Prong is entirely within the State of Florida, Baker County, and partially within the Ocala National Forest. The upper segment contains a mixture of slash and loblolly pines and various oaks. Narrow sloughs and depressions contain typical bald cypress and ogeeche tupelo floodplain swamp vegetation.

The results of these eligibility evaluations indicate that the lower section, middle section and the upper section upstream to the confluence of the Middle Prong and the North Prong have "outstandingly remarkable" values that qualify these sections for national designation. The North Prong was found not to have any "outstandingly remarkable" values and therefore is considered ineligible for designation.



ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION SEGMENTS

ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH



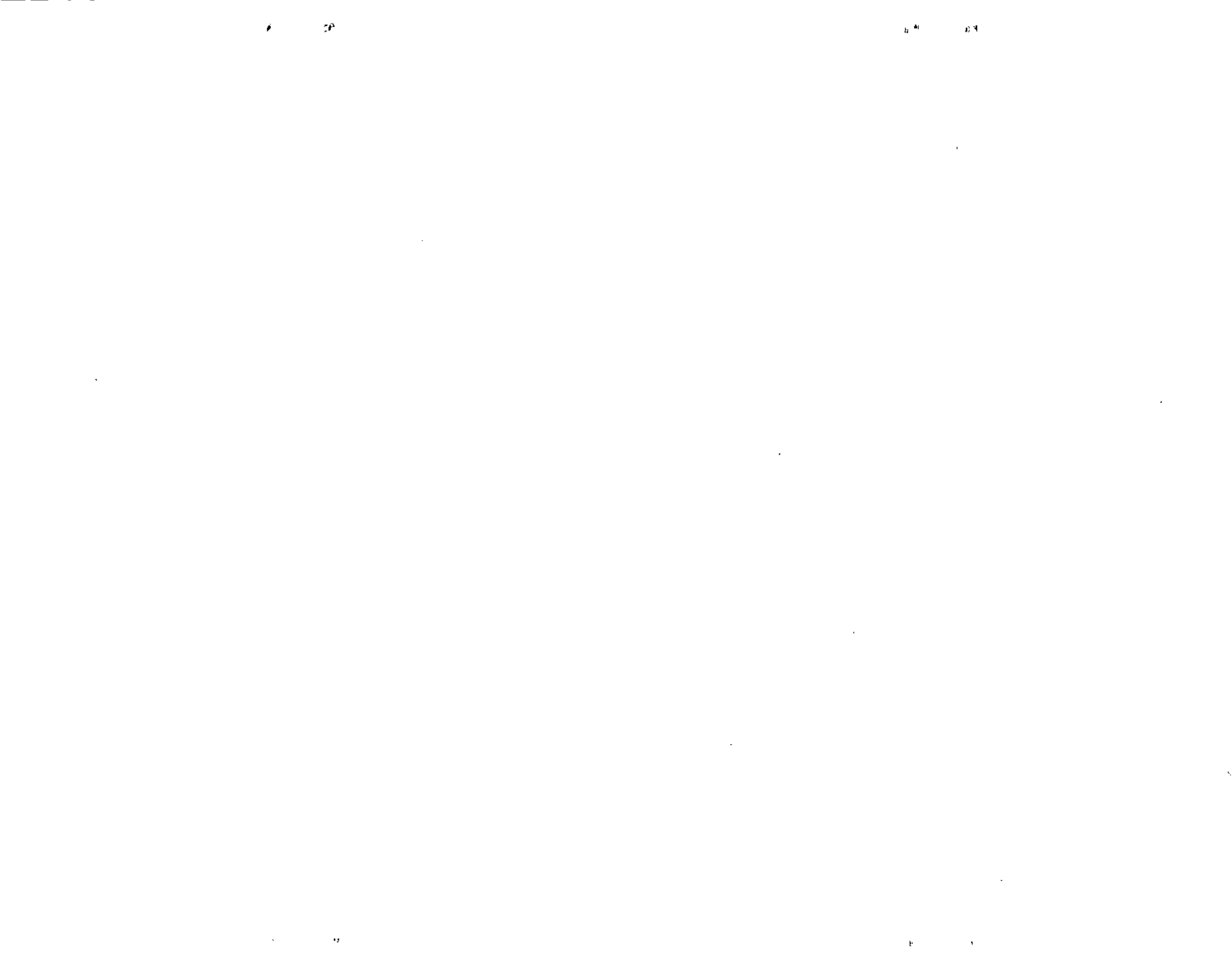
UPPER SEGMENT



MIDDLE SEGMENT



LOWER SEGMENT



Classification:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act further requires the St. Marys River Study to indicate the appropriate classification should the river be designated. Rivers are classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational, depending on the river's degree of natural character.

The classification categories are defined as follows:

Wild river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Each segment of the river was evaluated against criteria listed on the matrices on pages 20, 21, and 22 and by using the river corridor development criteria developed by the Department of the Interior during the "Nationwide Rivers Inventory", (NRI) published in 1982.

Table 1, lists examples of development criteria point values used for evaluating development in the NRI. The recommended river classifications for the St. Marys River are indicated on the map on page 23.

TABLE 1

Partial Listing - National River Inventory (NRI) Development Values

Disqualifiers

Airport, large
Canal, parallel active
City, over 10,000 population
Dump, large
Factory, active
Gas/oil field
Mine, strip active
Power plant
Industrial area
Bridges
6 Graded dirt road
20 Paved road
40 Paved 4-lane road
15 Railroad
10 Unpaved all-weather road

Roads

9 Graded dirt parallel
10 Paved ending/enchroachment
30 Paved parallel
75 Paved 4-lane parallel
3 Primitive parallel
5 Unpaved ending/enchroaching

Structures

40 Business	75 Sand and gravel pit
10 Barn	40 Sawmill, small
7 Cabin	40 Sewage plant
15 Cemetery	25 Storage tank, water
25 Church	30 Store, country
30 Country Club	30 Swimming pool
30 Dairy	75 Town, 500-9,999 population
8 Dwelling	10 Ramp, paved boat
20 Garbage dump	7 Park, wayside
50 Junkyard	10 Picnic area
30 Marina	40 Motel
40 Trailer Park	

EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE LOWER SEGMENT ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA

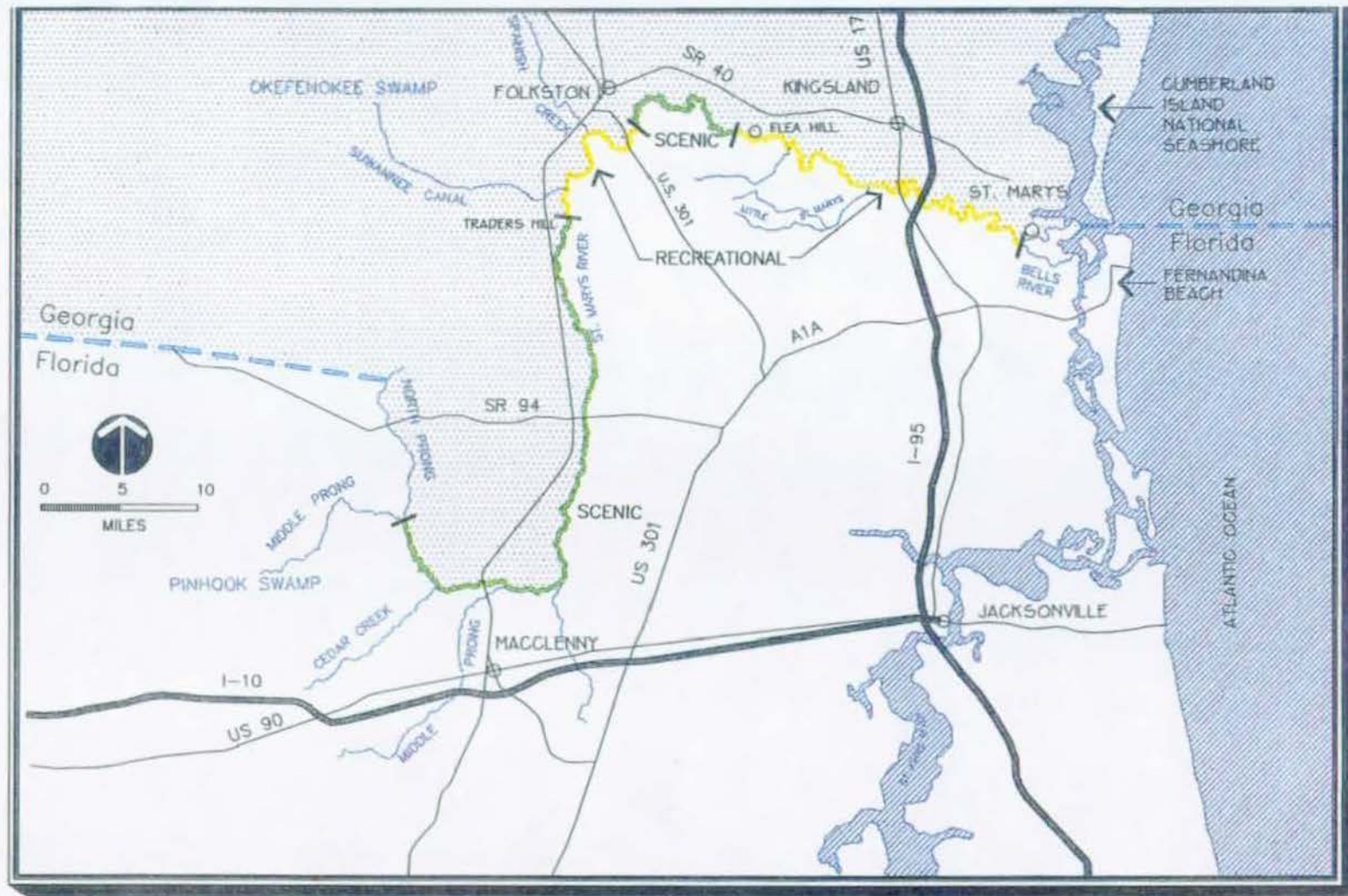
VALUE	MINIMAL	COMMON	DISTINCTIVE
SCENIC			
Landform	- Little variety	X Not unusual	- Complex, unusual
Rock Features	X Lacking	- Not unusual	- Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	- Homogeneous	X Some diversity	- Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	- Flow distracts	X Flow sustains	- Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	X Distractive	- Noticeable	- Unimposing
Degree of Relief	- Minimum	X Moderate	- Large
Clarity of Water	- Unclear, constant	- Seasonally turbid	X Mostly clear
Water Falls	X Lacking	- Small, unimpressive	- Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Picnicking	- Undesirable	X Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	- Lacking	X Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	- Sporadic	X 1-2 seasons	- 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	- Few opportunities	- Expected species	X Unusual species, high variety
Class/Difficulty	X Beginner (I-II)	- Intermediate (II-IV)	- Difficult (I-VI)
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	- Unexposed	X Opportunity for study	- Encourages study
Caves	X None identified	- Present, typical	- Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	- Small variety	X Mod. variety, typical, expected	- Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	X Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	X Typical, representative	- Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Natl Register Sites	- Unlikely	X Unsurveyed/potential	- Present/homonated
Preserved Sites	- Unlikely	X Unsurveyed/potential	- Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	X Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	X Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	X Unique in occurrence/quality

**EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE MIDDLE SEGMENT
ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA**

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>MINIMAL</u>	<u>COMMON</u>	<u>DISTINCTIVE</u>
SCENIC			
Landform	- Little variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not unusual	- Complex, unusual
Rock Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Not unusual	- Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	- Homogeneous	- Some diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	- Flow distracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow sustains	- Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distractive	- Noticeable	- Unimposing
Degree of Relief	- Minimum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	- Large
Clarity of Water	- Unclear, constant	- Seasonally turbid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mostly clear
Water Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Small, unimpressive	- Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Picnicking	- Undesirable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	- Lacking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	- Sporadic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 seasons	- 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	- Few opportunities	- Expected species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unusual species, high variety
Class/Difficulty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beginner (I-III)	- Intermediate (I-IV)	- Difficult (I-VI)
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	- Unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for study	- Encourages study
Caves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None identified	- Present, typical	- Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	- Small variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod. variety, typical, expected	- Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical, representative	- Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Nat'l Register Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present/nominated
Preserved Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique in occurrence/quality

**EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE UPPER SEGMENT
ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA**

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>MINIMAL</u>	<u>COMMON</u>	<u>DISTINCTIVE</u>
SCENIC			
Landform	<input type="checkbox"/> Little variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not unusual	<input type="checkbox"/> Complex, unusual
Rock Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	<input type="checkbox"/> Not unusual	<input type="checkbox"/> Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Homogeneous	<input type="checkbox"/> Some diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow distracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow sustains	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Distractive	<input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unimposing
Degree of Relief	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Large
Clarity of Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear, constant	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonally turbid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mostly clear
Water Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	<input type="checkbox"/> Small, unimpressive	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Undesirable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	<input type="checkbox"/> Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	<input type="checkbox"/> Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	<input type="checkbox"/> Sporadic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Few opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Expected species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unusual species, high variety
Floatability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-3 months/year	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-6 months/year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-12 months/year
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for study	<input type="checkbox"/> Encourages study
Caves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None identified	<input type="checkbox"/> Present, typical	<input type="checkbox"/> Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Small variety	<input type="checkbox"/> Mod. variety, typical, expected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	<input type="checkbox"/> Ubiquitous species	<input type="checkbox"/> Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem degraded, mundane	<input type="checkbox"/> Typical, representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Nat'l Register Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Present/nominated
Preserved Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Small variety	<input type="checkbox"/> Mod. variety, typical, expected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	<input type="checkbox"/> Ubiquitous species	<input type="checkbox"/> Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem degraded, mundane	<input type="checkbox"/> Typical, representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique in occurrence/quality



RIVER CLASSIFICATION

ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH



SCENIC



RECREATIONAL

Suitability:

In order for a river to be recommended for National Wild and Scenic River designation, it must be both eligible and suitable. An array of alternatives was developed for public discussion and consideration in order to determine if the river was "suitable" for designation. Alternatives considered include a "no action" alternative, national designation with National Park Service management, national designation with joint management by the States of Florida and Georgia, and national designation with management by local council created specifically for this purpose. A brief description of each alternative considered follows:

Alternative A - No Action/Existing Trends

Under this alternative no action would be taken by Federal, state, local government or private organizations to provide any coordinated, special protection for the St. Marys River. Existing conditions and trends would determine the future use of the river.

Alternative B - Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River as a national wild and scenic river with National Park Service management

Congress would amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River as a national wild and scenic river. The National Park Service would prepare a comprehensive management plan and a land protection plan following designation. These plans would guide the NPS management of the St. Marys River in a manner similar to other National Park System units, and consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Alternative C - Secretary of the Interior designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River within the States of Florida and Georgia with cooperative management between Florida and Georgia

Designation of any portion of the St. Marys River by the Secretary of the Interior requires that the river be a designated component of an existing state rivers system. In addition, the Governors of both Georgia and Florida would be required to submit their proposed management plans for protection of the rivers natural values when requesting national designation. If the Secretary feels the proposed state management plans will protect the river in a manner consistent with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, he can designate the river into the national system.

Alternative D - Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River with special legislation establishing a local river management council.

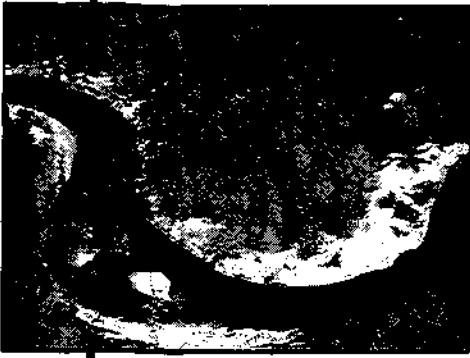
Congress would amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the St. Marys River, and authorize the creation of a local river management council. The NPS would be authorized to provide financial and technical assistance. The council would be responsible for management coordination of all non-Federal lands within the designated river corridor, consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Several factors were especially important in evaluating the suitability of the St. Marys River for national wild and scenic river status. First, it was apparent that many Federal, state and local regulations and programs currently exist which, if properly monitored and adhered to, would provide protection to the St. Marys River and surrounding resources. Much of the St. Marys River is a coastal

stream with a wide floodplain and vast acreage of wetlands which are protected from development. These existing protections are discussed in detail in Chapter V.

Secondly, many local citizens voicing opinions during this study oppose additional Federal or state presence on the river. They feel the river should be protected and is presently in need of additional protection, but that this protection can best be accomplished at the local level. Acquisition of private lands, especially by condemnation, is strongly opposed. Finally, the necessity of river protection by an entity which could cross political boundaries among the 4 counties and 2 states was apparent.

All of these considerations weighed heavily in the evaluation of the alternatives. State agencies in both Florida and Georgia agreed with the need for protection and the need for local involvement in the management team. Ultimately each of the county commissions of the four counties adjacent to the St. Marys River voiced their strong opposition to any form of national designation. In the presence of strong opposition to direct Federal management and without an effective local management plan, the St. Marys River is found to be unsuitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System at this time.



IV. THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT

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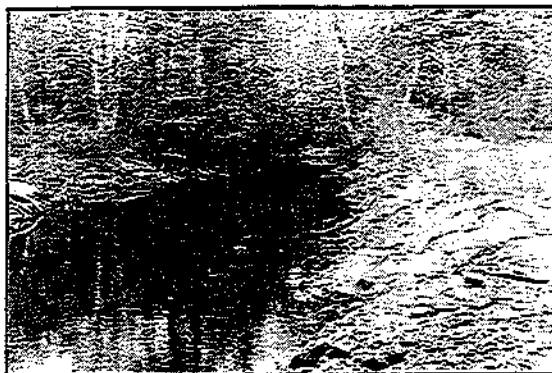
Location and Recreational Access

(Portions of this section taken from Southern Georgia Canoeing, Sehlinger and Otey, 1980)

The St. Marys River is located in southeast Georgia and northeast Florida and forms a portion of the border between the two states. The main river corridor runs through two counties in Georgia, Camden County and Charlton County, and two counties in Florida, Baker County and Nassau County.

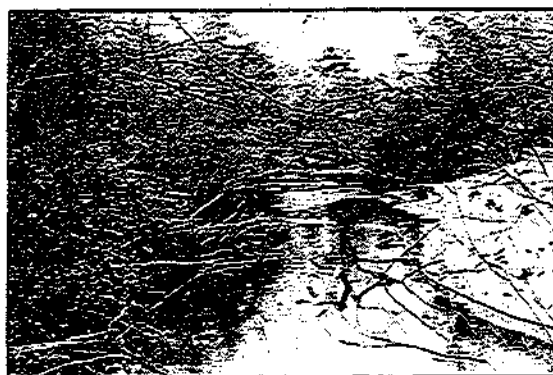
The river originates from two similar swamps. The North Prong of the St. Marys begins in the southeastern corner of the Okefenokee Swamp in Ware and Charlton counties, Georgia and flows south forming the Georgia-Florida state line. The Middle Prong begins in the Pinhook Swamp portion of the Osceola National Forest in northern Baker County, Florida. The Middle Prong flows east for approximately 12 RMs before joining the North Prong to form the St. Marys River. The North Prong and Middle Prong join approximately 2 RMs below the Florida Highway 120 bridge crossing.

At times of the year when water levels are high, recreational floating can begin on the North Prong below the Georgia Highway 94 bridge crossing near Moniac, Georgia, but can be extremely difficult. The river is full of snags and is not very scenic. The river course gradually becomes more defined as the North Prong nears its confluence with the Middle Prong. The approximately 6 RMs between Moniac and North Prong-Middle Prong confluence is characterized by wooded swampland of varying distances on either side of a low stream bank.



Low stream banks are typical in the area of the North and Middle Prongs confluence.

When the Middle Prong joins the North Prong the river doubles in width and becomes immediately more winding. White sandbars begin to reach out into the stream course and the stream bank becomes higher with the occurrence of occasional pine bluffs. Shoreline development becomes more evident as the river approaches the next good public access location, the Georgia Highway 121 bridge.



The river widens and white sandbars start to occur after the confluence of the North and Middle Prong.

Approximately 5 RMs below the Georgia Highway 121 bridge, the South Prong of the St. Marys enters the river from Florida. This prong is much smaller than the Middle and North Prongs. The river's natural setting is interrupted by shoreline development several times between the Highway 121 bridge and the South Prong confluence. Downstream from the South Prong, the river turns north and flows in this direction for approximately 45 RMs until it reaches Folkston, Georgia. This northerly flowing segment remains largely unspoiled. It begins to widen slightly and entrenches itself in increasingly steeper banks. Bluffs and pine forests intermix with swamp flora and provide good high-water camp sites.



Public boat ramp near St. George, GA.

bridge crossing near Folkston is approximately one-half way along the rivers course. The Florida bank is developed for several miles in this area.

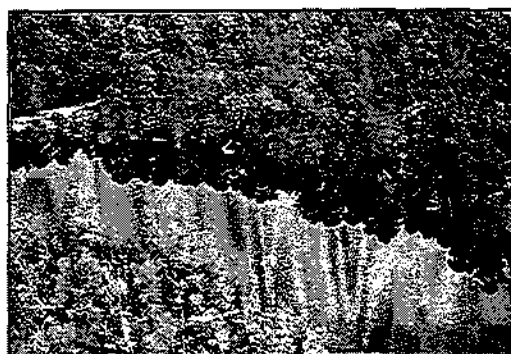


River banks heighten as the river turns north.

A new (1991) access ramp is provided near St. George, Georgia, at the Georgia Highway 94 bridge crossing. Between St. George and Folkston the river's banks rise to more than 7 feet and are often backed by sandy bluffs standing 20 feet or more above the river. The river channel becomes increasingly well defined and deep.

By the time the river reaches the Traders Hill county park (Georgia), powerboat traffic becomes common. The U.S. Highway 1/301

The river's width below Folkston averages 90 to 120 feet. The St. Marys high banks, particularly on the Florida side, persist nearly to the river mouth with the highest bluffs found near Crandall, Florida, at Reids and Roses Bluffs. The St. Marys flows for approximately 30 RMs between the U.S. 1/301 bridge crossing and the next crossing near Kingsland, Georgia, where U.S. Highway 17 and I-95 bridges both cross within several miles of each other.



The river below Folkston.



The river widens and the white sandbars disappear below Folkston.

Demographics

Counties along the St. Marys River corridor have all experienced population increases in the past decade. The most significant growth occurred in Camden County, Georgia where population increased from 13,371 in 1980 to 30,167 in 1990; a change of 126 percent. Reflecting this increase, the City of St. Marys, in Camden County, grew from 3,596 in 1980 to 8,187 in 1990, up 128 percent. Charlton County, also in Georgia, saw a population increase of 16 percent, from 7,343 in 1980 to 8,496.

In Florida, the human population followed a similar upward trend. Baker County's population grew 21 percent, from 15,289 in 1980 to 18,486 in 1990. Within the county, the City of Macclenny grew from a population of 3,851 in 1980 to 3,966 in 1990. Duval County and the City of Jacksonville both increased 17 percent, from 571,003 to 672,971 and from 540,920 to 635,230 respectively. Nassau County's population grew from 32,894 in 1980 to 43,941 in 1990, an increase of 34 percent. Only the City of Hillard, in Nassau County, saw a decrease in population. Hillard shrank from 1,879 in 1980 to 1,751 in 1990, a loss of 9 percent while Yulee grew from 3,168 in 1980 to 6,915 in 1990, a gain of 118 percent.

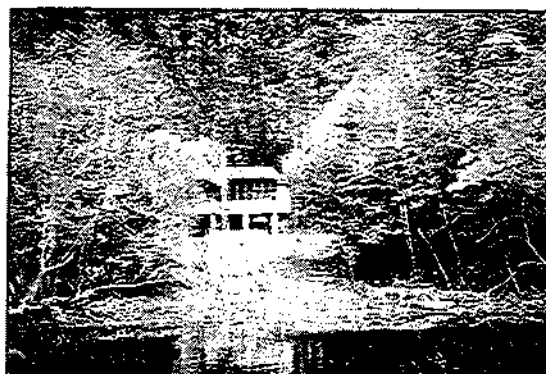
Landownership and Land Use

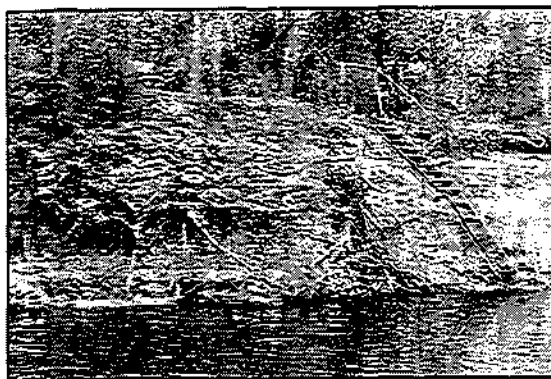
A high percentage of the land within the St. Marys drainage basin is in large-tract ownership of 640 acres or more. Four large tracts are in Federal ownership, two large tracts in state ownership, and the remaining area is in private holdings. The Federal lands include the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Ware and Charlton Counties, Georgia and the Osceola National Forest in Baker County, Florida.

Ownership of lands not within the large tracts consists primarily of parcels ranging in size from 5 to 10 acres up to a half section or more.

The predominant land use within the basin is silviculture. Forest or timberland covers 75 percent of Camden County, 98 percent of Charlton County, 90 percent of Baker County, and 80 percent of Nassau County. Most of the residential areas are located near the towns or cities. Flea Hill is one notable exception located directly adjacent to the river in Charlton County, Georgia. Some cabins and fishing shacks can also be found along the river with the greatest numbers located on the lower portion between Traders Hill and Kings Ferry where 44 were identified in the 18 mile stretch. They are typically located on the higher elevations adjacent to the river.

Residential Development Along The River





Natural Resources

The St. Marys River extends for approximately 126 miles running from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Atlantic Ocean near St. Marys, Georgia. Typically currents run moderately slow. This is due to the relatively low average gradient of 0.28 m/km (Fowler and Holder, 1987). The mean discharge measured at Macclenny, Florida is about 19 cubic meters per second (USGA 1986).

The river is a blackwater stream with naturally high color and low dissolved solids as a result of its extensive wetlands system. The water quality is considered excellent by the Florida Department of Natural Resources as per their 305(b) report, 1990, and has been given a rating as a Class III water body. This designation defines the river's intended use as recreation and the propagation, and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife.

Discharge point sources within the basin include 14 wastewater treatment plants and industrial sites. Five of these are downstream of the river study area. Localized degradation of water quality is seen due to lowering of dissolved oxygen amounts and elevation of nutri-

ent levels. Tributaries leading into the St. Marys, such as Turkey Creek and the Little St. Marys River, generally have poorer water quality than the mainstream due to point sources discharging into them. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES, Clean Water Act of 1972) dischargers in the St. Marys River basin are listed in Table 2.

Low sandy bluffs are the major geologic feature displayed by the river with several outcroppings of limestone also noted. The bluffs continue through a large portion of the river and can become quite steep and high, occasionally reaching 20 feet above normal water levels. Large white quartz sand point bars provide a sharp contrast to the tanin colored waters of the channel.

The river channel is very meandering with numerous S-bends, especially in the middle and upper portions of the river upstream of Folkston. Oxbow lakes can also be found in these areas. Downstream from Folkston the river has a tidal influence and the sandbars characteristic of the upper and middle portions of the river are not present.

There are no storage reservoirs, hydroelectric facilities or stream diversions on the St. Marys River.

TABLE 2

NPDES Discharges in St. Marys River Basin

Discharge Name	Receiving Water	Discharge Type	Location
* Container Corp	Amelia River	I	Fernandina Beach
OOT Rest Area, I-10	Drainage ditch	D	Baker County
Eastwood Oaks Apts.	Polishing Pond	D	Hilliard
* Fernandina Beach	Amelia River	M	Fernandina Beach
Gilman Paper St. Marys	North River	I	City of St. Marys
Hilliard	Unnamed Stream	M	Hilliard
* ITT Fernandina	Amelia River	I	Fernandina Beach
Kingsland WWTP	Little Catfish Creek	M	Kingsland
Macclenny WWTP	Turkey Creek	M	Macclenny
* Marsh Cove Apartments	Amelia River	D	Fernandina Beach
Northeast Florida State Hospital	Turkey Creek	M	Macclenny
* St. Marys WWTP	St. Marys River	M	St. Marys
St. Marys Scrubby Bluff	St. Marys River	D	Kingsland
Okefenokee NWR	Okefenokee Swamp	M	Charlton County

Note: D = domestic wastewater.
I = industrial wastewater.
M = municipal and industrial wastewater.
WWTP = Wastewater treatment plant.

Source: EPA, 1992. Information in agency files.

* Indicates dischargers downstream of the study area.

Climate

The climate of the St. Marys River Basin is classified as subtropical with its long, hot, humid summers and cool winters. Sea breezes help cool the coastal areas in the summer which is also the wettest season of the year.

The average annual rainfall is 51.4 inches with approximately 33% to 50% of this falling in the summer. Fall is the driest season receiving approximately 20% of the yearly average. The average winter temperature is 53 degrees Fahrenheit with a average daily minimum of 43 degrees Fahrenheit. The average summer temperature is 81 degrees Fahrenheit with an average daily high of 88 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ecological Communities

Natural community types can best be grouped by the ecological segments of the river in which they commonly appear. The five ecological segments of the river include:

HEADWATERS - The headwaters are within the wetland region of the Okefenokee Basin. Wet flatwoods and swamp, bog, waterlily prairie wetland complexes of the Okefenokee-Pinhook system are typical of this segment. Typical plant communities include:

Carolina Bay - Shrub Bog
Pond Pine Pocosin
Prairie

BLUFFS - Sandhills and xeric flatwoods dominate natural upland vegetation with slope forests, seepage slopes, and bay swamp downslopes supported by seepage through the porous soils. Typical plant communities include:

Longleaf Pine/Turkey Oak Sandhill
Live Oak - Laurel Oak Upland Forest
Seepage Slope
Bay Forest

FRESHWATER RIVER SYSTEMS - This area is characteristic of the middle section of the river and includes extensive riverine ecosystems with broad forested wetland floodplains. Natural communities include:

Blackwater River Cypress - Gum Swamp
Blackwater River Levee Forest
Blackwater River Bottomland Hardwoods
Creek Swamp
Floodplain Lake

FLATWOODS - Flatwoods dominate throughout the basin and particularly the upslopes of the floodplain wetlands along the river's central stretches. Most of the native pinelands have been converted to silviculture but remnants of the following communities can still be found:

Longleaf Pine/Blackjack
Oak/Wiregrass Longleaf Flatwoods
Slash Pine Flatwoods
Cypress Pond
Open Depression Pond

TIDAL SYSTEMS - A zone of estuarine influence characterized by saltmarsh and maritime hammock extends from the Sea Islands west to the St. Marys Meander Plain. Typical natural communities include:

Smooth Cordgrass
(*Spartina alterniflora*) Marsh
Black Needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*)
Marsh Sawgrass-Wild Rice
(*Cladium - Zizaniopsis*) Marsh
Wax Myrtle - Yaupon Holly -
Saltbush Shrub Marsh
Tidal Cypress - Gum - Maple Swamp Forest
Maritime Forest

Fauna

The much varied ecological communities and the fact that the St. Marys River flows through relatively low population density areas help the St. Marys basin function as critical habitat for a number of species. It provides important travel corridors for the Florida Black Bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), dry sandhills for the Sherman's Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermanii*), open pine habitat for the South eastern American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*), Red Cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), and Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and valuable foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat for a wide variety of wading birds.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) has records of the endangered Wood Stork, the threatened Red Cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Indigo Snake, and the Florida Pine Snake, a species of special concern, in the St. Marys River corridor. Other terrestrial species along the corridor undoubtedly include the threatened Bald Eagle, and species of special concern such as the Osprey, and the smaller egret and heron species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has designated the St. Marys River as a Sandhill Crane area (1982).

There are 10 species of fish considered to be either rare or endangered by Florida or Georgia that are known to exist in the St. Marys River or its tributaries. These along with en-

dangered, threatened, and rare species of amphibians/reptiles, birds, and mammals are listed in Table 3, Page 37 and 38. A complete listing of fishes, amphibian/reptiles, probable breeding birds, and mammals of the St. Marys River basin can be found in Appendix A, Tables A-1 through A-4.

Flora

The St. Marys River is one of the more pristine blackwater rivers in Florida or Georgia. It has a wide variety and abundance of plant life along the river corridor. The Nature Conservancy has identified 20 biologically significant sites along the St. Marys River for protection.

Generally, hardwood and pine/palmetto forest communities dominate the interior portions of the corridor giving way to an estuarine environment towards the convergence with Cumberland Sound. It is within the estuarine area that the communities identified under the "Tidal Systems" ecological system can be found. Much of the pine forest communities are third or fourth generation slash pine being part of a large silviculture industry in the area.

There are 23 rare, threatened, and endangered plant species identified within the St. Marys River basin which are listed in Table 4, Page 39. Primary vegetation types of the natural communities within the St. Marys River basin are listed in Appendix A.

Table 3. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Vertebrate Animals of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 1 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Ranking	TNC		USFWS Status	FGFWF Status	CGA Status
			State Ranking				
			FL	GA			
<u>Fish</u>							
<i>Acantharchus pomotis</i>	Mud Sunfish	G5	S3	S3	—	—	—
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose Sturgeon	G3	S2	S2	E	E	E
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon	G3	S2	S3	T*	SSC	—
<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	Blackbanded Sunfish	G5	S3	S1S2	—	—	—
<i>Fundulus chrysos</i>	Golden Topminnow	G5	—	S3	—	—	—
<i>Fundulus Cingulatus</i>	Banded Topminnow	G5?	S?	S3	—	—	—
<i>Lepisosteus platyrhincus</i>	Florida Gar	G5	—	S3?	—	—	—
<i>Lucania parva</i>	Rainwater Killifish	G5	—	S1	—	—	—
<i>Notropis Emiliae</i>	Pugnose Minnow	G5	—	S3	—	—	—
<i>Umbra pygmaea</i>	Eastern Mudminnow	G5	S3	S3	—	—	—
<u>Amphibians and Reptiles</u>							
<i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i>	Flatwoods Salamander	G4?	S?	S3	T(S/A)	SSC	—
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Eastern Tiger Salamander	G5	S3	S5	—	—	—
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Canebrake Rattlesnake	G5	S3	S5	—	—	—
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Easteran Indigo Snake	G4T3	S3	S3	T	T	T
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G2	S2	S2	C2	SSC	—
<i>Kinosternon bauri</i>	Striped Mud Turtle	G5	S?	S2S3	—	E	—
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>	Mole	G5	S2S3	S5	—	—	—
<i>Notophthalmus persianus</i>	Striped Newt	G3	S3	S2	—	—	—
<i>Ophisaurus compressus</i>	Island Glass Lizard	G4	—	S2	C2	—	—
<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i>	Florida Red-bellied Turtle	G5	S?	S3	—	—	—
<i>Rana areolata</i>	Gopher Frog	G5	S3	S2S3	C2	SSC	—
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i>	Many-lined Salamander	G4G5	S1	S4	—	—	—
<u>Birds</u>							
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	G4	S3?	S3S4	—	—	—
<i>Almophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S?	S3	C2	—	—
<i>Ammodramus maritima pelonota</i>	Smyrna Seaside Sparrow	G4T2Q?	S2?	S5	C2	—	—
<i>Aramus quarauna</i>	Limpkin	G5	S3	S1S2	—	SSC	—
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	G2	S2	S1S2	T	T	—
<i>Cistothorus palustris griseus</i>	Worthington's Marsh Wren	G5T3	S2	S5	—	SSC	—
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Swallow-tailed Kite	G5	—	S2	—	—	—
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	G3	S2	S1	—	—	—
<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	S2	—	T	—
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American Oystercatcher	G5	S3	S2S3	—	SSC	—
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G3	S2S3	S2	E	T	E
<i>Lateralus jamaicensis</i>	Black Rail	G3	S3?	S2?	—	—	—
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G5	S2	S2	E	E	—
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	G5	S3?	S3S4	—	—	—

Table 3. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Vertebrate Animals of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 2 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Ranking	TNC		USFWS Status	FGFWF Status	CGA Status
			State Ranking				
			FL	GA			
<u>Birds (continued)</u>							
<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>	Yellow-crowned night heron	G5	S3?	S3S5	—	—	—
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	G5	S3S4	S3	—	—	—
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican	G5	S3	S2	—	SSC	E
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G2	S2	S2	E	T	E
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy ibis	G5	S2	S2S3	—	—	—
<i>Rhychops niger</i>	Black Skimmer	G5	S3	S4	—	—	—
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	G4	S3	S3S4	—	T	—
<i>Sterna maxima</i>	Royal Tern	G5	S3	S5	—	—	—
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	G5	S?	S3	—	—	—
<u>Mammals</u>							
<i>Condylura cristata</i>	Star-nosed Mole	G5	—	S3?	—	—	—
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Gray Bat	G2	S1	S1	E	E	E
<i>Lasiurus inatermedius</i>	Yellow Bat	G4	S3	S2S3	—	—	—
<i>Neofiber alleni</i>	Roung-tailed Muskrat	G3?	S3?	S3	C2	—	—
<i>Plecoaus rafinesquii</i>	Southeastern Big-eared Bat	G4	S3?	S3S4	C2	—	—
<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5	S3	S5	C2	SSC	—
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Florida Manatee	G2?	S2	S1S2	E	E	E
<i>Ursus americanus floridana</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5	S3	S4	C2	T ^b	—

^a Applicable only to the subspecies *A. o. desotoi*.

^b Not applicable in Baker and Columbia Counties and Apalachicola National Forest.

Note: USFWS Ranks

- C1 = candidate for federal listing, with enough substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals for listing.
 C2 = candidate for listing, with some evidence of vulnerability, but for which not enough data exist to support listing.
 CE = commercially exploited.
 E = endangered.

FGFWF Ranks

SSC = species of special concern.

T = threatened.

T(S/A) = threatened due to similarity of appearance.

TNC Global Ranks

- G1 = globally endangered.
 G2 = globally threatened.
 G3 = globally of concern.
 G4 = globally apparently secure.
 G5 = globally demonstrably secure.
 G#/Q# = questionable species.
 G#/T# = rank of taxonomic subgroup.
 G? = not yet ranked (temporary).

FNAI State Ranks

- S1 = regionally endangered.
 S2 = regionally threatened.
 S3 = regionally of concern.
 S4 = regionally apparently secure.
 S5 = regionally demonstrably secure.
 U = insufficient information available for ranking.

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.

Table 4. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of the St. Marys River Basin

Scientific Name	Common Name	TNC Global Ranking	State Ranking		USFWS	FGFWFC GA	
			FNAI	GFWHIP		Status	Status
<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>	Purple Balduina	G2G3	S2	S?	3C	N	-
<i>Befaria racemosa</i>	Tarflower	G?	S?	S1?	-	-	-
<i>Calamovilfa curtissii</i>	Sand Grass	G1G2	S1S2	-	C2	CE	-
<i>Oenothera floridana</i>	Florida Orange Grass	G2Q	S2	S?	3C	N	-
<i>Euphorbia Exserta</i>	Euphorb	G3?	S3?	S?	-	-	-
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	Hartwrightia	G2	S2	S1	C2	CT	T
<i>Hexastylis arifolia</i>	Heartleaf	G5	S3	S?	N	CT	-
<i>Lachnocaulon beyrichianum</i>	Southern Bog-Botton	G2G3	S?	S?	-	-	-
<i>Linum westii</i>	West's Flax	G2	-	C2	CT	-	-
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	Pondspice	G4G5	S2	S?	C2	CT	T
<i>Peltandra agittifolia</i>	Soonflower	G3G4	S3	S?	N	N	-
<i>Pycnanthemum floridana</i>	Florida Mountain-Mint	G3	S3	-	3C	N	-
<i>Rhaphidophyllum hystrix</i>	Needle Palm	G3	S?	S?	-	-	-
<i>Rhynchospora punctata</i>	Pineland Beakrush	G1?	AU	S1	C2	N	-
<i>Sarracenia psittacina</i>	Parrot Pitcherplant	G3G5	S2	S?	-	-	T
<i>Salpingostylis coelestina</i>	Bartram's Lxla	G2	S2	-	PE	CE	-
<i>Uvularia floridana</i>	Florida Merrybellis	G?	S1	S?	N	N	-
<i>Verbesina heterophylla</i>	Variable-leaf Crowbeard	G2	S2	-	C1	N	-
<i>Veronica puchella</i>	Ironweed	G2G4	S?	S?	-	-	-
<i>Xyris drummondii</i>	Drummond's Yellow-eyed Grass	G3	S2	S?	C2	N	-
<i>Aristida rhizomorphora</i>	Florida Threawn	G2S3	S2S3	-	N	N	-
<i>Asolepias viridula</i>	Southern Threawn	G2	SL	-	C1	CT	-
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Spoon-leaved Sundew	G5	S3	-	N	CT	-

USFWS Ranks

C1 - candidate for federal listing, with enough substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals for listing.

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FGFWFC Ranks

SSC - species of special concern.

T - threatened.

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G1 - globally endangered.

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G4 - globally apparently secure.

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G#/T# - rank of taxonomic subgroup.

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FNAI State Ranks

S1 - regionally endangered

S2 - regionally threatened.

S3 - regionally of concern.

S4 - regionally apparently secure.

S5 - regionally demonstrably secure.

U - insufficient information available for rankings.

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.

Recreational Resources

The principal recreational uses of the St. Marys include canoeing, fishing, recreational boating, picnicking, nature study, and hunting. Public lands along the river are limited to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge at the headwaters of the North Prong, Osceola National Forest at the headwaters of the Middle Prong, a Charlton County, Georgia county park at Traders Hill, and the St. Marys Conservation Tract owned by the St. Johns Water Management District.

Canoeing is classified as Class 1 for the entire river although the North Prong has many snags and requires frequent portages. The lower sections are subject to tidal currents and up river winds which could make canoeing difficult. The area between river mile 109.8 near Macclenny and river mile 54.2 near Folkston has been designated as a public canoe trail by the Florida Department of Natural Resources. A popular canoe launch is located at the Florida Highway 121/Georgia Highway 23 bridge crossing at river mile 104.5. Access to the river is considered good via bridge crossings, and a few public or private ramps. Bridge crossings and ramp location are noted in Table 5 (*on the right*).

Opportunities for both picnicking and camping abound due to the large number of white sand points along the middle section of the river, although no facilities exist. Again access is primarily from either bridge crossings or by boat.

Hunting along the St. Marys is confined largely to private preserves and timber lands although the possibility of hunting is under study for St. Johns Water Management District lands.

Fishing is a popular sport on the river and appears to be most active in the Traders Hill area

where the county boat ramp and dock is located. Small powerboats commonly navigate to Traders Hill (river mile 57.8) and to a private landing at river mile 63. The lower St. Marys River, below the study area, is used primarily by shrimp fishermen and tugs towing fuel to St. Marys.

The area is also in fairly close proximity to recreational opportunities at Crooked Creek State Park and Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia; and Ft. Clinch State Park on the north end of Amelia Island, Florida

Table 5.

CROSSINGS AND BUILT FEATURES FOR RECREATIONAL ACCESS

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Headwaters of N. Prong to Confluence with Middle Prong		
Bridge	Dirt road	RM 123.5
Bridge	Paved Highway 94	Moniac, GA
Bridge	Southern Railroad crossing	Moniac, GA
Bridge	Dirt road	North of Baker Branch, RM 116.5
Between Middle Prong and South Prong		
Bridge	Paved GA SR 121/23	RM 104.5
Downstream of South Prong Confluence		
Boat Ramp	Paved ramp on FL side	RM 99.5
Bridge	Dirt road to Stokesville, GA	RM 96
Bridge	Southern Railroad crossing	RM 94
Boat Ramp	Paved ramp at U.S. 94	RM 83.5
Bridge	Paved GA Hwy 94	RM 83.5
Ramp/Dock	County park at Traders Hill	RM 58
Bridge	Seaboard Coast Line Railroad crossing	RM 57
Utility Line	Overhead crossing	RM 56
Bridge	U.S. 301/FL SR 15	RM 55.5
Boat Ramp	Paved ramp	RM 55
Boat Ramp	Private paved ramp	RM 43.5
Bridge	Seaboard Coast Line adj. to U.S. 17	RM 26.5
Bridge	U.S. 17 RM 26.5 Bridge I-95	RM 21.5

Cultural Resources

The St. Marys River corridor has not been formally surveyed for historic or archaeological value. However, there are numerous known significant sites in the areas adjacent to the study area. Fort Tynon at river mile 5 functions as a reminder of the short period of British colonial rule in Florida from 1763 to 1783.

The Mulberry Landing artifact scatter, representative of the St. Johns Indian culture, reaches back to Florida's prehistoric days.

The colonial Spanish established missions in the vicinity of the St. Marys River in the 17th century, including one discovered on Amelia Island. In 1812, an American invasion force crossed the river into Spanish territory and occupied Fernandina, proclaiming it part of the United States, only to have the action disavowed by the American government and returning the area to the Spanish.

The St. Marys River and the town of Fernandina were long associated with pirates and other disreputable elements of southern colonial history. Nearby Fort Clinch State Park and the Fernandina Beach Historic District provide places of historical interest close to the river corridor.

The river has historically been used as a way station for the replenishing of fresh water stores for seagoing ships. Its use for commercial purposes dates back to between 1868 and 1870 when two small freight steamers made regular trips to Traders Hill. A coastline trader is also known to have made trips to Traders Hill in 1874. Boats requiring only 3 feet of draft have operated as far upstream as Stanley Landing at river mile 62 while passenger and freight boats were making regularly scheduled trips between Fernandina, Florida and Orange Bluff at river mile 52. Barge traffic was able to operate up to Camp Pickney which is about 14 miles upstream of Kings Ferry. By 1932, over 5,000 tons of logs and crossties were estimated to have been rafted down the river from the vicinity of Traders Hill.

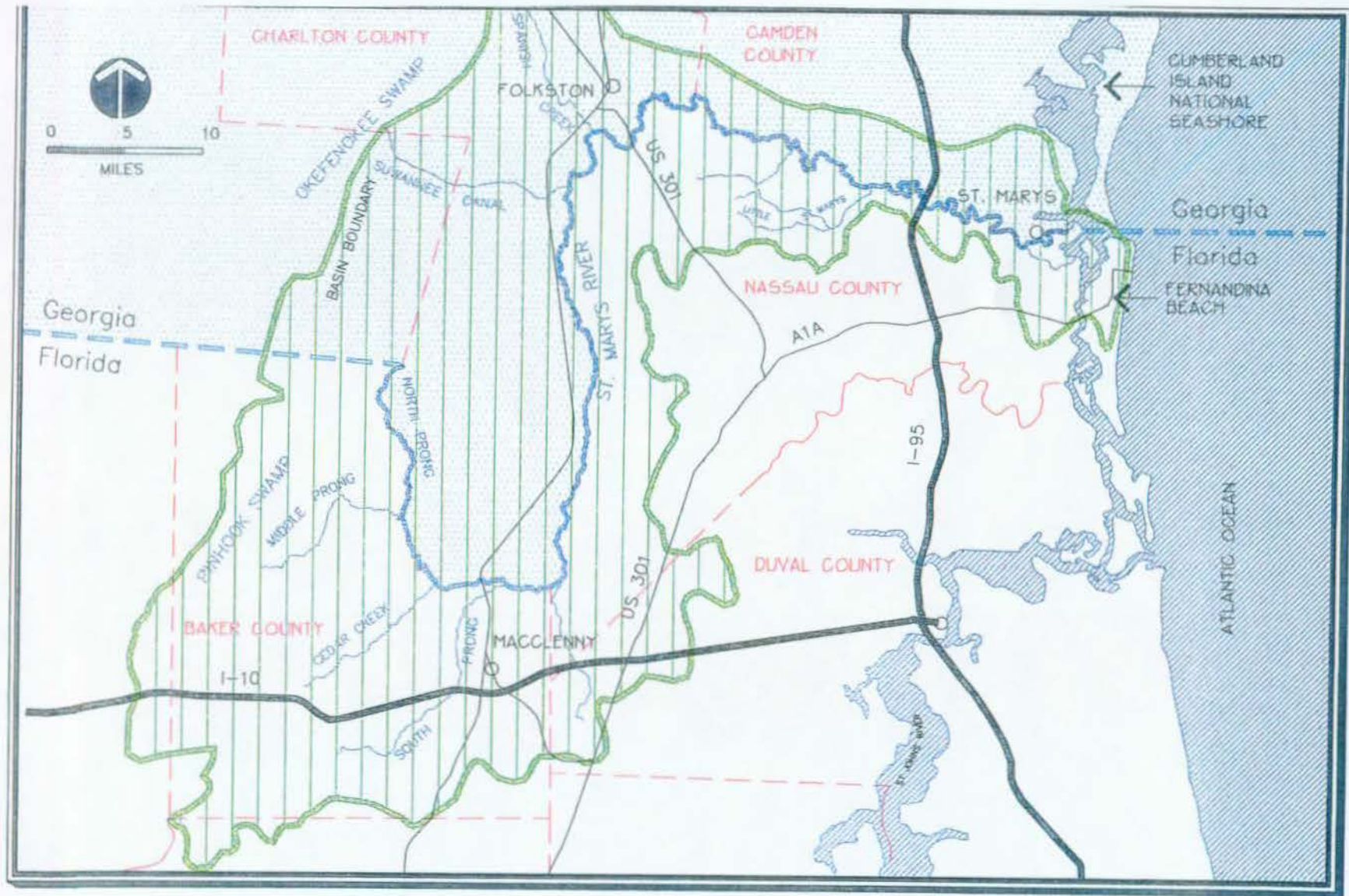
Today the river is utilized mostly for recreational purposes with commercial activity limited to shrimp boats and small commercial boats in the lower reaches around St. Marys.

Mineral Resources

Part of the region which the St. Marys River drains has significant mineral resource potential. The upper portion of this report's study area intersects the Trail Ridge heavy mineral deposit near the St. Marys' confluence with the South Prong. The Trail Ridge heavy mineral deposit is a north-south trending, mainly titanium-bearing sand formation. It forms a band one to more than 3 kilometers wide and extends approximately 150 kilometers between Clay County, Florida, and Charlton County, Georgia. The ridge contains the most significant United States reserves of titanium minerals and sustains several significant mining operations recovering mainly titanium minerals.

Currently, E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company is mining at three locations on the southern part of the Trail Ridge in Clay County, Florida. The northern most operating mine opened in 1993 about 10 miles south of the St. Marys River. In 1992, DuPont purchased 15,400 acres north of the St. Marys River in Charlton County, Georgia, and is now evaluating the heavy mineral reserves.

The St. Marys River is also adjacent to the Northern Florida Phosphate Mining District which extends from Florida into Georgia, west of the St. Marys River. Although the nearest mining of phosphate rock is concentrated near White Springs in Hamilton County, Florida, past phosphate mining occurred in Baker County, Florida.



ST. MARYS RIVER BASIN

ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
 CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH



BASIN AREA



V. SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROTECTION

V. SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROTECTION

The St. Marys River forms the border of two states, Florida and Georgia, lies within two U.S. Army Corp of Engineers districts, and within four counties, two in Florida and two in Georgia. The result is varied and piecemealed sets of regulations for river protection. Florida, through its Warren S. Henderson Wetlands Protection Act and Comprehensive Growth Management Act, addresses wetland and river protection whereas Georgia only regulates coastal marshlands. While all of the federal, state, regional and local regulations help protect the St. Marys River basin, specific coordinated regulations designed to protect the basin as a whole system are not present. State and local agencies responsible for land use impacts are listed in Table 6, Page 51 and 52.

Federal Programs and Lands

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is charged with regulating waters of the United States. By definition these waters include coastal and navigable inland waters, lakes, rivers and streams; other intrastate lakes, rivers and streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, wet meadows, and certain impoundments.

Typical activities that would require permitting by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include the following:

- placement of wires, cables or pipes in or above the water
 - dredging, excavation and depositing of fill and dredged material
 - construction of fill roads and placement of riprap
- The authority the USACE has over construction of small docks, piers, moorings, and platforms comes from the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 10. Typically these activities are permitted as either Letters of Permission or General Permits. If an activity is covered by a general permit, an application to the USACE is not required. A person utilizing a general permit must only comply with the specific requirements stated of that permit.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Silviculture activities such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, and harvesting for the production of forest products are specifically exempted from the requirements under Section 404.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if an endangered species may be impacted by an activity. The USFWS prepares a separate biological opinion and the activity may not be authorized unless it is determined that the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction of the habitat of the species.
- Due to its location in two states and the district boundaries within the Army Corps of Engineers the St. Marys River is split into two districts. Responsibilities for administration of
- construction of structures such as piers, wharves, docks, dockhouses, boat hoists, boathouses, floats, marinas, boat ramps, marine railways, and bulkheads
 - construction of revetment, groins, breakwaters, levees, dams, dikes, berms, weirs, and outfall structures

waters within Georgia lies in the Savannah district office while the Jacksonville, Florida district office handles Florida administration. Federal lands within the basin include the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge and the Osceola National Forest. All plants and animals are protected within the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, whereas the Osceola National Forest management focuses on timber production and Type 1 wildlife management.

State Programs and Lands

Florida - Construction in, on or over waters of the state of Florida and in estuarine areas is regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the five state water management districts.

The St. Marys River basin within Florida falls entirely within the St. Johns River Water Management District. Under the Warren S. Henderson Wetlands Protection Act of 1984 regulatory authority was given to the State Department of Environmental Regulation (now DEP) but much of the permitting authority has been delegated to the water management districts.

Permits are required for construction of such items as jetties, breakwaters, revetments, marinas, docks, wharves, piers, marine railroads, walkways, mooring structures, boat ramps, canals, locks, bridges, causeways and any dredging and filling. Minor activities such as private docks of limited size, maintenance dredging, certain boat ramps, and construction of seawalls and revetments in limited situations are exempted.

A project may not cause violations of water quality standards and in some cases may not cause degradation of the water quality itself. The project must also be found to be clearly in or not contrary to the public interest. The

public interest criteria as per Section 403.918, F.S. require consideration of:

1. Public health, safety or welfare and the property of others
2. Conservation of fish and wildlife, threatened or endangered species or their habitats
3. Navigation, flow of water, erosion, or shoaling
4. Fishing, recreational values and marine productivity
5. Whether the impacts of the project will be temporary or permanent
6. Historic and archaeological resources
7. Current condition and relative value of functions being performed by areas affected by the proposed activity

Scenic values per se are not considered public interest criteria.

Under the Warren S. Henderson Wetlands Protection Act normal and customary agricultural and silviculture operations are exempted from permitting requirements.

On a regional basis Florida has created 11 Regional Planning Councils. The majority of the St. Marys River basin lies within the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council's jurisdiction. This council establishes goals and policies that influence and direct land uses within its boundaries. Goals within its policies state:

Goal 8.3.3: By 1995, significant wetlands should be protected through a coordinated management plan by Federal, State, regional and local governments.

Goal 10: Natural Systems and Recreational Land - Florida shall protect and acquire natural habitats and natural systems such as wetlands, tropical hardwood hammocks, palm hammocks, and virgin long leaf pine forests, and restore degraded natural systems to a functional condition.

St. Johns Water Management District owned lands consist of the St. Marys Conservation Area which adjoins the St. Marys River and contains approximately 3,630 acres. It is managed as a Type II Wildlife Management Area with enforcement assistance from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission.

The 1989 Comprehensive Planning Act mandates comprehensive planning at the local, regional, and state level, and requires the identification and nomination of regionally important resources. Standards set forth in the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria deal with water supply watershed, groundwater recharge areas and wetland protection. The Georgia Mountains and River Corridors Protection Act authorizes the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to set minimum planning standards and procedures for protection of river corridors in the state. This requires a 100 horizontal foot buffer of natural vegetation on both sides of a river. **The state can not prohibit the building of single-family dwelling units within the vegetative buffer area, subject to the following conditions:**

1. Building must be in compliance with local regulations
2. The dwelling unit must be located on a tract of land containing at least two acres
3. Only one dwelling unit may be built on each tract
4. Septic tanks serving the dwelling unit may be located within the buffer area, but the septic tank drainfields may not be located within the buffer

Construction within the buffer area must meet Erosion and Sedimentation Act requirements and forestry/agriculture activities may not impair drinking water standards as per the Clean Water Act.

Georgia has created 18 Regional Development Centers (RDCs). They have the responsibility

of serving the essential public interests of the state by promoting the establishment, implementation, and performance of coordinated and comprehensive planning by municipal and county governments and RDC. This planning must be in conformity with the minimum standards and procedures established pursuant to the Comprehensive Planning Act. The St. Marys River basin is served by two regional development centers. The Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center serves Charlton and Ware Counties and the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center serves Camden County.

Local Land Use, Zoning, and Comprehensive Planning

Florida - Baker County

Land use regulations for Baker County include the comprehensive plan, zoning code, and land development regulations. Some of the relevant goals and policies include:

Land use in flood prone areas shall be limited to low density residential with the use of septic tanks subject to FEMA and County Health regulations.

A 50 foot buffer of native vegetation shall be required for developments located adjacent to wetlands.

Riverfront and lakefront development shall be designed so as not to affect the water quality of adjacent waters. A 20 foot vegetative buffer is required between the building site and the water body.

The County shall, through available state and federal programs, promote the acquisition of floodplains along the St. Marys River.

If no feasible alternative exists, needed transportation facility improvements may traverse areas that are environmentally

and/or aesthetically sensitive; however, such areas should be limited and design techniques should be used to minimize the negative impact upon the natural and community system.

Florida - Nassau County

Nassau County regulations include the comprehensive plan, zoning code, development regulations, and applicable goals and policies. Some of the relevant goals and policies include:

Protect estuaries by prohibiting sanitary sewer wastewater and stormwater discharge into Class II waters.

Criteria shall be included in the Land Development Regulations to include requirements to preserve/replace the natural/native vegetation along county waterways to maintain the natural beauty of the area, to control erosion and retard runoff.

In the case of forested wetlands consisting of cypress, hardwood swamps, bay swamps, bottomland hardwoods, implement the following management practices: (1) maintenance of overall wetland community integrity and (2) the use of select cuts, or small clearcuts, performed in a manner which does not significantly alter overall wetland community characteristics.

In order to protect the functional viability and productivity of forested wetland systems as natural resources, silviculture activities within forested wetlands (1) shall not significantly alter overall wetland community characteristics and (2) shall not result in the conversion of existing forested wetlands into either upland systems

or other types of wetland systems, except pursuant to restorative silvicultural activities; and shall only be undertaken on those portions of the forested wetlands site on which there is no standing water.

Nassau County has established buffers for wetlands and provided setbacks for all septic tanks from water bodies.

While both Baker and Nassau Counties have implemented requirements to protect natural resources such as the St. Marys, neither county has taken measures to specifically protect the St. Marys River basin.

Georgia - Camden County

Camden County has a joint comprehensive plan including Camden County, Kingsland, St. Marys, and Woodbine. This was completed in April 1992 and has since been adopted.

The St. Marys River is mentioned briefly in the natural resource element but it does not identify the river as a Regionally Important Resource or identify any policies to protect the river.

Georgia - Charlton County

Charlton County's comprehensive plan was completed in December 1993. The plan references the State of Florida St. Johns River Water Management District/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study "Wetlands Management Strategy for the St. Marys River Basin" but none of the recommendations of that study, including Wild and Scenic River designation, have been adopted. The plan also notes that the St. Marys River has been nominated as a Regionally Important Resource. Under the "Land Use - Recommendations" item G. the plan states "The

designation of conservation areas in the County along the St. Marys River, the Satilla River, and other environmentally sensitive areas will be examined and implemented if feasible". Currently, there are no zoning or land development regulations outside of town limits. The county has no protective measures in place for the St. Marys River.

County Interlocal Agreement

An interlocal agreement was signed on December 6, 1993 among Baker, Nassau, Charlton, and Camden County creating the St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC). The purpose of the SMRMC is to identify issues and recommend solutions related to the St. Marys River and its water quality. It serves as an advisory committee to the county commissions. The committee is composed of one county commissioner from each

county, two landowners (including corporations) from each county, and two county residents from each county. All members are appointed by their respective county commissions. The State of Florida St. Johns River Water Management District and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources were invited to participate as non-voting members. The SMRMC was formed in response to the St. Mary Wild and Scenic River Study, but declined the NPS invitation to serve as the public advisory committee for the study. It has strongly opposed any form of Wild and Scenic River designation. The makeup of the SMRMC is extremely limited in that there is no voting representation on the board of any state, federal, or regional organization or agency, many of which have a direct impact on river regulation. Representation on the SMRMC of environmental organizations or interests is also obviously missing.

Table 6. Agencies, Responsibilities, and Legislation that Impact Land Use in the St. Marys River Basin

Agency	Land Use Responsibility	Authorizing Legislation
<u>Florida</u>		
Counties and Municipalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop comprehensive plans and land development regulations 2. Review and approve DRI 3. Develop zoning and local ordinances 4. Issue local permits 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 163 FS, J-5, 9J-24 FAC 2. Ch. 380
DCA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and approve comprehensive plans and land development regulations. 2. DRI Administration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 163 FS, 9J-5, 9J-24 FAC 2. Ch. 380 FS
DEP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permitting agency 2. DRI review 3. Comprehensive plan review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title 16, FAC 2. Ch. 380 FS 3. Ch. 163 FS
DEP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permitting agency 2. DRI review 3. Comprehensive plan review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 373, 403 FS, Title 17, FAC 2. Ch. 380 FS 3. Ch. 163 FS
WMD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water permitting agency 2. DRI review 3. Comprehensive plan review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 373, 403 FS; 40C-2, 40C-4, FAC
RPC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead agency in DRI review 2. Review local comprehensive plans 3. Develop regional comprehensive plans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 186 FS Ch. 380 FS 2. Ch. 163 FS 3. Ch. 380 FS
FGFWFC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DRI Review 2. Comprehensive Plan Review 3. Commenting Agency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 380 FS 2. Ch. 380 FS
<u>Georgia</u>		
Counties and Municipalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop comprehensive plans 2. Develop land use regulations, zoning ordinances. (optional) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1989 Comprehensive Planning Act Rule Ch. 110-3-2
DCA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review comprehensive plans 2. Assist state in long term planning goals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>1989 Comprehensive Planning Act</u>, House Bill 215, 50-8-1 OCGA. Rule Ch. 110-3-2 2. <u>1989 Comprehensive Planning Act</u>, House Bill 215, 50-8-1 OCGA. Rule Ch. 110-3-2
DNR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review comprehensive plans 2. Develop minimum planning criteria with respect to critical watershed wetlands and aquifer recharge 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1989 Comprehensive Planning Act 2. Ch. 12-2-8 OCGA Rule Ch. 391-3-16
RDC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review comprehensive plans 2. Identify regional important resources 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1989 Comprehensive Planning Act Rule Ch. 110-3-2 2. 1989 Comprehensive Planning Act Rule Ch. 110-3-2

Voluntary Private Landowner Protection

There are a number of private and corporate landowners who voluntarily maintain portions of their land as natural preserves. There are, however, no known land conservation easements. Gilman Paper Company's White Oak Plantation is adjacent to the St. Marys River for several miles and contains approximately 8,000 acres. It includes a nature preserve, timberlands, a racehorse breeding farm, a ballet center, a golf course, and facilities for the raising and studying of exotic and endangered animals.

The largest land use within the St. Marys River basin is silviculture. It is considered the primary management objective by private landowners. Timbering has been practiced in the area since the early 1900's and only remnants of old growth forests remain. The majority of the pine lands are third or fourth generation stands.

Both Florida and Georgia have established best management practices for silviculture. These are non-regulatory guidelines but are applied as performance standards by timber managers in order to comply with other regulatory programs.

Special consideration is given to streamside management zones in both states. Florida has established three management zones including:

1. Primary Stream Management Zone (PSMZ)

- fixed at 35' outward from the stream or body of water
- allows selective timbering that leaves a volume equal to or greater than one half the volume of a fully stocked stand

- avoids mechanical site preparation, fertilization, and aerial application of herbicides and insecticides

2. Secondary Stream Management Zone

- variable width of 10 to 105 feet outside of the PSMZ
- allows complete timber harvesting
- avoids mechanical site preparation, fertilization, and aerial applications of herbicides and insecticides

3. Discretionary Zone

- the area from the outside of the Secondary Stream Management Zone to 300 feet outside of the waterway

Georgia has established two management zones including:

1. Primary Stream Management Zone

- fixed at 20' outward from the stream - any type of cutting practice allowed
- discourages roads or trail, unless necessary, portable sawmills and log decks, harrowing, root raking or bulldozing, gully leveling, unless immediately seeded and mulched, and leaving logging debris in the waterbody

2. Secondary Stream Management Zone

- no secondary stream management zone recommended in this area

Silvicultural activity within the basin can be categorized by management practices as either industrial or non-industrial ownership.

Non-industrial owners for the most part are producing saw timber. Selective harvesting, utilization of natural regeneration techniques, and long term stand rotation are typical. These timberlands tend to maintain their natural integrity and provide habitat for rare and endangered species. Due to the typical lack of proper equipment and resources, best management practices (BMP) have a greater

incidence of noncompliance than the industrial owned lands.

Industrial owners are typically growing pulpwood and harvest stands between 20 and 30 years of age. Replanting is by mechanical means and includes chopping, KG-blading, and bedding. Tree density, lack of fire, and mechanical site preparation virtually eliminate natural groundcover and native habitat.

Compliance to best management practices has been found to be high. Both states' Division of Forestry review performance on a biennial basis. If the surveys find that BMPs are not being practiced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can recommend a permitting program be instituted.

Overall Corridor Protection

The St. Marys River basin has many resource protection programs currently in effect which vary widely between Florida and Georgia. Wetland protection in Florida is regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River Water Management District. In Georgia only coastal wetlands are regulated, leaving the majority of the river on the Georgia side unprotected.

Land use regulations in both states address development densities adjacent to the river and associated wetlands. The comprehensive plans within Florida are more developed having been in place longer than those in Georgia.

Not one, however, of the county comprehensive plans specifically addresses protection of the river. The Georgia Mountains and Rivers Corridor Protection Act establishes vegetative buffers along the river, but cannot prohibit residential development within those buffers.

Federal regulation is split between the Savannah and Jacksonville offices of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, making coordination of the resource more difficult than under one district. In addition many of the current regulations, both Federal and State, exempt activities and structures associated with developing single-family homesites. The cumulative impacts of increases in recreation and weekend homesites could threaten water quality, create conflicts among river users, and significantly alter the scenic character of the river. Silviculture activities have the potential to greatly affect water and scenic qualities of the river. High compliance with best management practices must be maintained and setbacks are needed, especially where uplands are immediately adjacent to the river. The high water quality in large part can be attributed to the large land holdings and the undisturbed state of most of the riverbank.

Even though the St. Marys River Basin has numerous resource protection programs there are large gaps within them and there is no formal coordination mechanism for the programs. Current programs are summarized in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 7. Resource Protection Programs Available in Florida and Georgia

Protection Program	<u>Governmental Protection Level</u>	
	Florida	Georgia
Wetland Regulations	Federal, State	Federal, State (only in coastal marshes)
Water Quality Standards	State	State
Water Use Classification System	State	State
Antidegradation Policies	State	State
Special Surface Water Designations	State	State
NPDES Permitting	Federal	State
Water Body Restoration Programs	State (FDEP SWIM program)	None
Consumptive Use Permits	State (SJRWMD)	State (GDNR)
Stormwater Regulations	State (SJRWMD)	None
Surface Water Management Regulations	State (SJRWMD)	None
Corridor Designation	None	State, Local (Counties)
Growth Management	Counties, State	Counties, State
Land Acquisition	State (CARL, SOR)	State (P-2000)
Endangered Species	Federal, State	Federal, State

SWIM = Surface Water Improvement and Management

CARL = Conservation and Recreation Lands

SOR = Save Our Rivers

Table 8. Regulation of Wetland Alteration Activities (Dredge and Fill)

Agency	Regulation	Applicability to Land Uses		
		Silviculture	Agriculture	Urban/Industrial
<u>Federal</u>				
USACE ^a	Dredge and Fill Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 ^b Sections 9 and 10	NA	NA	Applies
	Clean Water Act, Section 404 ^c (33 CFR Parts 320-330)	Exempt ^d	Exempt ^d	Applies
	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956 ^e			
	Endangered Species Act of 1973 ^f			
<u>State of Florida</u>				
FDEP/ SJRWMD ^g	Dredge and Fill Warren S. Henderson Wetlands Protection Act of 1984 (403.92-.938, FS)	Exempt ^h	Exempt ^h	Applies
SJRWMD	Management and Storage of Surface Waters (Ch. 40C-4, Ch. 40C-40, and Ch. 40C-41, F.A.C., Sec 403, FS)	Exempt ⁱ	Exempt ⁱ	Applies
<u>State of Georgia</u>				
GDNR	Dredge and Fill Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970 ^k (GA Code 12-5-280 <i>et seq.</i>)	NA	NA	Applies
	Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973 ^l (GA Code 27-3-130 <i>et seq.</i>)			

^a Jacksonville District in Florida, Savannah District in Georgia.

^b Prohibit unauthorized construction in or over navigable waters of the United States.

^c Governs discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

^d 33 CFR Part 232.4(a). Exemption applies to established (i.e., on-going) farming, silviculture, or ranching operations. Activities which bring an area into farming, silviculture, or ranching use are not able to use the exemption.

^e Requires USACE to coordinate permit applications with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

^f For protection of endangered or threatened species.

^g Certain aspects of program delegated by FDEP to SJRWMD.

^h Chapter 403.927, Florida Statutes: Exemption includes all necessary farming and forestry operations which are normal and customary for an area, such as site preparation, clearing, fencing, contouring to prevent soil erosion, soil preparation, plowing planting, harvesting, construction of access roads, and placement of bridges and culverts, provided such operations do not impede or divert the flow of surface waters.

ⁱ Some activities are exempt; others require notice permits or general permits.

^j Closed systems are exempt; other exemptions may also apply.

^k Within the St. Marys Basin, applies only to salt marshes with Camden County.

^l Private lands are exempt and is not to impede construction in any way.



VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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The study process for the St. Marys River began in January, 1991 with the evaluation of the river's natural resources. Since that time four public meetings have been held, one in each of the adjacent counties, to introduce the study.

Two of these meetings were held February 26 and 27, 1991 in the towns of Kingsland and Folkston, Georgia. The two meetings drew a total of 106 people with diverse representation including landowners, industry, public officials, citizens, Congressional staff, and conservation organizations. Comments presented indicated that the majority of attendees were not in favor of federal designation and management of the river; however, there was interest in protecting and preserving the river at a local level. Major concerns included:

- Federal acquisition of private land
- Increased Federal control over existing land uses
- Erosion of the local tax base if additional lands are placed in public ownership
- Local citizens feel that their views will not be taken into consideration by the study team nor reflected in the study findings

The second set of meeting was held in Macclenny and Yulee, Florida on the evenings of April 29 and 30, 1991. A total of 97 people attended these meetings and again the representation was diverse including landowners, industry, public officials, citizens, media and conservation organizations. Comments presented at the Macclenny meeting were similar to the earlier meetings in Kingsland and Folkston, Georgia. The majority of attendees were not in favor of federal designation and management of the river; however, interest in protecting and preserving the river at the local level was

voiced. The Yulee meeting, attended by approximately 60 people, was predominantly favorable toward wild and scenic recognition for the St. Marys River and several attendees voiced concerns over the ability of local entities to adequately protect the river. The combined major concerns expressed at these meetings included:

- Federal acquisition of private lands
- Increased Federal control over existing land uses
- Degradation of the river's values without some form of long term protection
- Local citizens feel that their views will not be taken into consideration by the study team or reflected in the study findings

A brochure describing The Wild and Scenic River Act and answering typical questions regarding its impact and meaning was distributed at all four of these meetings and a mailing list compiled of the attendees. (See Appendix B)

In addition to the initial county meetings, the County Commission Chairman in each of the four study area counties was asked in August, 1991 to suggest representatives to serve on a study advisory group to assist the study team. The County Commissions created the St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC) to explore local river protection options. The committee held its first meeting in November 1991 and has concentrated on local management issues and alternatives to Wild & Scenic River designation. On March 5, 1992 SMRMC stated they did not wish to participate in the St. Mary Wild and Scenic River Study as an advisory group. In December 1993 an inter-local agreement was signed between Baker,

Nassau, Charlton and Camden Counties formally establishing the St. Marys River Management Committee. Voting membership of the SMRMC includes one commissioner from each county, two landowners (including corporations) from each county, and two county residents from each county. The St. Johns River Water Management District and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources were invited to participate as non-voting members of the committee. Voting members are appointed by the county commissions. The SMRMC has openly opposed Wild and Scenic River designation.

A second local citizens group, Friends of St. Marys, was formed in January 1992 by environmental interests in south Georgia and North Florida. Their sole purpose was promoting National Wild and Scenic River designation for the St. Marys River.

Representatives of the National Park Service have attended meetings of both organizations on a regular basis.

In September, 1991 the National Park Service issued the St. Marys River Study - Preliminary Eligibility Determination (See Appendix C). This was distributed to all the attendees of the four county meetings, county commissioners, local elected officials, members of the St. Marys River Management Committee, local and regional media, Friends of the St. Marys, local Congresspersons, interested Federal agencies, St. Johns River Water Management District, and citizens that had expressed an interest in the study.

The St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study - Draft Report was completed and distributed to the public beginning on March 17, 1994. An updated version of the Preliminary Eligibility Determination mailing list was utilized to distribute the Draft Report and request public comment on the document. Re-

sponses were requested to be returned to the NPS by June 23, 1994. Copies of those responses can be found in Appendix D. A summary of those responses follows:

Federal Agencies

Information Updates Only

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - no conflicts
- U.S. Bureau of Mines - potential mining impacts
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Savannah District - no ongoing studies; clearing/snagging activities to RM 37
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service - informational corrections
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - supports local river management council as a forum for discussion/direction but Secretary of Interior should retain oversight responsibility
- U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge - informational comments, favors preferred alternative
- U.S. Department of Energy - no comment

State Agencies

Informational Updates

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection - review comments/clarifications
- Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center - informational updates

In Favor Of Designation

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources - alternative D (local mgmt.) to include local government, state agencies, federal agencies, private landowners, and special interest groups, with the authority to

protect the river from adverse land use practices within the framework of federal, state and local laws.

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Park Planning - alternative D (local mgmt.)
- Florida Office of the Governor - summary of state agencies' positions
- Department of Community Affairs - no objections to proposed action
- Department of Transportation - no objections to proposed action
- Department of State - no objections to proposed action
- Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Intergovernmental Programs - Congressional designation with equal management responsibilities among federal, state, and local agencies while a coordinating council be established for providing direct involvement by local citizens so that the management program is responsive to public needs.
- Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission - strongly supports nomination, recommends combination of alt. C & D (states to develop & implement mgmt. plan in partnership with local advisory board)

Opposed To Designation

- State of Florida St. Johns River Water Management District - agrees the river is eligible, but because of local opposition feels the river should not be designated at this time but study should be revisited in a couple of years.

Local Government And Committees

In Favor Of Designation - none

Opposed To Designation

- Baker County, Florida Board of County Commissioners

- Camden County, Georgia Board of County Commissioners
- Charlton County, Georgia Board of County Commissioners
- Nassau County, Florida Board of County Commissioners
- St. Marys River Management Committee

Environmental & Recreational Organizations

In Favor Of Designation

- National Audubon Society
- Coastal Georgia Audubon Society
- The Georgia Conservancy
- Glynn Environmental Coalition, Inc., Brunswick, Georgia
- The Friends of St. Marys
- Sierra Club, Florida Chapter
- Seminole Canoe and Kayak Club, Northeast Florida

Opposed To Designation - none

Individuals & Companies

Informational Updates

Rayonier, Forest Resources - informational updates, "I feel the river itself warrants some discussion, but the 'basin' does not warrant 'protection'."

In Favor Of Designation

Individual letters	40
FL - 32	SD - 1
GA - 5	NY - 1
NC - 1	

Form letters	30
FL - 30	

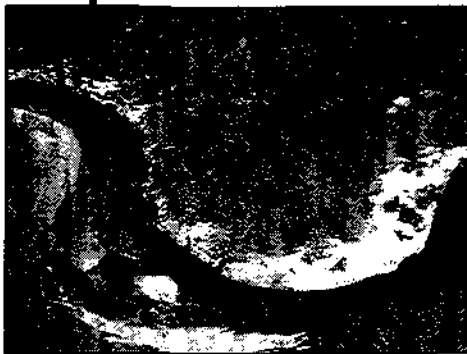
Petition to Secretary Babbitt;	
GA & FL legislators	120
GA - 88	SC - 1
FL - 31	

TOTAL 190

Opposed To Designation

Individual letters	TOTAL 8
GA - 5 FL - 3	

Upon distribution of the St. Marys Wild and Scenic River Study - Draft Report the NPS contacted each of the four county commissions offering to make presentations. The purpose was to review the report, provide clarifications as necessary and obtain additional input. Each county commission declined.



VII. ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

VII. ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

Alternative A - No Action/Existing Trends

Discussion: This alternative characterizes the future conditions expected in the study area without a formal management plan or designation as a wild and scenic river. Sections of the St. Marys River are clearly eligible to be a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the river is an excellent example of Southern blackwater rivers. The river landowners, for the most part, have done an excellent job of preserving the rivers outstanding scenic, natural, and recreational characteristics. This has been due in large part to the large tract ownership along much of the river, the rivers' distance to major population centers, and the low population densities in the adjacent counties.

The rural character and silviculture land uses are expected to continue in the area but significant urban expansion is projected to continue in the St. Marys - Kingsland area of Camden County, Georgia. This is anticipated as a result of the continued growth of the Kings Bay Naval Base. Moderate growth is projected to continue in eastern Nassau County, Florida in the vicinity of Yulee and Fernandina Beach. Both Baker County, Florida and Charlton County, Georgia projections show little population increase.

While counties in both Georgia and Florida are required to have comprehensive land use plans, none of the counties recognize the St. Marys River and its basin as a resource of regional significance. Silviculture management practices for protection of banks and immediately adjacent lands have had very high compliance but are purely voluntary. Most significantly, the majority of local, state and federal

regulations regarding development along the river and within prescribed buffer areas exempt single residential development from much of the permitting process. Only water quality issues relating to location of septic tanks are really addressed. There is no coordinated effort among the many existing regulatory authorities for river protection.

Conclusion: Due to the projected increase in development pressures there is a very strong need for coordination and some consistency among the many local, regional, state, and federal authorities currently involved in protection of the St. Marys River.

Alternative B - Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River as a national wild and scenic river with National Park Service management

Discussion: In this alternative Congress would amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River as a national wild and scenic river. The National Park Service would prepare a comprehensive management plan and a land protection plan following designation. These plans would guide the NPS management of the St. Marys River in a manner similar to other National Park System units, and consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This alternative is widely and strongly opposed by many area citizens and landowners. A need for river protection was expressed by local citizens and landowners, but they felt it could be better handled at the local level. Federal budgetary constraints have also imposed severe limitations on Federal parkland acquisition and operational funds.

Conclusion: Although the St. Marys River is eligible for designation, local concerns and opposition to federal acquisition of private lands and the resulting loss of local tax base, increased federal control over existing land uses, and decreased local access to the river make this alternative infeasible.

Alternative C -

Secretary of the Interior designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River within the States of Florida and Georgia with cooperative management between Florida and Georgia

Discussion: Under this alternative designation of any portion of the St. Marys River by the Secretary of the Interior requires that the river be a designated component of an existing state rivers system. Both Florida and Georgia have such systems. In addition, the Governors of both Georgia and Florida would be required to submit their proposed management plans for protection of the river's natural values when requesting national designation. If the Secretary feels the proposed state management plans will protect the river in a manner consistent with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, he can designate the river into the national system. Management of the river would most likely be handled by Georgia's and Florida's departments of natural resources. This alternative has the beneficial effect of coordinating management of the river between the two states.

Conclusion: While this alternative coordinates efforts between Georgia and Florida and puts management of the river in state control, it does not address local citizen and landowner's interest to protect and preserve the river at the local level.

Alternative D -

Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Marys River with special legislation establishing a local river management council

Discussion: Utilizing this alternative Congress would amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the St. Marys River, and in the same legislation create a local river management council. The NPS would be authorized to provide financial and technical assistance to the council. The council would be responsible for the management of all non-Federal lands within the designated river corridor, consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Under this alternative the NPS could provide funds to the local river management council to hire consultants to assist them in preparing the river management plan. The membership of the council could be structured to represent local landowners and commercial interests, local government, state government, St. Johns River Water Management District, National Park Service, recreational interests, and local and national conservation organizations. Local influence in the development and implementation of the plan would be clearly mandated. Extensive local participation would make it possible to develop a plan and guidelines that addresses the concerns of area residents while satisfying the national interest. These guidelines could include provisions such as:

1. Retaining local control of the river corridor through the establishment of a river management council; the council having primary responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the plan
2. Protection against over-regulation by coordination of existing local, state, and federal laws to protect the river

3. Any future land acquisition would be driven by the locally developed management plan
4. Development of guidelines to ensure continuation of such traditional activities as recreation, hunting, fishing, trapping, timbering, and agriculture
5. Providing counties and towns with alternatives and flexibility allowing them to meet guidelines in their own way

Conclusion: This alternative will not satisfy all local opposition to federal involvement. It does, however, provide a mechanism to meet the expressed local desire for local control, river protection and river preservation. It provides the means for effective coordination of regulations and local management of the St. Marys River. This is the National Park Service's preferred alternative.



VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Because no Federal action is being proposed, there is no regulatory requirement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 90-190) to prepare an environmental impact statement. None the less, an

environmental assessment has been prepared to analyze probable impacts of the alternatives considered.

TABLE 9
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE A - No Action/Existing Trends

ALTERNATIVE B - Congressional Designation/National Park Services Management

ALTERNATIVE C - Secretary of the Interior Designation/cooperative State Management

ALTERNATIVE D - Congressional Designation/Local river Management Council

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

The river would not be designed a wild and scenic river. No comprehensive management plan would be prepared; however, the St. Marys River Management Committee established by interlocal agreement among the four counties adjacent to the river could serve to coordinate county management efforts.

All or portions of the river would be designated as a national wild and scenic river. The NPS would prepare a comprehensive management plan consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

All or part of the river would be designated as a national wild and scenic river. The Government of both state would be required to submit management plans as the time of request for national designation. If the Secretary feels the , management plans are consistent with the National Wild and Scenic River Act he would designate the river into the national system.

Congress would amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the river and create a local river management council. The NPS would be authorized to provide financial and technical assistance to the council. The council would be responsible for the management of all non-Federal lands within the designated corridor, consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

The St. Marys River corridor has not been not is currently being surveyed for historic or archeological sites. There are, however, numerous known sites adjacent to the study area. Continued development along the river, especially small scale projects without the higher levels of permitting and review required of larger developments, could destroy important historic and archeological remnants. There is no current trend towards requiring archaeological review of individual residential sites prior to construction in either state at the state or local level. The overall cultural impacts of this alternative would be negative.

The NPS would address historical, archeological, and other cultural resources as part of its river management plan. Through long term NPS administration and comprehensive management of the river additional archeological research could be encouraged. Protection and interpretation of sites which might be found in the future would increase the knowledge of the cultures and history of the peoples that have lived along the river. Overall, cultural impacts of this alternative should be positive.

Impacts of this alternative would be very similar to those of Alternative B except that the management plan would be developed and administered by the state of Georgia and Florida. Specific requirements for identification of cultural resources would be included within this management plan and coordinated between the two states.

Impacts of this alternative are very similar to those of Alternative B and Alternative C except that the management plan would be developed and implemented by a local river management council. The NPS could be authorized by the designating legislation to provide financial and technical assistance. Studies would be undertaken to identify archeological, historical, or otherwise culturally important sites within the management area. This alternative could provide the largest pool of funding sources of all the alternatives by utilizing private, state and federal resources.

Table 9. (cont.)

ALTERNATIVE A - No Action/Existing Trends

IMPACTS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Environment protection of the river corridor will continue to rely on the many separate local, state and federal agencies currently having jurisdiction. There would continue to be no coordinated management among entities. Based upon current land use patterns lands directly adjacent to the river will continue to be developed in single family residential. Potential effects include destruction of upland buffers, decreased bank stabilization, increased runoff volume, potential water quality aesthetic quality of the river. Docks allowed under blanket permits will continue to increase. Based upon past compliance records, voluntary best management practices for silviculture will continue to be highly used. The threat of loss of the river's aesthetic quality from clear cutting will continue due to lack of required buffers. Overall, continuing impacts from this alternatives would negatively affect the river and adjacent corridor.

IMPACTS ON SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Alternative A does not provide Federal designation of the river and existing socioeconomic trends are expected to continue. Based upon past growth patterns this would result in increased residential development adjacent to the river. This could include high density mobile home developments such as at Flea Hill, second homes, weekend cabins, and other single family residential. silviculture practices would continue adjacent to the river.

ALTERNATIVE B - Congressional Designation/National Park Services Management

Protection of natural values would be undertaken by the National Park Service. Protection measures could include fee title land acquisition to average not more than 100 acres per mile of the river and/or conservation easements. Environmental impacts on the river would be decreased under this alternative through coordinated management of the river and the adjacent corridor.

Federal designation with NPS management could result in minor loss of local tax base if Federal acquisition of lands adjacent to the river occurred. Lands potentially taken out of silviculture production would be minor and no discernable loss to the overall local economy is foreseen. Designation as a wild and scenic river would enhance visibility for recreational use but the incremental increase of impacts attributable to the designation is anticipated to be minimal

ALTERNATIVE C - Secretary of the Interior Designation/cooperative State Management

The states of Florida and Georgia would be responsible for river management under state rivers programs. This is similar to Alternative B in that there would be coordinated management. The Federal government would not be involved in land acquisition. Overall impacts on the natural environment would be positive.

Socioeconomic impacts of Federal designation with cooperative state management are similar to those of Alternative B. The Federal government would not, however, be involved in land acquisition. Areas of special or critical concern could be purchased by either Florida or Georgia through existing state land conservation programs such as Preservation 2000.

ALTERNATIVE D - Congressional Designation/Local river Management Council

Under this alternative a local river management council would be responsible for developing a comprehensive river a management plan. The overall impacts on the natural environment would be positive.

Federal designation with management by a local river management council would have overall socioeconomic impacts similar to those in Alternative B and Alternative C. A better understanding of local issues and concerns would allow more appropriate and responsive decisions to be made which would both protect the resource and support economic growth.



IX. LIST OF PREPARERS AND PARTICIPANTS

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REFERENCES

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APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

Table A-1. Fishes of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 1 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea Lamprey
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> ^a	Shortnose Sturgeon
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> ^a	Atlantic Sturgeon
<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>	Longnose Gar
<i>Lepisosteus platyrhincus</i> ^a	Florida Gar
<i>Amia calva</i>	Bowfin
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	American Eel
<i>Alosa aestivalis</i>	Bluejack Herring
<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>	American Shad
<i>Umbra pygmaea</i> ^a	Eastern mudminnow
<i>Esox americanus</i>	Redfin Pickerel
<i>Esox niger</i>	Chain Pickerel
<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	Golden shiner
<i>Notrois sp.</i>	Shiner Sp.
<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>	Ironcolor Shiner
<i>Notropis emiliae</i> ^a	Pugnose Minnow
<i>Notropis hypselopterus</i>	Shellfin Shiner
<i>Notropis maculatus</i>	Taillight Shiner
<i>Notropis petersoni</i>	Coastal Shiner
<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>	Lake Chubsucker
<i>Minytrema melanops</i>	Spotted Sucker
<i>Ictalurus catus</i>	White Catfish
<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>	Yellow Bullhead
<i>Ictalurus nebulosus</i>	Brown Bullhead
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	Channel Catfish
<i>Noturus gyrinus</i>	Tadpole Madtom
<i>Noturus leptacanthus</i>	Speckled Madtom
<i>Aphredoderus sayanus</i>	Pirate Perch
<i>Strongylura marina</i>	Atlantic Needlefish
<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>	Sheephead Minnow
<i>Fundulus chrysotus</i> ^a	Golden Topminnow
<i>Fundulus cingulatus</i> ^a	Banded Topminnow
<i>Fundulus lineolatus</i>	Lined Topminnow
<i>Leptoucania ommata</i>	Pigmy Killifish
<i>Lucania parva</i> ^a	Rainwater Killifish
<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Mosquito Fish
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	Least Killifish
<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	Salfin Molly
<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>	Brook Silverside
<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	Striped Bass
<i>Acantharchus pomotis</i> ^a	Mud Sunfish
<i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>	Flier Sunfish
<i>Elassoma okefenokee</i>	Okefenokee Pymy Sunfish
<i>Elassoma zonatum</i>	Banded Pymy Sunfish
<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i> ^a	Blackbanded Sunfish
<i>Enneacanthus gloriosus</i>	Bluespotted Sunfish

Table A-1. Fishes of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 2 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>	Banded Sunfish
<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Redbreast Sunfish
<i>Lepomis gulosus</i>	Warmouth
<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Bluegill
<i>Lepomis marginatus</i>	Dollar Sunfish
<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Redear Sunfish
<i>Lepomis punctatus</i>	Spotted Sunfish
<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Largemouth Bass
<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Black Crappie
<i>Etheostoma fusiforme</i>	Swamp Darter
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	Striped Mullet
<i>Trinectes maculatus</i>	Hogchoker
<i>Goblonellus shufeldti</i>	Freshwater Goby
<i>Lutjanus giseus</i>	Gray Snapper
<i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i>	Spotfin Mojarra
<i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i>	Southern Flounder

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.

Table A-2. Amphibians and Reptiles of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 1 of 3)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Salamanders</u>	
<i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i> ^a	Flatwoods Salamander
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander
<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i>	Mole Salamander
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i> ^a	Eastern Tiger Salamander
<i>Amphiuma means</i>	Two-Toed Amphiuma
<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	Southern Salamander
<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	Southern Two-Lined Salamander
<i>Eurycea quadridigitata</i>	Dwarf Salamander
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i> ^a	Striped Newt
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	Central Newt
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander
<i>Pseudobranchius branchius</i>	Narrow-Striped Dwarf Siren
<i>Pseudotriton montanus</i>	Rusty Mud Salamander
<i>Siren intermedia</i>	Eastern Lesser Siren
<i>Siren tucetina</i>	Greater Siren
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i> ^a	Many-Lined Salamander
<u>Frogs</u>	
<i>Acris gryllus</i>	Southern Cricket Frog
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad
<i>Bufo terrestris</i>	Southern Toad
<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>	Eastern Narrow-Mouthed Toad
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	Gray Treefrog
<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	Green Treefrog
<i>Hyla crucifer</i>	Spring Peeper
<i>Hyla femoralis</i>	Pine Woods Treefrog
<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	Barking Treefrog
<i>Hyla squirella</i>	Squirrel Treefrog
<i>Limnodynastes ornata</i>	Little Grass Frog
<i>Pseudacris nigrita</i>	Southern Chorus Frog
<i>Pseudacris ornata</i>	Ornate Chorus Frog
<i>Rana areolata</i> ^a	Florida Gopher Frog
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog
<i>Rana clamitans</i>	Bronze Frog
<i>Rana gryllus</i>	Pig Frog
<i>Rana heckscheri</i>	River Frog
<i>Rana sphenoccephala</i>	Southern Leopard Frog
<i>Rana virgatipes</i>	Carpenter Frog
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Eastern Spadefoot Toad
<u>Turtles</u>	
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Common Snapping Turtle
<i>Delrochelys reticularia</i>	Florida Chicken Turtle
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> ^a	Gopher Tortoise
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	Striped Mud Turtle

Table A-2. Amphibians and Reptiles of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 2 of 3)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Turtles (continued)</u>	
<i>Kinostern subrubrum</i>	Eastern Mud Turtle
<i>Pseudemys floridana</i>	Florida Cooter
<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i> ^a	Florida Red-Bellied Turtle
<i>Sternotherus minor</i>	Loggerhead Musk Turtle
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	Stinkpot Turtle
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Florida Box Turtle
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Yellow-Bellied Turtle
<i>Trionyx ferox</i>	Florida Softshell Turtle
<u>Lizards</u>	
<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	Green Anole Lizard
<i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus</i>	Six-Lined Racerunner
<i>Eumeces egregius</i>	Northern Mole Skink
<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	Five-Lined Skink
<i>Eumeces inexpectatus</i>	Southeasterneastern Five-Lined Skink
<i>Eumeces laticeps</i>	Broad-headed Skink
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Eastern Slender Grass Lizard
<i>Ophisaurus compressus</i>	Island Glass Lizard
<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	Eastern Glass Lizard
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	Southern Fence Lizard
<i>Scincella laterale</i>	Ground Skink
<u>Snakes</u>	
<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	Florida Cottonmouth
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Northern Scarlet Snake
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Southern Black Racer
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake
<i>Crotalus horridus</i> ^a	Canebrake Rattlesnake
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Southern Ringneck Snake
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i> ^a	Eastern Indigo Snake
<i>Elaphe guttata</i>	Corn Snake, Red Rat Snake
<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i>	Yellow Rat Snake
<i>Farancia abacura</i>	Eastern Mud Snake
<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake
<i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i>	Eastern Hognose Snake
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i> ^a	Mole Snake
<i>Lampropeltis getulus</i>	Florida Kingsnake
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake
<i>Liodytes alleni</i>	Striped Swamp Snake
<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	Eastern Coachwhip
<i>Micrurus fulvius</i>	Eastern Coral Snake
<i>Nerodia cyclopion</i>	Green Water Snake
<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>	Red-Bellied Water Snake

Table A-2. Amphibians and Reptiles of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 3 of 3)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Snakes (continued)</u>	
<i>Nerodia fasciata</i>	Banded Water Snake
<i>Nerodia taxispilota</i>	Brown Water Snake
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	Rough Green Snake
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Florida Pine Snake
<i>Regina alleni</i>	Striped Crayfish Snake
<i>Regina rigida</i>	Eastern Glossy Crayfish Snake
<i>Rhadinaea flavilata</i>	Pine Woods Snake
<i>Seminatrix pygaea</i>	North Florida Black Swamp Snake
<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>	Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake
<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	Florida Brown Snake
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Florida Red-Bellied Snake
<i>Tantilla relicta</i>	Florida Crowned Snake
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Peninsula Ribbon Snake
<i>Thamophis sirtalis</i>	Eastern Garter Snake
<i>Virginia striatula</i>	Rough Earth Snake
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Eastern Smooth Earth Snake

^a Listed species. See Table A-1.

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.

Table A-3. Probable Breeding Birds of the St. Marys River Basin

Common Name	Common Name	Common Name
Pied-Billed Grebe	American Woodcock	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Pelican ^a	Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Gull-billed Tern ^a	Marsh Wren ^a
American Anhinga	Royal Tern ^a	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Least Bittern	Sandwich Tern	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Least Tern ^a	Wood Thrush
Great Egret	Black Skimmer ^a	American Robin
Snowy Egret	Rock Dove	Gray Catbird
Little Blue Heron	Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Tricolored Heron	Common Ground-Dove	Brown Thrasher
Cattle Egret	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Loggerhead Shrike
Green-backed Heron	Eastern Screech-Owl	European Starling
Black-crowned Night-Heron ^a	Great Horned Owl	White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron ^a	Barred Owl	yellow-throated Vireo
White Ibis	Common Nighthawk	Red-eyed Vireo
Glossy Ibis ^a	Chuck-will's-widow	Northern Parula
Wood Stork ^a	Chimney Swift	Yellow-throated Warbler
Wood Duck	Ruby-throated	Pine Warbler
Black Vulture	Hummingbird	Prarie Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Prothonotary Warbler
Osprey ^a	Red-headed Woodpecker	Swainson's Warbler
Swallow-Tailed Kite ^a	Downy Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Mississippi Kite	Hairy Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Bald Eagle ^a	Red-cockaded	Yellow-breasted Chat
Cooper's Hawk ^a	Woodpecker ^a	Summer Tanager
Red-shouldered Hawk	Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Blue Grosbeak
Wild Turkey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Indigo Bunting
Northern Bobwhite	Acadian Flycatcher	Painted Bunting
Black Rail ^a	Great Crested Flycatcher	Rufous-sided Towhee
Clapper Rail	Eastern Kingbird ^a	Bachman's Sparrow ^a
King Rail	Gray Kingbird	Field Sparrow
Common Moorhen	Purple Martin	Seaside Sparrow ^a
Purple Gallinule	Northern Rough-winged	Red-winged Blackbird
Limpkin ^a	Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Sandhill Crane ^a	Barn Swallow	Boat-tailed Grackle
Wilson's Plover	Blue Jay	Common Grackle
Killdeer	American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Oystercatcher ^a	Fish Crow	Orchard Oriole
Willet	Carolina Chickadee	House Sparrow
	Tufted Titmouse	
	White-breasted Nuthatch	

^a Listed species. See Table A-1.

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.

Table A-4. Mammals of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 1 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Virginia Opossum
<i>Sorex longirostris</i>	Souther Shrew
<i>Blarina carolinensis</i>	Southern Short-tailed Shrew
<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	Least Shrew
<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>	Eastern Mole
<i>Condylura cristata</i> ^a	Star-nosed Mole
<i>Myotis grisescens</i> ^a	Gray Bat
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Bat
<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	Eastern Pipistrelle
<i>Plecotus rafinesquii</i> ^a	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Red Bat
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat
<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i> ^a	Yellow Bat
<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>	Evening Bat
<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat
<i>Dasyus novemcinctus</i>	Nine-banded Armadillo
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail
<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>	Marsh Rabbit
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Gray Squirrel
<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i> ^a	Sherman's Fox Squirrel
<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	Southern Flying Squirrel
<i>Geomys pinetis</i>	Southeastern Pocket Gopher
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver
<i>Neotoma floridana</i>	Eastern Woodrat
<i>Signodon hispidus</i>	Hispid Cotton Rat
<i>Reithrodontomys humilis</i>	Eastern Harvest Mouse
<i>Oryzomys palustris</i>	Marsh Rice Rat
<i>Peromyscus polionotus</i>	Oldfield or Beach Mouse
<i>Peromyscus gossypinus</i>	Cotton Mouse
<i>Ochrotomys nuttalli</i>	Golden Mouse
<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	Pine Vole
<i>Neofiber alleni</i> ^a	Round-tailed Muskrat
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Black or Roof Rat
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Norway Rat
<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Nutria
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i> ^a	Florida Black Bear
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon
<i>Mustela vison</i>	Mink
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Long-tailed Weasel
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Striped Skunk
<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	River Otter
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Gray Fox

Table A-4. Mammals of the St. Marys River Basin (Page 2 of 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Felis rufus</i>	Bobcat
<i>Trichechus manatus</i> ^a	Florida Manatee
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral Hog
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed Deer

Source: Lynch and Baker, 1988.



APPENDIX B



ST. MARYS RIVER

Georgia and Florida



"What Would a Wild & Scenic River Study Mean?"



PROPOSED STUDY OF THE ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA

Background:

Americans have viewed our nation's abundance of rivers as a vast resource since early settlement began. After decades of harnessing our rivers for growth and development, our environmental conscience was awakened in the 1960's to the fact that clean, natural waterways are not in endless supply. Congress, acting upon this growing public concern, passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) in 1968. This Act recognizes the value of rivers and their environs as outstanding natural treasures which must be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Study Authorization:

The Act designated several rivers for immediate protection and authorized study of additional rivers as potential components of the Federally-protected system. Through the years Congress has responded to the desires of the citizenry by amending the Act to either designate or authorize study of additional rivers.

Legislation is currently pending in the Congress which would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to study the St. Marys River (Georgia and Florida) to determine if it qualifies and is suitable for National Wild and Scenic River status.

Study Process:

If the St. Marys study bill is enacted and study funds are made available, the NPS would spend approximately three years evaluating the river's natural resources and considering a number of protection alternatives in order to make recommendations to the Congress concerning the river's future protection. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the NPS planning guidelines, and common sense all dictate that local residents, adjoining landowners, and the general public be substantially involved throughout the study in shaping the final study report and recommendations. The NPS role in this process is to act as an extended professional staff to the Congress for the purpose of preparing a report on the natural resource values of the St. Marys River and determining the public's desire for the river's future.

Eligibility:

The Act states that in order for a river to be eligible for designation, it must be free flowing and must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

Classification:

The Act further requires that the study indicate the appropriate classification should the river be designated. Rivers are

classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational depending on the river's degree of naturalness.

The classification categories are defined as follows:

Wild river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Suitability:

As the study progresses, an array of alternatives are developed for public discussion and consideration in order to determine if the river is "suitable" for designation. Typical alternatives

include a "no action" alternative, Federal management alternative, State management alternative, and protection at the local level without designation alternative.

Public Involvement:

The support of local concerned citizens is the single most important factor in determining that a river is suitable for designation. Accordingly, involving the public and local landowners throughout the entire study is vital if they are to feel that Wild and Scenic River designation is the best alternative for "their" river both as individuals and as a community. If a study of the St. Marys River is authorized, the NPS would sponsor a public forum within the study area prior to initiation of the study. These forums would be for the purpose of announcing the study, explaining the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, and gaining a feel for the public concerns and interests in the river's future. Once the study begins, an effort would be made to identify all riverfront landowners from county tax records in order that they might be notified of the study and their opinions freely given to the study team. Further, the NPS would like to organize a citizens advisory committee within the study area for the purpose of assisting with the public involvement process. The advisory committee would serve as a local point of contact through which the study team

could be more responsive to citizen concerns, and through which all draft plans or alternatives could be reviewed, commented upon, and returned to the NPS for appropriate revision. An advisory committee should include representation from all segments of the study area population--businesses, landowners, local governments, civic organizations, conservation organizations, etc.

Another method of public involvement used by an NPS study team is periodical mailing of a newsletter or public information brochure at key points during the course of the study. Newsletters are normally appropriate early in the planning process to explain what the public might expect and to answer frequently asked questions. Other key points occur when preliminary study findings and alternatives have been developed and, of course, when the preliminary study recommendations are available.

A Congressional study report is prepared by the NPS and circulated in draft for public review and comment. Based on public comment, the report is finalized for submission to the Congress.

Designation:

National Wild and Scenic River designation would immediately and permanently preclude Federal water resource development projects

within the river which would result in "direct and adverse impacts" to those natural attributes which qualify it as a component of the system. Direct shoreline restrictions would extend only to Federal or Federally-assisted areas. The NPS would be required to develop a comprehensive river management plan and a land protection plan for the river which would determine the priorities and methods for protection of adjoining lands considered critical to maintain the river's natural character. Both the comprehensive management plan and the land protection plan are done with the same degree of public involvement as the original feasibility study.

The overall objective of wild and scenic designation and long-term management is to protect the river's outstanding natural character. This does not mean that growth and development are no longer allowed; however, future development would have to occur in an environmentally sensitive manner to assure that the river is not degraded.

In summary, National Wild and Scenic River designation of the St. Marys River would assure that the river and a narrow visual corridor along both banks would remain substantially unchanged.

The river would remain clean, structurally unmodified, and with the shoreline natural to the extent practical. Public use of the riverine environment would be managed to provide enjoyable recreational use in a manner which would not degrade the river's considerable natural and cultural values. Local citizens would have a major role in shaping the river's protection and future use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What restrictions are placed upon the river when the Congress authorizes a National Wild and Scenic River study?

A. As stated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river authorized for study as a potential component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System is protected from Federally-funded or assisted water resource development projects during the study and for a period not to exceed three years following completion of the study. This protection generally means that Federally-funded or licensed dams, channel modification, or dredging activities which would result in a direct and adverse effect on the river's potential for designation as a Wild and Scenic River would not be permitted. Federal agencies call a "time-out" in plans that could alter the river's natural character, until the NPS can evaluate the river's eligibility and suitability for

designation and the Congress can consider and take appropriate actions on the NPS findings.

Q. How are private lands adjoining the river affected during the study period?

A. A private landowner's rights to personal use of his lands is in no way affected during the study.

Q. I have plans to construct a boat dock on my river front property. Will the study or possible future designation prevent me from having a dock?

A. If your dock is in an area where docks are common and your plans call for a structure which is consistent with other docks in the area, the NPS would not voice objections to your permit application either during the study or following designation. If the river were designated, we would oppose new docks on stretches of the river classified as "wild" or where we consider a dock to be out-of-character with the nature of the river at that particular location.

Q. What are the restrictions on shoreline development during the study and after designation?

A. During the study, the NPS has no authority over shoreline development; however, in the event that Federal assistance (grants, loans, or permits) is needed for the development, we would encourage the appropriate Federal agency to require that the applicant protect the river from "direct and adverse" impacts. The study would identify a linear corridor on both banks of the river which should be protected if the river is designated. The degree of protection would be determined by the river classification (wild, scenic, or recreational) and by the outstanding natural, cultural or geologic characteristics. Following preparation of a comprehensive management plan and a land protection plan (plans prepared after designation) the NPS would, preferably, by conservation easements or volunteer landowner protection, or in some cases by fee acquisition, acquire those lands most critical to the protection of the river's character. The Act sets limits on acquisition which includes a maximum average acquisition of 100 acres per river mile. In addition, the Act provides for owners of improved properties constructed before January 1, 1967, to retain a right of use and occupancy, if it is determined their property has to be acquired.

All land acquisition is also dependent upon approved management and land protection plans and Congressional appropriation of acquisition funds.

Q. Will I have an opportunity to voice my opinions to the NPS about this study and the effects it may have on me or my land?

A. The NPS encourages public involvement throughout the study and will make every effort to discuss your concerns or interest by correspondence, telephone, or personal contact at meetings near your home. We would strive during the course of the study to answer your questions and address your concerns in a manner which would relieve all objections or apprehensions to designation.

Q. Can I continue to farm my land, as I always have before, if the St. Marys River is designated a National Wild and Scenic River?

A. While designation does affect activities on Federal land, there is no Federal authority to control legitimate use of private land, nor would there be any Federal authority to force State and local governments to control or modify land uses.

Put simply, designation does not adversely affect existing land uses along a river--timber management, farming, mineral extraction, commercial activities, residences, and communities. These uses are an integral part of the river corridor and its history and are often part of the reason the river was found eligible for the system. The term "living landscape" has been frequently applied to Wild and Scenic River areas because they are so often inextricably tied to local people and their customs. Designation could lead to some restrictions (if local governments adopt them) on major new building development on privately owned land, and to land use activities on Federal land if they would be destructive to major aspects of the river environment.

For Additional Information Contact:

National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-331-5838



APPENDIX C



ST. MARYS RIVER STUDY GEORGIA AND FLORIDA



PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION



SEPTEMBER 1991

Background:

Beginning with our first early days of settlement, Americans have viewed our nation's abundance of rivers as a vast resource. After decades of harnessing our rivers for growth and development, our environmental conscience was awakened in the 1960s to the fact that clean, natural waterways are not in endless supply. Congress, acting upon this growing public concern, passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) in 1968. This Act recognizes the value of rivers and their environs as outstanding natural treasures that must be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Study Authorization:

The Act designated several rivers for immediate protection and authorized the study of additional rivers as potential components of the Federally-protected system. Through the years Congress has responded to the desires of the citizenry by amending the Act to either designate or authorize study of additional rivers. In 1990 Congress passed Public Law 101-364, which authorized the National Park Service (NPS) to study the St. Marys River (Georgia and Florida) to determine if it qualifies and is suitable for National Wild and Scenic River status.

Study Process:

In January, 1991, the NPS began the St. Marys River Study and will spend approximately three years evaluating the river's natural resources. To date, the study team has gathered information about the river's natural resources, held four public meetings, and studied the river by boat and airplane in order to make a preliminary determination of the river's eligibility for National Wild and Scenic River designation. A number of protection alternatives are being considered for making recommendations to Congress concerning the river's future protection.

The County Commission Chairman in each of the four study area counties was asked in August, 1991, to suggest representatives to serve on a study advisory group to assist the study team. These local representatives will be asked to review and comment on draft plans prepared by the study team, and will assure that the plans and alternatives developed by the study reflect local ideas and interests.

Eligibility:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that in order for a river to be eligible for designation, it must be free-flowing and must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. The St. Marys River possess three distinct natural zones along its course.

In order to treat each zone equally, the river was divided into three segments and each segment was evaluated separately. The map on page 6 shows the approximate location of the "lower," "middle" and "upper" segments of the river. The lower segment includes approximately 18 river miles (RMs), from the Bells River confluence (RM 12) to approximately 3 RM above the U.S. Highway 17 bridge crossing (RM 27). This lower segment is tidal and represents a coastal estuary environment. The middle segment includes approximately 29 RMs, from the upper limit of the middle segment (RM 30 in the vicinity of White Oak Plantation) to approximately RM 59 in the vicinity of Trader's Hill. This segment has tidal influence, with the river channel becoming more defined and the shoreline vegetation changing character from marsh land to typical wetland vegetation and extensive baldcypress and blackgum swamp forest. The upper segment includes approximately 66 RMs, from the upper limit of the middle segment to approximately RM 125 at the headwaters of the North Prong in the Okefenokee Swamp. The upper segment contains a mixture of slash and loblolly pines and various oaks. Narrow sloughs and depressions contain typical baldcypress and ogeeche tupelo floodplain swamp vegetation.

Each segment of the river was evaluated against criteria listed on the matrices on pages 7,8,and 9 and by using the river corridor development criteria developed by the Department of the Interior during the "Nationwide Rivers Inventory," (NRI) published in 1982. Table 1, page 10, lists the various development criteria

point values used for evaluating development in the NRI.

The preliminary results of these eligibility evaluations indicate that all three segments have "outstandingly remarkable" characteristics that qualify each segment for national designation; however, applying the corridor development criteria point system employed by the NRI, approximately 42 RMs of the 113 RMs evaluated were found to exceed the acceptable shoreline development criteria and, therefore, were ineligible. Using the shoreline development criteria, 100 shoreline development points accumulated in any given RM eliminates that RM from eligibility. A total of 71 RMs, from approximately 1 RM above Flea Hill/Kings Ferry to the confluence of the Middle Prong and North Prong (upstream from the Macclenny bridge), were found eligible for National Wild and Scenic River designation. These findings, shown on the map on page 11, are preliminary and are still being evaluated based on aerial photography and additional field investigation. Of special concern for further field investigation is the North Prong above its confluence with the Middle Prong.

Classification:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act further requires the St. Marys River Study to indicate the appropriate classification should the river be designated. Rivers are classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational, depending on the river's degree of natural character.

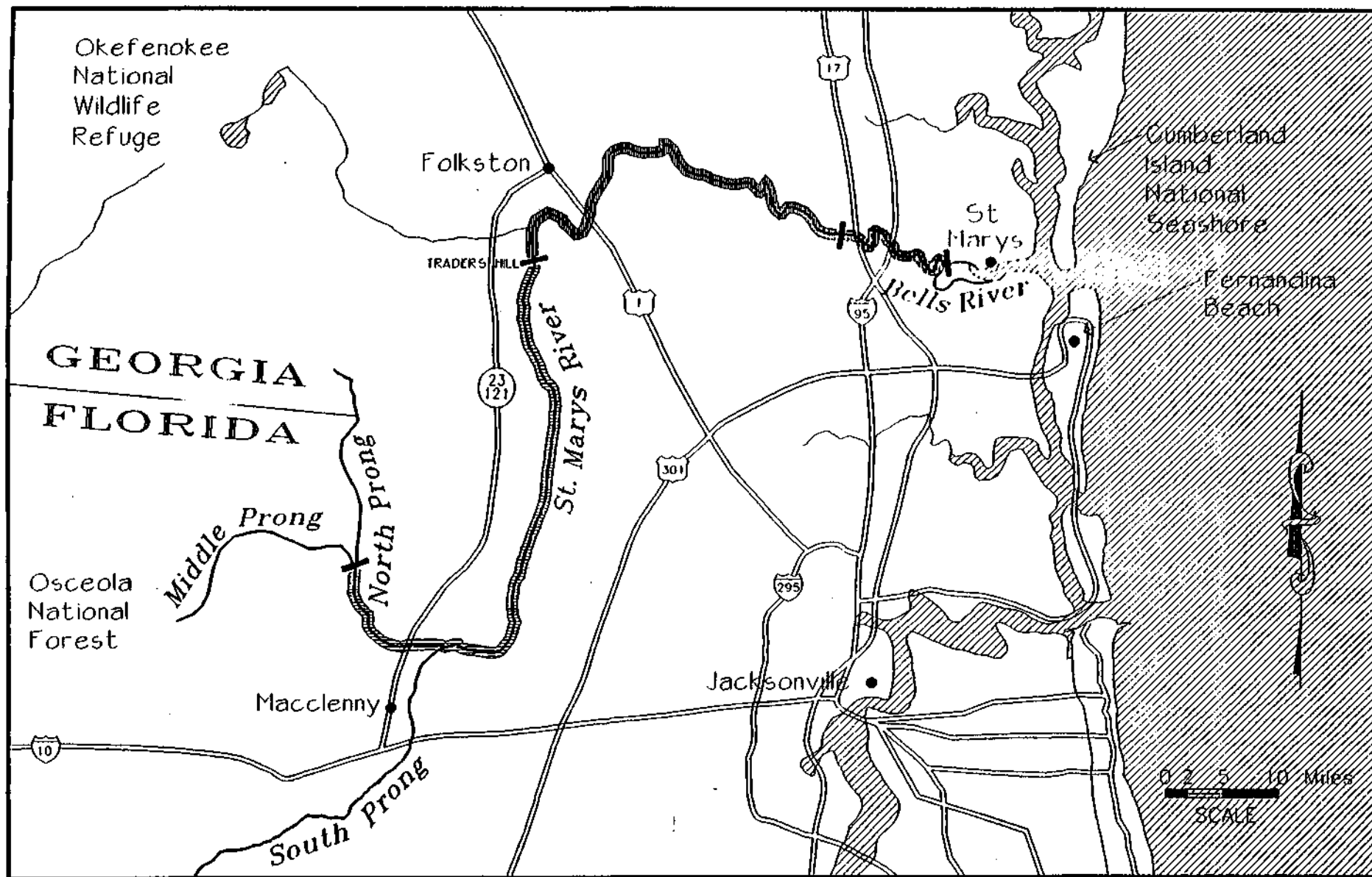
The classification categories are defined as follows:

Wild river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

A preliminary recommendation of possible river classifications for the St. Marys River are indicated on the map on page 14.



UPPER SEGMENT



MIDDLE SEGMENT



LOWER SEGMENT

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION SEGMENTS

St. Marys River Study

NPS - SERO - 8/91

**EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE LOWER SEGMENT
ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA**

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>MINIMAL</u>	<u>COMMON</u>	<u>DISTINCTIVE</u>
SCENIC			
Landform	- Little variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not unusual	- Complex, unusual
Rock Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Not unusual	- Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	- Homogeneous	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some diversity	- Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	- Flow distracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow sustains	- Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distractive	- Noticeable	- Unimposing
Degree of Relief	- Minimum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	- Large
Clarity of Water	- Unclear, constant	- Seasonally turbid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mostly clear
Water Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Small, unimpressive	- Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Fishing	- Undesirable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	- Lacking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	- Sporadic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 seasons	- 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	- Few opportunities	- Expected species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unusual species, high variety
Class/Difficulty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beginner (I-III)	- Intermediate (I-IV)	- Difficult (I-VI)
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	- Unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for study	- Encourages study
Caves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None identified	- Present, typical	- Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	- Small variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod. variety, typical, expected	- Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical, representative	- Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Nat'l Register Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present/nominated
Preserved Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique in occurrence/quality

**EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE MIDDLE SEGMENT
ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA**

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>MINIMAL</u>	<u>COMMON</u>	<u>DISTINCTIVE</u>
SCENIC			
Landform	- Little variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not unusual	- Complex, unusual
Rock Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Not unusual	- Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	- Homogeneous	- Some diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	- Flow distracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow sustains	- Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distractive	- Noticeable	- Unimposing
Degree of Relief	- Minimum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	- Large
Clarity of Water	- Unclear, constant	- Seasonally turbid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mostly clear
Water Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacking	- Small, unimpressive	- Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Florcking	- Undesirable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	- Lacking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	- Sporadic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 seasons	- 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	- Few opportunities	- Expected species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unusual species, high variety
Class/Diffculty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beginner (I-II)	- Intermediate (II-IV)	- Difficult (I-VI)
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	- Unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for study	- Encourages study
Caves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None identified	- Present, typical	- Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	- Small variety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod. variety, typical, expected	- Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical, representative	- Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Nat'l Register Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present/nominated
Preserved Sites	- Unlikely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsurveyed/potential	- Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique in occurrence/quality

**EVALUATION MATRIX OF THE UPPER SEGMENT
ST. MARYS RIVER, GEORGIA/FLORIDA**

<u>VALUE</u>	<u>MINIMAL</u>	<u>COMMON</u>	<u>DISTINCTIVE</u>
SCENIC			
Landform	- Little variety	X Not unusual	- Complex, unusual
Rock Features	X Lacking	- Not unusual	- Unusual color, size, etc.
Vegetative Cover	- Homogeneous	- Some diversity	X Many natural patterns
Stream Aesthetics	- Flow distracts	X Flow sustains	- Flow greatly enhances
Manmade Structures	- Distractive	- Noticeable	X Unimposing
Degree of Relief	- Minimum	X Moderate	- Large
Clarity of Water	- Unclear, constant	- Seasonally turbid	X Mostly clear
Water Falls	X Lacking	- Small, unimpressive	- Frequent, imposing
RECREATIONAL			
Swimming/Picnicking	- Undesirable	X Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Fishery Use	- Lacking	X Dispersed, low use	- Concentrated, high use
Length of Season	- Sporadic	X 1-2 seasons	- 3-4 seasons
Wildlife Viewing	- Few opportunities	- Expected species	X Unusual species, high variety
Class/Difficulty	X Beginner (I-II)	- Intermediate (II-IV)	- Difficult (I-VI)
GEOLOGIC			
Geologic Formation	- Unexposed	X Opportunity for study	- Encourages study
Caves	X None identified	- Present, typical	- Present, unique
FISH & WILDLIFE			
Species diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	X Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	X Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	X Unique in occurrence/quality
HISTORICAL & CULTURAL			
Nat'l Register Sites	- Unlikely	X Unsurveyed/potential	- Present/nominated
Preserved Sites	- Unlikely	X Unsurveyed/potential	- Present
FLORA/BOTANIC FEATURES			
Species Diversity	- Small variety	- Mod. variety, typical, expected	X Exceptional variety
Species Uniqueness/Importance	- Ubiquitous species	- Typical native species	X Unique (T & E & P)
Habitat Uniqueness/Quality	- Ecosystem degraded, mundane	- Typical, representative	X Unique in occurrence/quality

TABLE 1

Partial Listing-National River Inventory (NRI) Development Values

Disqualifiers

Airport, large
Canal, parallel active
City, over 10,000 pop.
Dump, large
Factory, active
Gas/oil field
Mine, strip active
Power plant
Industrial area

Bridges

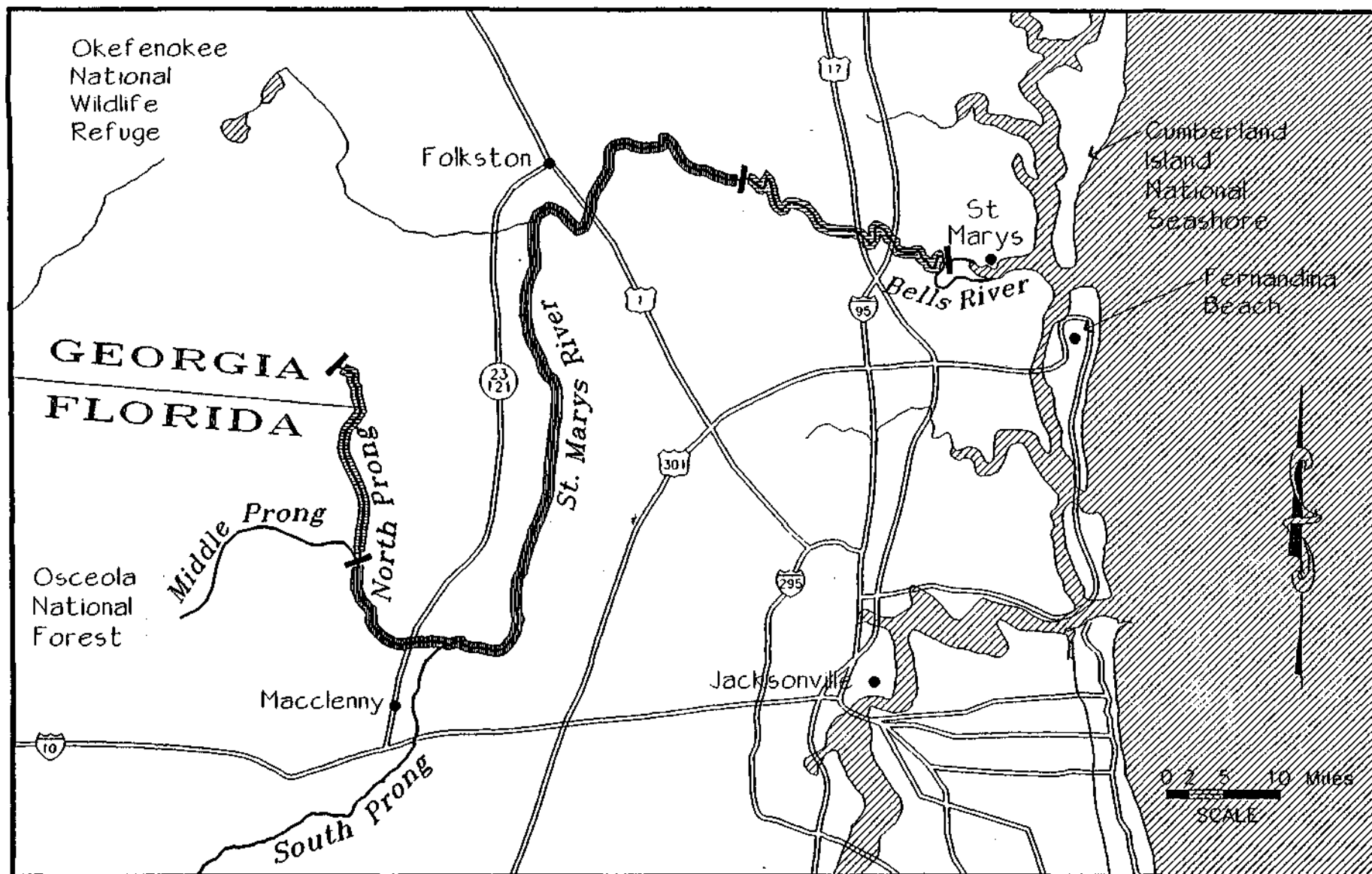
6 Graded dirt road
20 Paved road
40 Paved 4-lane road
15 Railroad
10 Unpaved all-weather road

Roads

9 Graded dirt parallel
10 Paved ending/encroachment
30 Paved parallel
75 Paved 4-lane parallel
3 Primitive parallel
5 Unpaved ending/encroachment

Structures

40 Business
10 Barn
7 Cabin
15 Cemetary
25 Church
30 Country Club
30 Dairy
8 Dwelling
20 Garbage dump
50 Junkyard
30 Marina
40 Motel
40 Trailer park
7 Park, wayside
10 Picnic area
75 Sand and gravel pit
40 Saw mill, small
40 Sewage plant
25 Storage tank, water
30 Store, country
30 Swimming pool
75 Town, 500-9,999 pop.
10 Ramp, paved boat



PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS

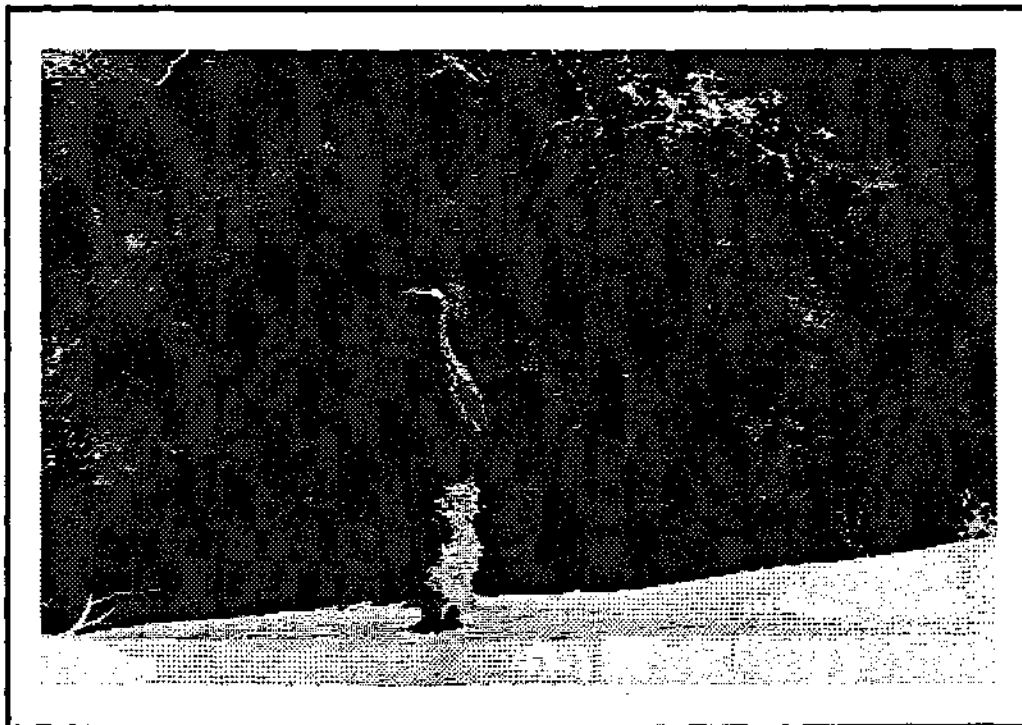
St. Marys River Study

NPS - SERO - 8/91

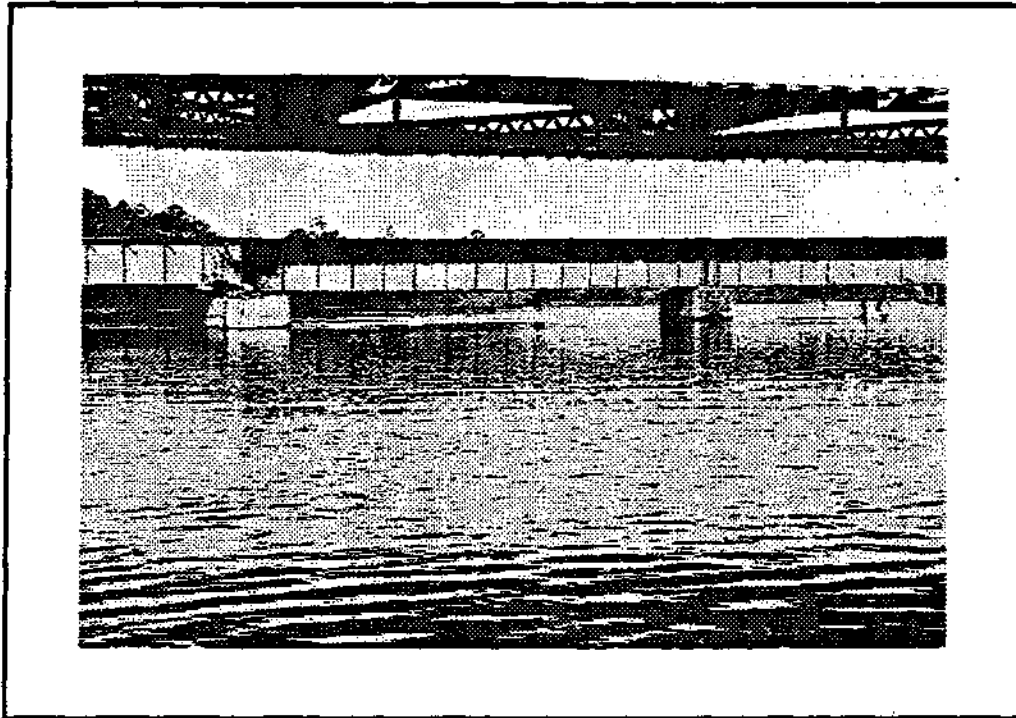
NATURAL AREAS



WILDLIFE ABOUNDS ON THE RIVER'S NATURAL SETTING



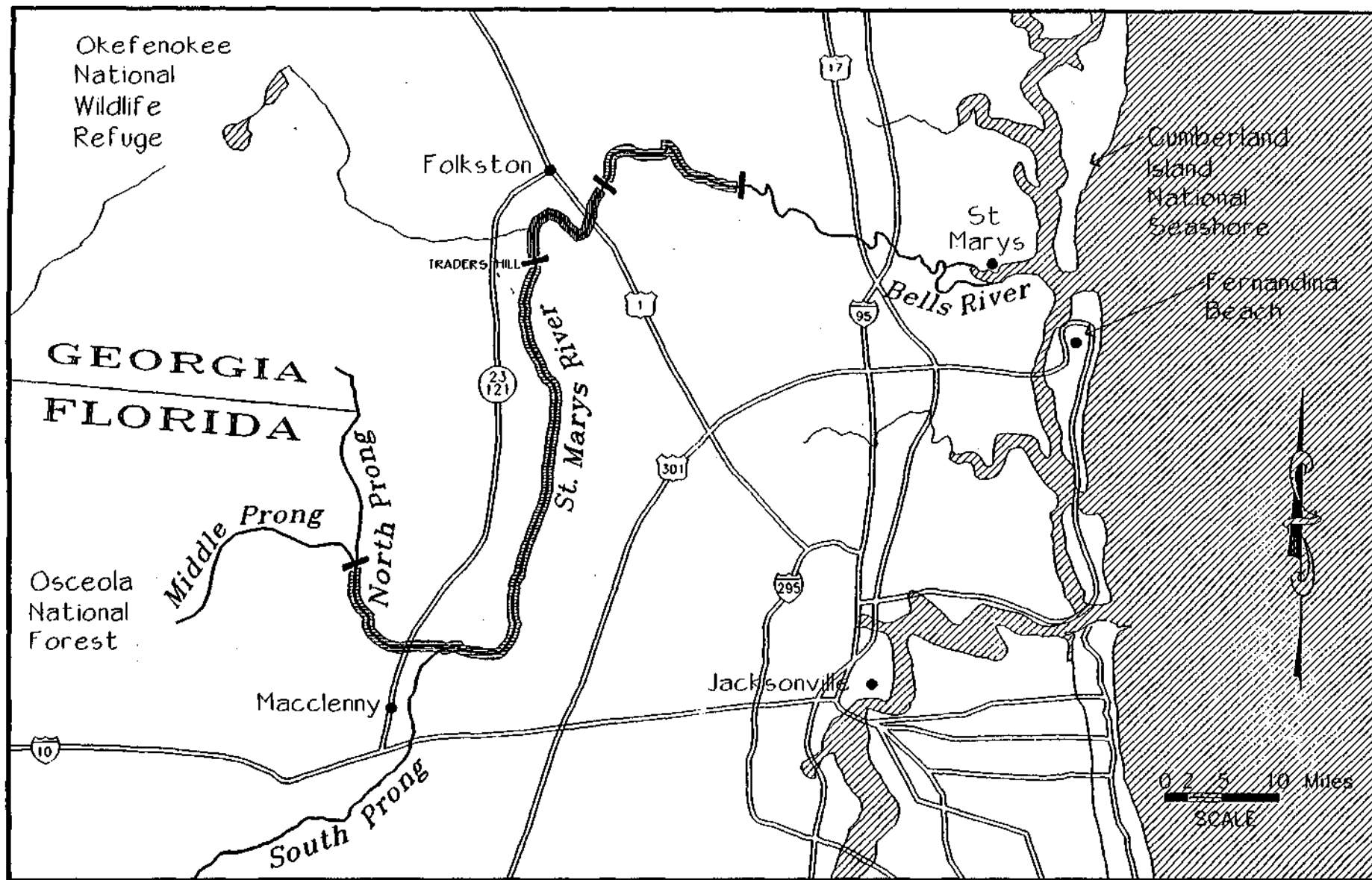
DEVELOPED AREAS



**SEABOARD COASTLINE RAILROAD BRIDGE VIEWED
FROM UNDER US HIGHWAY 17 BRIDGE**



SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT - VICINITY OF FLEA HILL, GEORGIA



PRELIMINARY RIVER CLASSIFICATION

St. Marys River Study

NPS - SERO - 8/91

Suitability:

In order for a river to be recommended for National Wild and Scenic River designation, it must be both eligible and suitable. As the study progresses, an array of alternatives will be developed for public discussion and consideration in order to determine if the river is "suitable" for designation. Typical alternatives include a "no action" alternative, a Federal management alternative, a State management alternative, and an alternative for protection at the local level without designation. If no feasible alternative for managing the river as a component of the national system is found, designation will not be recommended. A preliminary suitability determination will not be made until the public has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary eligibility determination presented in this document.

Public Involvement:

The support of local concerned citizens is the most important factor in determining that a river is suitable for designation. Accordingly, involving the public and local landowners throughout the entire study is vital. The local citizens must feel that Wild and Scenic River designation is the best alternative for "their" river, both as individuals and as a community. The study team will continue to sponsor public forums within the study area to explain study findings and to seek comments and suggestions from the public.

Designation:

In addition to the preliminary finding of eligibility discussed in this document, if a suitable river management alternative is found, Congress would have the opportunity to include portions of the St. Marys River in the National Wild and Scenic River System. What effect would Congressional designation have on the river? Designation would immediately and permanently preclude any Federal water resource development projects within the river that would result in "direct and adverse impacts" to those natural attributes which qualify it as a component of the system. Direct shoreline restrictions would extend only to Federal or Federally-assisted areas. The NPS would be required to develop a comprehensive river management plan and a land protection plan for the river which would determine the priorities and methods for protection of adjoining lands considered critical to maintaining the river's natural character. Both the comprehensive management plan and the land protection plan are done with the same degree of public involvement as the original feasibility study.

The study team is currently investigating the feasibility of national designation of the river with very little shoreline acquisition. Existing Federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to wetland, floodplains, erosion, sedimentation, and water quality appear to provide sufficient shoreline protection without Federal purchase of lands or interest in lands (easements).

If such an alternative is feasible, only dispersed sites for access and visitor support facilities would involve possible acquisition. Where existing publicly-owned access sites are available, the need for Federal acquisition would be further reduced.

The overall objective of wild and scenic designation and long-term management is to protect the river's outstanding natural character. This does not mean that growth and development are no longer allowed; however, future development should occur in an environmentally sensitive manner to assure that the river is not degraded.

In summary, National Wild and Scenic River designation of the St. Marys River would assure that the river and a narrow visual corridor along both banks would remain substantially unchanged. The river's waters would remain clean, the river channel unmodified, and the shoreline natural to the extent practical. Public use of the riverine environment would be managed to provide recreational use in a manner which would not degrade the river's considerable natural and cultural values. Local citizens would have a major role in shaping the river's protection and future use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What restrictions are placed upon the river when Congress authorizes a National Wild and Scenic River study?

A. As stated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river authorized for study as a potential component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System is protected from Federally funded or assisted water resource development projects during the study and for a period not to exceed three years following completion of the study. This protection generally means that Federally funded or licensed dams, channel modification, or dredging activities which would result in a direct and adverse effect on the river's potential for designation as a Wild and Scenic River would not be permitted. Federal agencies call a "time-out" in plans that could alter the river's natural character, until the NPS can evaluate the river's eligibility and suitability for designation and Congress can consider and take appropriate actions on the NPS findings.

Q. How are private lands adjoining the river affected during the study period?

A. A private landowner's rights to personal use of his lands is in no way affected during the study.

Q. I have plans to construct a boat dock on my riverfront property. Will the study or possible future designation prevent me from having a dock?

A. If your dock is in an area where docks are common and your plans call for a structure which is consistent with other docks in the area, the NPS would not voice objections to your permit application either during the study or following designation. If the river were designated, we would oppose new docks on stretches of the river classified as "wild" or where we consider a dock to be out-of-character with the nature of the river at that particular location.

Q. What are the restrictions on shoreline development during the study and after designation?

A. During the study, the NPS has no authority over shoreline development; however, in the event that Federal assistance (grants, loans, or permits) is needed for the development, we would encourage the appropriate Federal agency to require that the applicant protect the river from "direct and adverse" impacts. The study would identify a linear corridor on both banks of the river which should be protected if the river is designated. The degree of protection would be determined by the river classification (wild, scenic, or recreational) and by the outstanding natural,

cultural or geologic characteristics. Following preparation of a comprehensive management plan and a land protection plan (plans prepared after designation), the NPS may acquire those lands most critical to the protection of the river's character. Acquisition could be either in fee or as conservation easements. It should be emphasized that acquisition will affect lands at a limited number of access points and possibly at critical natural, cultural or geologically significant areas within the corridor.

On less critical lands within the corridor, protection will be sought in the form of volunteer landowner agreements to refrain from building permanent structures or cutting timber within approximately 50-200 feet of the river bank. In some cases state laws or local zoning ordinances require a similar "set-back" from rivers. (As stated on page 7, alternatives are being considered which would recommend national designation without acquisition of a continuous shoreline corridor due to the protection currently afforded the river through existing Federal, state, and local requirements.)

If acquisition of private property is necessary, the Act sets limits which include a maximum average acquisition of 100 acres per river mile. In addition, the Act provides for owners of improved properties constructed before January 1, 1967, to retain a right of use and occupancy, if it is determined their property is to be acquired. All land acquisition is also dependent upon approved

management and land protection plans and Congressional appropriation of acquisition funds.

Q. Will I have an opportunity to voice my opinions to the NPS about this study and the effects it may have on me or my land?

A. The NPS encourages public involvement throughout the study and will make every effort to discuss individual or group concerns or interests by correspondence, telephone, or personal contact at meetings in the study area. We will strive during the course of the study to answer questions and address concerns in a manner which will relieve objections and apprehensions about designation.

Q. Can I continue to farm my land, as I always have before, if the St. Marys River is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River?

A. While designation does affect activities on Federal land, there is no Federal authority to control land use on private property, nor would there be any Federal authority to force State and local governments to control or modify land uses. Put simply, designation does not adversely affect existing land uses along a river--timber management, farming, mineral extraction, commercial activities, residences, and communities. These uses are an integral part of the river corridor and its history and are often part of the reason the river was found eligible for the system.

The term "living landscape" has been frequently applied to Wild and Scenic River areas because they are so often inextricably tied to local people and their customs. Designation could lead to some restrictions (if local governments adopt them) on major new building development on privately owned land, and to land use activities on Federal land if they would be destructive to major aspects of the river environment.

Q. If the St. Marys River is recommended for national designation, can the NPS's right of condemnation be removed?

A. Legislation to designate the St. Marys River could specify many procedures to be followed. Removal of condemnation authority and a ceiling on acquisition funds have both been used in legislation on other river designations.

Q. What is meant by suitability?

A. Suitability is determined by such factors as extent of public lands in the river area; costs required for acquisition, development, management and operation; public, local, or state interest in acting to protect and manage the river; and the feasibility and timeliness of designation. The final suitability determination is made by the Secretary of the Interior.

Q. What lands would the NPS consider for acquisition if the river is designated?

A. Management as a National Wild and Scenic River requires protection of the riverine resources whose exceptional values qualified the river for national designation. In addition to the river itself, normally these values would be limited to a narrow corridor along each river bank where historic, cultural or scenic values occur. This narrow corridor can be protected by local zoning, volunteer landowner agreements, conservation easements, or fee simple acquisition. Fee simple acquisition is the most expensive method and generally not the preferred NPS method of shoreline protection. Some small acreage sites would be purchased for public access and to provide for public health and safety.

Q. Can the NPS provide assistance to the local governments to develop a river protection plan and local zoning without national designation?

A. The NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program provides planning and other technical assistance to local governments and conservation organizations for the development of river corridor protection plans.

REVISED KEY STUDY DATES

November 1991	Public review of preliminary suitability determination and draft alternatives
December 1991	Begin preparation of study report
March 1992	Preliminary draft study report and environmental document completed
August 1992	Public review of draft study report
September 1992	Public forums to discuss draft study report
November 1992	Revise draft study report based on public comments
August 1993	Final study report to Congress
September 1993	Public distribution of final study report

For Additional Information Contact:

National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-331-5838



APPENDIX D



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

MEMORANDUM

April 20, 1994

To: Chief, Park Planning and Protection Division
National Park Service

From: Hermann Enzer
Acting Director, U.S. Bureau of Mines

Subject: Comments on Draft Report--St. Marys River Wild and
Scenic River Study, Florida and Georgia

We appreciate the opportunity afforded us by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks memorandum dated March 16, 1994, to review and comment on the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study, Florida and Georgia draft report. We understand that the purpose of the study is to help determine whether the St. Marys River is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.


One problem we see with the study is that the discussion of natural resources in the St. Marys River drainage makes no mention of the significant mineral resource potential of the region. We think the report should note that the upper St. Marys River study area, near its confluence with the South Prong, intersects the Trail Ridge heavy mineral deposit, a north-south trending, mainly titanium-bearing sand formation. Trail Ridge forms a band 1 to more than 3 kilometers wide and extends approximately 150 kilometers between Clay County, Florida, and Charlton County, Georgia. The ridge sustains several significant mining operations recovering mainly titanium minerals (rutile, ilmenite, and leucoxene). Other heavy minerals recovered include kyanite, staurolite, zircon, silimanite, tourmaline, spinel, topaz, corundum, and monazite. Although Trail Ridge contains the most significant United States reserves of titanium minerals, a number of other heavy mineral deposits occur seaward of Trail Ridge.

Currently, E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company is mining at three locations on the southern part of Trail Ridge in Clay County, Florida. The northern most operating mine on Trail Ridge opened in 1993 about 10 miles south of the St. Marys River. In 1992, DuPont purchased 15,400 acres north of the St. Marys River in Charlton County, Georgia, and is now evaluating the heavy mineral reserves.

Of lesser commercial significance than titanium are phosphate mineral resources in the St. Marys River area. To be comprehensive, the report should note that the St. Marys River study area is adjacent to the Northern Florida Phosphate Mining District which extends from Florida into Georgia, west of the St. Marys River. Although the nearest mining of phosphate rock is concentrated near White Springs in Hamilton County, Florida, past phosphate mining occurred in Baker County, Florida.

Addressing mineral resources in the study report will serve to alert readers that possible mineral resources in the study area were not overlooked and that nearby mining could impact the river system. For your convenience, attached are several articles, including maps, identifying mineral resources and mining activity near the St. Marys River.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) has a professional staff knowledgeable of the mineral commodities and mines in northern Florida and southern Georgia and is experienced in mineral resource evaluations of environmentally sensitive areas. Should you wish further USBM data or assistance, please discuss it with Ransom F. Read at (202) 501-9741.


Acting Director

Attachments

United States Soil P.O. Box 753
Department of Conservation Callahan, FL 32011-0753
Agriculture Service (904) 872-3372

Date


Wallace C. Brittain, Chief
Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Southeast Regional Office
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Rm 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

I am sending you a few comments on the Draft report dated October 1993 "St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study.

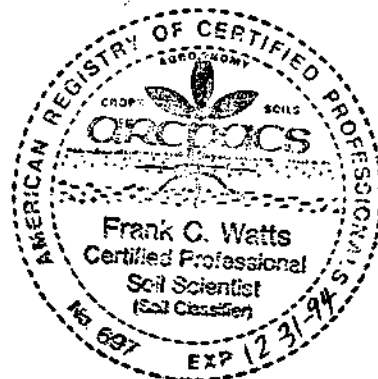
I have corrected my title and whom I work for. I also made corrections in regards to soils and slopes as reference from the soil survey report of Nassau County. Map unit 50 contains inclusions with slopes greater than 20 percent (up to 30 percent-measured).

Sincerely,



Frank C. Watts, M.S., CPSS/SC
Soil Survey Project Leader

cc: Frank Ellis
Allen Moore





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 989

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

May 23, 1994

Planning Division

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, SW., Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

The copy of the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Draft Study was routed through Planning Division and the following comments are from Plan Formulation Branch.

a. We suggest you include the extent of the old Federal Navigation Project. A good place to show that this was a Federal Navigation project would be on the Area Map, and on page 47.

b. We have some additional concerns with alternative C. It has been our experience that when two states act as co-partners in a project, they do not always have the same goals in mind. Important goals and objectives for Florida may not necessarily be the same as Georgia's, and vice-versa. If these two states are not able to agree on one state management plan, it may delay the process.

c. You may wish to revise the numbering by placing a number on all pages, including blank backs and maps. This would make it much easier for the reader to locate certain pages, and not question if any pages are missing.

d. Page 59, "teamnor" should read "team nor"

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to read and comment on this draft report.

Sincerely,


Leroy G. Crosby
Chief, Plan Formulation Branch



(760) SER-100309BF
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

3 JUN 1994

Plan Formulation and Evaluation Branch

Mr. George T. Frampton, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240


Dear Mr. Frampton:

I am responding to your letter of March 16, 1994, to Lieutenant General Arthur E. Williams, Chief of Engineers, requesting comments on the Draft Report on St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study in Florida and Georgia.

The report does not identify nor discuss the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation project in the St. Marys River. The project includes maintenance of navigation channel from the mouth of the river to the River Mile 12.5 and clearing and snagging activities from River Mile 12.5 to River Mile 37 (near Traders Hills). We have no ongoing or proposed studies for the subject river.

We thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your draft report.

Sincerely,


Jimmy F. Bates, P. E.
Deputy Director of Civil Works



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

APR 29 1994

Mr. George T. Frampton, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Frampton:

The Department of Energy's (DOE), Office of Environmental Guidance has completed a review of the draft report on the St. Marys River in Florida and Georgia. DOE has no comments to offer on the draft report. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ray F. Pelletier", is written over a horizontal line.

Raymond F. Pelletier
Director
Office of Environmental Guidance



(16) SER-100309C 0

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

02 JUN 1994

Mr. George T. Frampton, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Frampton:

We have reviewed your National Wild and Scenic River Study Draft Report for the St. Marys River in Georgia and Florida.

We commend the National Park Service for the comprehensive study they have conducted, involving various governmental and private concerns with a wide range of interests. The study report reflects the positive, objective result of their combined efforts.

We are also pleased to see that the Osceola National Forest contributed to the study, even though the national forest lands are not directly associated with the river segments being studied.

The report provides a description of the St. Marys River corridor and supports the eligibility and classification determinations. The suitability recommendation for designation as a component of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System is also explained and well documented.


Selection of Alternative 4, (congressional designation with special legislation establishing a local river management council) does not appear to meet the legal requirements of the act. We support the use of a local river management council as a forum for discussion and direction, but this approach does not assure that the outstanding values of the river corridor will be protected. That responsibility is left optional to the local governments and landowners. There is no assurance that they will comply with the standards necessary to maintain the river corridor values.

We recommend that the Secretary of the Interior retain oversight responsibility, as directed by the act, to assure that adequate protection and management is provided. This can be done without posing a threat to the landowners along the river corridor.


Thank you again for writing. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



James R. Lyons
Assistant Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

May 6, 1994

The Honorable George T. Frampton, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Fish and
Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. ~~Secretary~~ *George*:


This responds to your letter of March 16, 1994, requesting our review and comments on your draft report of a Wild and Scenic River Study for the St. Marys River in Florida and Georgia.

The report finds that there are no hydroelectric facilities within the limits of the study area. We agree with this and have also determined that there are no pending applications for license, exemption, or preliminary permit for hydroelectric projects in the study area.

Accordingly, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has no comments on the proposed designation of the study segment of the St. Marys River as a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Moler
Chair



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ROUTE 2, BOX 3330
FOLKSTON, GEORGIA 31537

912-496-7366

June 17, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring St., SW, Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

The St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study Draft Report was reviewed by the following refuge personnel:

Jim Burkhardt - Supervisory Refuge Ranger
Ron Phernetton - Forester/Fire Management Officer
Sara Brown - Biologist

Following are comments by the Okefenokee Staff on the St. Marys River Study.

Burkhardt: See p. 65 Their preferred alternative is about the only thing available. It will be extremely difficult to keep this advisory board "on track". It will also be difficult to find folks with a "long term commitment" to staying on the board. I don't see any need for other comment!

Phernetton: Comments on maps - Map on page 4 shows US 301 as US 30. US 1 probably should be shown as principle highway. US 1/301 does not follow Ga 94 to the southwest through town before heading south. Suwannee Canal does not flow into the St. Marys River. Creek shown is probably Starland Branch/Cornhouse Creek.

Phernetton: This report does not do justice to the North Prong of the St Marys between the confluence of the North and Middle prong and the Ga. 94 bridge at Moniac. Canoeing is possible on the North prong below the bridge when water levels are normal.

This stretch makes interesting canoeing because there are turns to negotiate and some small rapids. The vegetation is as scenic as a canoe trail in the Okefenokee Swamp.

Phernetton: The preferred alternative seems to me to be the best of those alternatives studied.

Sincerely yours,

M. Skippy Reeves

M. Skippy Reeves
Refuge Manager



LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

August 3, 1994

Mr. James W. Coleman, Jr.
Regional Director
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
75 Spring Street, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic River Study
Nassau and Baker County, Florida

SAI: FL9406100558E

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 93-194, and the National Environmental Policy Act has coordinated the review of the October 1993 Draft Report on the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study.

This review was coordinated with the Departments Agriculture and Consumer Services (DAG&CS), Community Affairs (DCA), Environmental Protection (DEP), State (DOS), Transportation (DOT), Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFWFC) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

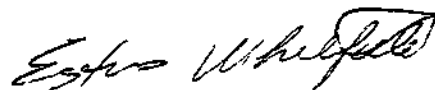
The DCA, DOT and DOS offers no objections to the proposed action. The DEP states that the NPS study has clearly established that the St. Marys River is a worthy candidate for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Due to the multiplicity of state and county jurisdictions through which the river traverses, the DEP suggests that the NPS consider an alternative that would ensure the river's long-term management. This would provide for congressional designation with equal management responsibilities among federal, state, and local agencies while a coordinating council would be established for providing direct involvement by local citizens so that the management program maximizes responsiveness to public needs. See attached letter dated July 22, 1994.

Mr. James Coleman, Jr.
August 3, 1994
Page two

The GFWFC strongly supports the proposed nomination of the qualifying segments of the St. Marys River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems. The GFWFC recommends that the implementation mechanism be revised to incorporate facets of both alternatives C and D. The states of Florida and Georgia should be responsible for developing and implementing a satisfactory management plan in partnership with a local advisory board or council. See enclosed letter dated July 27, 1994.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed action of the National Park Service involving the St. Marys River as provided for in Presidential Executive Order 12373 and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,



Estus D. Whitfield
Policy Coordinator
Environmental Policy/Community and
Economic Development Unit

EDW/mt

Enclosures

cc: U. S. Senator Bob Graham
Carliane Johnson, Department of Environmental Protection
Rick McCann, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

JOE MARLIN HILLIARD
Clewiston

J. BEN ROWE
Gainesville

JULIE K. MORRIS
Sarasota

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
Miami

MRS. GILBERT W. HUMPHREY
Miccosukee

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
WILLIAM C. SUMNER, Assistant Executive Director

FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32390-1600
(904) 488-1960
TDD (904) 488-9542

July 27, 1994

AUG 2 1994

101

Ms. Janice L. Hatter, Director
Florida State Clearinghouse
Executive Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Budgeting
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: SAI FL9406100558, St. Marys River
Wild and Scenic River Study Draft
Report, Florida and Georgia

Dear Ms. Hatter:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC) has reviewed the referenced report prepared by the National Park Service and offers the following comments.

The study was undertaken to determine the suitability of including the St. Marys River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The study corridor extended approximately 113.8 miles along the St. Marys River, from the headwaters of its North Prong to the confluence of the St. Marys with the Bells River. The river was determined to be suitable for designation from the confluence of the North and Middle prongs (River Mile 113.8) to about one mile upstream of Flea Hill (RM 42). Of the four alternatives under consideration regarding the potential designation and management of the suitable segment, the report recommended congressional designation of all or part of the qualifying segment for inclusion in the national system, in conjunction with passage of special legislation to authorize and create a local river management council.

The report identified some local opposition to the wild and scenic designation. The opposition was attributed to the fears of greater federal or state oversight, mandated controls on land uses, and the use of eminent domain to acquire private lands. However, a desire for additional protection at the local level was supported.

The draft report indicated that although cumulatively the existing federal, state, regional and local regulations help in protecting the St.

1943 - 1993

50 YEARS AS STEWARD OF FLORIDA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE

Ms. Janice L. Hatter
SAI FL9406100558, St. Marys River Draft Report
July 27, 1994
Page 2

Marys River basin, no coordinated regulations designed to protect this basin are currently in place. The local comprehensive plans for Baker and Nassau counties, Florida, include waterway setbacks and wetland buffers, but contain no specific measures to protect the St. Marys River. Camden County, Georgia, also has an approved comprehensive plan in effect but it does not contain identified policies for protection of the river. The comprehensive plan for Charlton County, Georgia, has not yet been completed; no local zoning or land development regulations currently apply. A need for protection by an entity which could cross political boundaries was noted in the draft report.

The GFC strongly supports the proposed nomination of the qualifying segment of the St. Marys River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, we recommend that the implementation mechanism be revised to incorporate facets of both alternatives C and D. The states of Florida and Georgia should be responsible for developing and implementing a satisfactory management plan in partnership with a local advisory board or council. Utilization of this partnership would facilitate a coordinated implementation of the developed management plan across political boundaries.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft report. Please contact Mr. Rick McCann at (904)488-6661 if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian Barnett, for

Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/RDM
ENV 1-3-2
stmaryd.wsr

cc: Mr. Robert Newkirk, NPS, Atlanta
Mr. David Wesley, USFWS, Jacksonville



Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

22 July 1994

RECEIVED

JUL 26 1994

IGA

Suzanne Traub-Metlay
State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Budgeting
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: NPS/St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study
SAI: FL9406100558

Dear Ms. Traub-Metlay:

Based on the information provided, we have no objections to the National Park Service (NPS) proposed designation of the St. Marys River as a National Wild and Scenic River. The NPS study has effectively addressed the pertinent criteria for determining the potential of the St. Marys River to be designated as a Wild and Scenic River.

The NPS preferred alternative in this draft report calls for the Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portions of the St. Marys River, as a Wild and Scenic River, with special legislation establishing a local river management council. While this approach may achieve national designation, with the council responsible for the "management" of the river, neither the governments of Florida or Georgia may relegate their ultimate responsibilities for riverine and wetlands management and regulation to a non-governmental advisory council. The management council is also not empowered to adopt, enact, or enforce policies under the state constitutions of the respective states. Further, based on the study report findings, the local regulations may be insufficient to sustain a long-term river protection program. Therefore, even if the river management council develops management recommendations, the state and local agencies may choose not to follow or implement the council's recommendations.

The NPS study clearly establishes that the St. Marys River is a worthy candidate for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Due to the multiplicity of state and county jurisdictions through which the river traverses, perhaps the NPS would consider an alternative that would ensure the river's long-term management. This would be to provide for Congressional designation with equal management responsibilities among federal, state, and local agencies while a coordinating council be established for providing

Ms. Traub-Metlay
NPS/St. Marys River Report
FL9406100558
Page Two

direct involvement by local citizens so that the management program is responsive to public needs. The report noted that current silviculture management practices on private lands for the protection of river banks and adjacent uplands has had very high voluntary compliance. While this type of cooperation should be encouraged it further demonstrates that government and public entities can establish conservation objectives while maintaining local economic goals.

The Department recognizes the importance of conserving and protecting this valuable river resource. The complexity of the management issue should not diminish or discourage the NPS from designating the St. Marys River as a National Wild and Scenic River.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please call me at (904) 487-2231.

Sincerely,



Carliane D. Johnson
Environmental Specialist II
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/cdj



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jim Smith
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

JUL 13 1994

R.A. Gray Building

500 South Bronough

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Director's Office

Telecopier Number (FAX)

(904) 488-1480

(904) 488-3353

ICA

July 11, 1994

Ms. Janice L. Hatter, Director
State Clearinghouse
Executive Office of the Governor
Room 1603, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

In Reply Refer To:
Denise M. Breit
Historic Sites
Specialist
(904) 487-2333
Project File No. 942058

RE: SAI# FL9406100558
St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study
Nassau and Baker Counties, Florida

In accordance with the procedures contained in 36 C.F.R., Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties"), we have reviewed the referenced project(s) for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. The authority for this procedure is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), as amended.

It is the opinion of this agency that because of the project's nature it is unlikely that any historic properties will be affected. Therefore, it has been determined by this office that the proposed project will have no effect on any sites listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

George W. Percy
George W. Percy, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

GWP/Bdb

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW
ROUTING SHEET

JUN 10 1994

DATE: 6/14/94

TO: Norm Feder, D1; Aage Schroder, D2; Marvin Stuckey, D3; Joe Yesbeck, D4; Jim Kimbler,
D5; Servando Parapar, D6; David Twiddy, D7; B. Ashbaker, Leroy Irwin
SAL: FL 9406100558

Application Transmitted: St. Mary River

Date Response Due to the Clearinghouse: 6/24/94

Please review and comment regarding the attached application in accordance with Department Procedure 525-010-205-b. A letter of response to the Director of the Clearinghouse and this routing sheet should be completed and returned as directed in the procedure.

The following criteria, as appropriate to the project, should be used to evaluate the application and develop your comments:

- Florida Transportation Plan
- Adopted Work Program
- Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
- Right of Way Preservation and Advanced Acquisition
- Transit Development Program
- MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan and 20 year Transportation Plan
- Florida Rail System Plan
- Florida Aviation System Plan
- Local Airport Master Plan
- Florida Seaport Mission Plan
- Environment Commitments
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Level of Service
- Access Management

RECEIVED

JUN 20 1994

IGA

If comments are warranted based on other criteria, they should be included.

Work Program Item Number: _____ (if applicable).

RONNICE S. VAUGHN

Central Office ICAR Coordinator - MS #18

TYPE: General Aviation Rail Seaports Environment
Transit

ENCLOSURE (2)

DATE: 06/10/94

COMMENT DUE DATE: 06/24/94

SAI#: FL9406100558

STATE AGENCIES

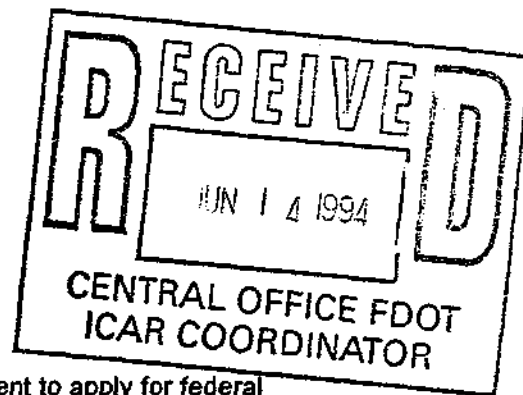
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Regents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commerce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Affairs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game & Fish Comm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Rehab Srv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highway Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Employment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Fish Comm
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trans Disad. Comm
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEP District

LOCAL/OTHER

<input type="checkbox"/>	NWFWMD
<input type="checkbox"/>	SFWMD
<input type="checkbox"/>	SWFWMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SJRWMD
<input type="checkbox"/>	SRWMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment/C & ED
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Human Srv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revenue & Eco. Ana
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCH/CON



The attached "424 Preapplication", serving as notification of intent to apply for federal assistance, is being referred to your agency for review and comment pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Governor's Executive Order 83-150. Your review and comments should address themselves to the extent to which the project(s) is/are consistent with or contributes to the fulfillment of your agency's plans or the achievement of your agency's projects, programs, and objectives.

If further information is required, you are urged to telephone the contact person named on the application form. If a conference seems necessary, or if you wish to review the entire application, contact this office by telephone as soon as possible. Please check the appropriate box, attach any comments on your agency's stationary and return to the State Clearinghouse by the due date.

If we do not receive a response by the due date, we will assume your agency has no adverse comments. In both telephone conversation and written correspondence, please refer to the SAI number, project title and applicant's name.

Please forward all correspondence to the address below.

To: State Clearinghouse
Executive Office of the Governor -OPB
Room 1603, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
(904) 488-8114 (Suncom 278-8114)

From: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Division/Bureau: Charles J. Allen
Reviewer: 6/16/94
Date: 6/16/94

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

DATE: 06/10/94

COMMENT DUE DATE: 06/24/94

SAI#: FL9406100558

STATE AGENCIES

LOCAL/OTHER

OPB POLICY UNITS

☒ Agriculture
☐ Board of Regents
☐ Commerce
☒ Community Affairs
☐ Education
☒ Environmental Protection
☒ Game & Fish Comm
☐ Health & Rehab Srv
☐ Highway Safety
☐ Labor & Employment
☐ Law Enforcement
☐ Marine Fish Comm
☐ State Library
☒ State
☒ Transportation
☐ Trans Disad. Comm
☐ DEP District

☐ NFWMD
☐ SFWMD
☐ SWFWMD
☒ SJRWMD
☐ SRWMD

☐ Public Safety
☐ Education
☒ Environment/C & ED
☐ General Government
☐ Health & Human Srv
☐ Revenue & Eco. Ana
☒ SCH
☐ SCH/CON

RECEIVED

JUN 18 1994

Florida Coastal
Management Program

JUN 22 1994

IGA

The attached "424 Preapplication", serving as notification of intent to apply for federal assistance, is being referred to your agency for review and comment pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Governor's Executive Order 83-150. Your review and comments should address themselves to the extent to which the project(s) is/are consistent with or contributes to the fulfillment of your agency's plans or the achievement of your agency's projects, programs, and objectives.

If further information is required, you are urged to telephone the contact person named on the application form. If a conference seems necessary, or if you wish to review the entire application, contact this office by telephone as soon as possible. Please check the appropriate box, attach any comments on your agency's stationary and return to the State Clearinghouse by the due date.

If we do not receive a response by the due date, we will assume your agency has no adverse comments. In both telephone conversation and written correspondence, please refer to the SAI number, project title and applicant's name.

Please forward all correspondence to the address below.

To: State Clearinghouse
 Executive Office of the Governor -OPB
 Room 1603, The Capitol
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
 (904) 488-8114 (Suncom 278-8114)

From: DCA

Division/Bureau: RPM

Reviewer: _____

Date: 21 JUN 94

☒ No Comment☐ Comments Attached☐ Not Applicable



POST OFFICE BOX 1429

PALATKA, FLORIDA 32178-1429

TELEPHONE 904/329-4500

SUNCOM 904/860-4500

TDD 904/329-4450

TDD SUNCOM 860-4450

FAX (EXECUTIVE/LEGAL) 329-4125

(PERMITTING) 329-4315

(ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE) 329-4508

FIELD STATION

618 E. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/897-4300
TDD 407/897-59607775 Baymeadows Way
Suite 102
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
904/730-6270
TDD 904/730-7900PERMITTING:
305 East Drive
Melbourne, Florida 32904
407/984-4940
TDD 407/722-5368OPERATIONS:
2133 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32935-8109
407/254-1782
TDD 407/253-1203

July 8, 1994

Mr. Wallace Brittain, Chief
Conservation Assistance Branch
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the request for comments on *St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study*, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Water Management District has worked closely with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the St. Marys River Management Committee (Committee), Friends of the St. Marys River, and the National Park Service to understand the importance of the resources and needs for protection of this river system.

We support and implement many efforts to protect river systems within our jurisdiction. We are quite active in water quality monitoring, regulation of nonpoint source pollution, restoration, and land acquisition. One key to the success of these programs and to water management is developing positive relationships with the public and with local governments.

Since 1991, we have been working with the State of Georgia and representatives of the four local counties to establish a management plan for the river. These counties have entered into an interlocal agreement and are proceeding with this local initiative. We believe the most effective means of protecting the river is to continue implementing local programs such as this.

We support the conclusion that the river is eligible at present, however, lack of local interest for a Wild and Scenic River designation limits its suitability. Therefore, we recommend that the River not be declared suitable, but that this designation be revisited in a few years. We believe an aggressive local river protection program should be initiated. A well integrated effort by Florida and Georgia has great potential to achieve the protection goals of the Wild and Scenic River program.

Patricia T. Harden, CHAIRMAN
SANFORDLenore N. McCullagh, VICE CHAIRMAN
ORANGE PARKJesse J. Parrish, III, TREASURER
TITUSVILLEWilliam Segal, SECRETARY
MAITLANDReid Hughes
DAYTONA BEACHDan Roach
FERNANDINA BEACHDenise M. Prescod
JACKSONVILLEJoe E. Hill
LEESBURGJames H. Williams
OCALA

Mr. Wallace Brittain
July 8, 1994
Page 2

We will continue to support efforts to protect the St. Marys River and are committed to working with the public and local governmental constituency throughout the basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the study results.

Sincerely,



HENRY DEAN
Executive Director

HD:KM:pn

c: Joe Hopkins, St. Marys River Management Committee
Ralph Simmons, St. Marys River Management Committee
Joe Tanner, Commissioner, GDNR
Winifred Stevenson, Friends of the St. Marys River

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division

2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30279
(404) 918-6400

June 23, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division - SE Regional Office
National Park Service - DOI
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, SW, Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Comments on the "St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Draft Study"

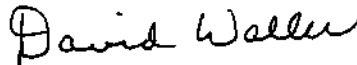
Dear Mr. Brittain:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Study of the St. Marys River for Wild and Scenic River status. We commend you for the thoroughness with which you have conducted the study, and we concur with your recommendations and findings in designating portions of the St. Marys as Wild and Scenic River.

We would recommend that the local council management concept be broad enough to include representatives from various interests such as local governments, state agencies, federal agencies, private landowners, and special interest groups, with authority to protect the river from adverse land use practices within the framework of federal, state, and local laws. We in the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources are concerned about the impacts of designation on our ability to manage the fishery resources and to provide public access to the resource.

We enclose a copy of the draft with a few minor typographical and spelling changes. Thank you again for the opportunity to review the draft document.

Sincerely,



David Waller

DW/jbg

Enclosure: Draft Report



**SOUTHEAST GEORGIA
Regional Development Center**

3395 Harris Road - Waycross, Georgia 31503 - (912) 285-6097
Fax: (912) 285-6126

CHRIS McRAE, Chairman

LACE FUTCH, Executive Director

April 11, 1994

Wallace C. Brittain, Chief
Conservation Assistance Branch
Southeast Regional Office --National Park Service
Room 1020 Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Wally;

Although it took me a while, I have read and reviewed the draft report of the St Marys River Wild and Scenic River report. There are some typesetting errors which I am sure y'all will catch before the final printing.

However, there was one glaring bit of misinformation that needs to be corrected in the study. On page 50, the statement about Charlton County needs to read something close to:

Georgia - Charlton County

Charlton County has a joint comprehensive plan with the Cities of Folkston and Homeland. The plan was completed in June 1993 and has since been adopted. The County officially recognizes the St Marys River Basin as a Regionally Important Resource and enforces the development requirements of Georgia's Protected River Corridor Act. Charlton County participates in the St Marys River Management Committee and expects to fully participate in the development of a resource management strategy by the Georgia Departments of Natural Resources and Community Affairs under the Regionally Important Resources program.

If you would like a copy of the Charlton County Comprehensive Plan, please let me know. I hope that the above correction can be incorporated into the final document; it will help this somewhat unpopular study get a better reception in Charlton County. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free call me at 912-285-6097 during regular business hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danny", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel W. McElmurray
Director of Coordinated Planning

cc: Lace Futch, Exec Dir

30 YEARS - A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Serving local governments in Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce and Ware Counties



NASSAU COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 1010
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035-1010

Jim B. Higginbotham
John A. Crawford
Tom Branan
James E. Testone
Jimmy L. Higginbotham

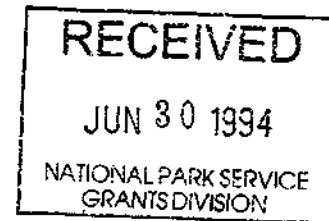
Dist. No. 1 Fernandina Beach
Dist. No. 2 Fernandina Beach
Dist. No. 3 Yulee
Dist. No. 4 Hilliard
Dist. No. 5 Callahan

T.J. "Jerry" GREESON
Ex-Officio Clerk

MICHAEL S. MULLIN
County Attorney

June 22, 1994

National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303



In Re: St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River Study
October, 1993

Dear Sir:

We the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, hereby officially oppose the designation of the St. Marys River as a wild and scenic river and oppose its designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Done this 27th day of June, 1994 in Regular Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "John A. Crawford".

John A. Crawford
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Nassau County, Florida

(904) 225-9021 Board Room; 321-5703, 879-1029, 355-6275

An Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study (October 1993) has been completed for comment, and

WHEREAS, the study fails to recognize the St. Marys River Management Committee as a potential regional caretaker of the river for the purpose of providing future management activities along the study area of the St. Marys River, and

WHEREAS, Alternative A of the plan does recognize that urban expansion pressure in the St. Marys/Kingsland area is outside the area under proposed consideration for designation, and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners has adopted a Regional River Corridor Protection Plan being forwarded to the St. Marys River Management Committee for discussion and comment and possible adoption by the Committee and member Governments also recognizing this same urbanizing area, and

WHEREAS, this Committee has not been included in this study process as promised in initial meetings as part of a public citizen advisory group which was not established;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that due to the lack of the use of the Committee, and setting up of said citizens advisory group for consistent input during the study period, the Camden County Board of Commissioners does agree with the St. Marys River Management Committee recommendation that the St. Marys River not be included in the National Wild and Scenic River system at this time.

Adopted in legal assembly this 22nd day of June, 1994.

Camden County Board of Commissioners


Tilden L. Norris, Chairman

ATTEST:


Bettie W. Dunbar, County Clerk



Charlton County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
100 S. THIRD STREET • FOLKSTON, GEORGIA 31537
TELEPHONE (912) 496-2549

June 09, 1994

PA-
WILLIAM J. "JACKIE" CARTER, Chairman
BILL CHESSE, Vice Chairman
ALBERT SMITH, Commissioner
GENE CRAWFORD, Commissioner
EVERETT DALE GARARD, SR., Commissioner
MRS. ROSA MAE BROOKS, Clerk
W. VINCENT SETTLE, III, Attorney
WAYNE MORGAN, County Road Superintendent

National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re.: St. Marys River Wild &
Scenic River Study
October 1993

We, the Commissioners of Charlton County, Georgia, hereby unanimously and officially oppose the designation of the St. Marys River as a "Wild and Scenic River" and oppose its designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

So ordered and signed this 9th day of June, 1994.

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William J. Carter
William Jackson Carter, Chairman

XC: St. Marys River Study Committee

Baker County Board of Commissioners

55 NO. THIRD STREET
MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063
Telephone 259-3613



EDNA B. SANDS
CLERK TO BOARD

June 8, 1994

TERENCE M. BROWN
COUNTY ATTORNEY

National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Bldg.
75 Spring Street, S. W.
Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

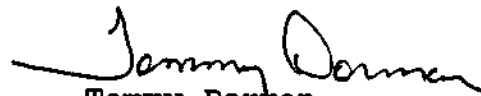
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: St. Marys River Wild & Scenic
River Study - October, 1993

The Baker County Board of Commissioners voted in regular session June 7, 1994, to officially oppose the designation of the St. Marys River as a wild and scenic river and oppose its designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Tommy Dorman
Chairman of the Board

TD/sc

xc: Joe Hopkins, Co-Chairman
St. Marys River Mgmt. Committee

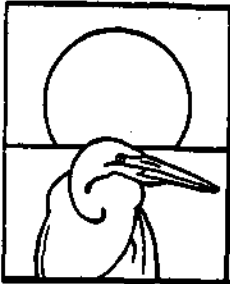
TOMMY DORMAN
DISTRICT 1

ALEX ROBINSON
DISTRICT 2

CLIFTON BARTON
DISTRICT 3

MELVIN DOWLING
DISTRICT 4

STEVE KENNEDY
DISTRICT 5



St. Marys River Management Committee

Post Office Box 251
Folkston, Georgia 31537
Telephone (912) 496-2549

June 7, 1994

Mr. Wallace Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

In Re: St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River Study
Response of St. Marys River Management Committee

Dear Wallace:

The following response has been prepared and approved by the St. Marys River Management Committee as their official position with regard to the St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River Study dated October 1993, prepared by Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

This study completely dismisses the viability of the St. Marys River Management Committee to provide management activities on the St. Marys River. This is evident from the standpoint that Alternative A which provides for "no action" (reference page 25 of the report and page 63 of the report) makes no reference to the fact that Alternative A would provide for management of the St. Marys River by the St. Marys River Management Committee as currently existed by Interlocal Agreement, adopted by Charlton and Camden County, Georgia and Nassau and Baker County, Florida. In addition, Alternative A does state that the urban expansion would be in the St. Marys/Kingsland area, however, this area is outside of the area to be designated under the proposal and therefore increased population in these areas would have no effect on the designated portion of the river.

It is also the position of the St. Marys River Management Committee that we reject Alternative B, C and D. The only support that has been given for any of these alternatives has come from a group named the "Friends of the St. Marys River" which is an offshoot of the Nassau Sierra Club. Their position with regard to the St. Marys River is the same as their position with all private lands in that they wish to have total government control.

Mr. Wallace Brittain

Page Three


June 7, 1994

In Re: Response of St. Marys River Management Committee


A citizen advisory group was to be established to assist during this study, however, this has not been done. There has in fact been absolutely no local involvement with regard to preparing the study. The only group which has been actively meeting, discussing and working on concerns of the river has been the St. Marys River Management Committee which is now formed by Interlocal Agreement among the four counties involved. The importance and potential effect of this committee has been completely dismissed by the study as a viable alternative.

It is therefore, the official position of the St. Marys River Management Committee that the St. Marys River not be included in the National Wild & Scenic River system.

This 6th day of June, 1994.



Joe Hopkins - Co-Chairman



Ralph Simmons - Co-Chairman

Friends of the Saint Mary's River

P.O. Box 1159
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

November 3, 1993

Dear Mr. Cooley,

In August, the National Park Service issued a draft report recommending Wild and Scenic River status for 71.5 miles of the St. Mary's River, the boundary waters between Georgia and Florida.

We write to you now to urge your support for this critical designation. Friends of the St. Mary's River is a coalition of groups from Florida and Georgia working to protect this river.

Members of this group have seen the abuse suffered by other rivers such as the Suwanee in Florida and the Ogeechee in Georgia, two rivers which did not receive Wild and Scenic protection and have now degraded significantly.

The Wild and Scenic River Program seeks to maintain a river's current water quality. The St. Mary's River is an excellent candidate for this federal protection. Local jurisdiction is ineffectively split between two states and four rural counties (Camden and Charlton Counties, Georgia, and Baker and Nassau Counties, Florida). Two of these counties, however, are experiencing increasing growth from tourism and Kings Bay Naval Base.

In addition to the NPS study, a recent study using EPA funds by Florida's St. John's River Water Management District, with cooperation from Georgia's Dept. of Natural Resources, also recommends prompt inclusion of the St. Mary's River in the Wild and Scenic Program, concluding that this river is in a rare condition of excellent water quality and undisturbed landscape.

We strongly support protecting this river now, and feel that any delay will surely condemn the St. Mary's to degradation from pollution and overdevelopment, and condemn taxpayers to debts (like the Everglades) for future cleanups incurred by short-sighted lack of management.

Please let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline G. Herterich
573 Marsh Hen Lane
Fernandina Beach, FL. 32034

National Audubon Society



666 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-9009
(202) 547-9022 fax

November 30, 1993

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Programs Division
75 Spring St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

On behalf of the more than one-half million National Audubon Society members, we urge you to support designation of the St. Mary's River as a Wild and Scenic River. The National Audubon Society strongly supports this designation to help preserve the pristine condition of this beautiful river, flowing between Florida and Georgia.

The quality of water and surrounding landscape of the St. Mary's River remain in excellent condition today, but is threatened by increasing tourism, over-development and pollution to become severely degraded. Therefore we feel an urgency to include St. Mary's River in the Wild and Scenic Program. The National Audubon Society strongly supports Alternative D in the Alternatives and Conclusion section of National Park Service Study of this area which would provide "Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portion of the St. Mary's River with special legislation establishing a local river management council." This alternative would not only provide the river the protection it needs and deserves, but includes necessary local control.

If there is any information we can provide to you about this beautiful and unique river, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to the protection of this river and its surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brock Evans". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.

Brock Evans,
Vice President for
National Issues

cc: Sen. Sam Nunn, Rep. Jack Kingston, Sen. Paul Coverdell, Dan Williams

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June 23, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
75 Spring Street, SW, Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

On behalf of The Georgia Conservancy, I would like to offer comments on the Draft St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study. In response to your call for comments, we have reviewed the draft report, which proposes that a segment of the river be designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In 1990, The Georgia Conservancy testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests. In our remarks we noted that the St. Marys River is one of the nation's outstanding free-flowing rivers. We further noted the river's richness as habitat for endangered species such as the West Indian manatee, the bald eagle and shortnosed sturgeon.

In addition, excellent water quality and the natural beauty of the St. Marys led The Georgia Conservancy to conclude that legislation should be passed to study the St. Marys for possible inclusion in the system. We were confident that the study would conclude that the St. Marys was eligible for inclusion in the National System. We agree now with the findings of the study that the river is indeed uniquely qualified.

The Georgia Conservancy is firmly in support of Alternative "D" of the Draft Report. This alternative would designate 71.8 miles as a locally-managed component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Local opposition to federal management is apparent, and not altogether unreasonable. The local management option, however, is a unique approach that has the potential to resolve the issues, such as private property rights,

page two
Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
June 23, 1994

while further protecting the St. Marys River corridor. Local management would also enhance efforts to preserve the values considered important by local residents.

The population in the St. Marys River basin has increased dramatically due to the presence of the Trident Submarine Base. The rate of increase during the 1980's was 125%, and Camden County is still growing at a rate much higher than the state average. Increased human activities will continue to place a heavier burden on the St. Marys River.

The Georgia Conservancy believes that Wild and Scenic River designation, and particularly the local management component, will provide the framework necessary for Georgians to participate in preserving the natural and cultural resources associated with the St. Marys River.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Rebecca R. Shortland
Vice President for Coastal Programs

c: Carolyn Boyd Hatcher
Wesley Woolf

COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 1726
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522

JUNE 19, 1994

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

I am writing to you as the Conservation Chair of the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society and also as a concerned citizen. I have lived in Coastal Georgia for a number of years having moved here from Atlanta. Growing up in Atlanta I experienced first-hand the impact of population growth and corresponding development. I am now very familiar with environmental issues on the coast. I have served as President of the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, Vice President of Glynn Environmental Coalition, Secretary of the Coastal Georgia Land Trust, Vice President of Friends of the St. Mary's River, and have also served on a number of Glynn County Advisory Committees. I see a trend here along the coast which is of concern to me. It sometimes takes a person from outside a community to more clearly see and make objective observations of what the future reality of that community might become. I have attended a number of the public hearing held by the Park Service on the Wild and Scenic Designation for the St. Mary's River. The objections made extremely clear by the "local" citizenry is all too familiar to me. I only wish they would heed the warnings of Ralph Yarborough from the Ogeechee River Valley Association when he tells them how his group now wishes they had not fought against this designation a few years ago. But, as you know, local property owners always think that they know what is best for their own backyard. What you and I know to be true is that any additional protection that may be given to this river will be invaluable to the future water quality and aesthetic beauty of the St. Mary's River.

I ask, no, I plead that the National Park Service place the highest protective designation possible upon those sections of the river that the study has found to be of significance as having scenic and recreational value. Please do not overlook the fact that many of us have not had the time to attend all the meetings but have sent in written comments and feel very strongly about this designation. I sympathize with the people in Charlton and Camden counties who fear "another layer" of government bureaucracy. I also know that only by designating the St. Mary's River as Wild and Scenic will its beauty and importance as a water source be protected after current county commissioners pass into history.

I thank you for all your work on this study and commend you on the fine job. Please take my comments into consideration. I am confident that my words speak for many of the four hundred Audubon members here in Glynn and Camden counties. Let us know if we can be of any assistance to you and your efforts.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Bowen
Conservation Chair





Glynn Environmental Coalition, Inc.
274 Parland Road
Brunswick, Georgia 31525
(912) 265-6428

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

June 20, 1994

Dear Mr. Cooley,

The Glynn Environmental Coalition supports the protection of the St. Mary's River with a Wild and Scenic Designation. The location of the St. Mary's River on the boarder of two states makes the protection of it difficult or impossible. There are few rivers left in our part of the country that have not been polluted, dredged or over developed. We owe it to future generations to preserve this majestic and ecologically diverse river.

Yours,

Daniel Parshley, President
Glynn Environmental Coalition, Inc.

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER

SUBMERGED LANDS COMMITTEE

November 16, 1993

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring St, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley,

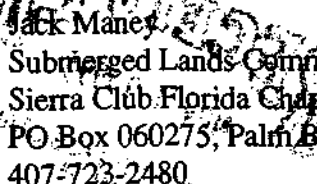
The Sierra Club Florida Chapter supports Wild and Scenic Rivers designation for the St Marys River. We further support management of the river by the National Park Service, in cooperation with a committee including local environmental groups, landowners and recreational users. Protection and low-impact recreational use of Florida rivers, including the St Marys River, are vital concerns of our 20,000 members in Florida.

Many of our members, including myself, have already enjoyed the remote, unspoiled beauty of the St Marys River. After paddling hundreds of miles on over two dozen Florida rivers, including more than one 3-day canoe trip on the St Marys, I can personally attest that the St Marys River specially deserves the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.

It is very important to designate the St Marys River now, before the ongoing population increases in Florida spoil it. The designation will help preserve valuable scenic, recreational, historical and habitat resources for the benefit of wildlife, fisheries, and both local and statewide residents.

Thank you for considering protection of the St Marys River.

Sincerely,



Jack Maney
Submerged Lands Committee Chair
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
PO Box 060275, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0275
407-723-2480

May 23, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain, Chief
Conservation Assistance Branch
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
75 Spring Street S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

The leadership of our Canoe and Kayak Club have had the opportunity to read and discuss your October 1993 draft report on the St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic River Study. We are pleased with your findings and recommendations.

Our club is the oldest canoe club in Northeast Florida and has a membership of over 100, plus family members. Our club schedules trips almost every weekend of the year. We have obviously enjoyed many outings on the St. Mary's River. However, we are disappointed that your recommendations did not include the Reach of North Prong from the Junction of Middle Prong to State Road 2 at Moniac. We feel that this reach has outstanding and unique scenic value, as does the rest of the upper segment of the river shown on page 22 of the report.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on your draft report. We would appreciate being added to your mailing list so that we may continue to be advised as the report moves forward.

Sincerely,

Al Grant

Al Grant, Commodore
Seminole Canoe and Kayak Club

COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 1726
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522

June 18, 94

Dear Joe Cooley,

On behalf of the Coastal Ga. Audubon Society, as well as for my personal concern, to support the Wild & Scenic Designation of our St. Marys River

With so few fresh water rivers being protected the River Corridors Protection is of major importance to us, Coastal Ga., and probably more so for the growth of St. Marys, Ga. There has always been a great deal of support from our area about all our waters and environment and always will be.

If the legislation would have made public news about what is happening, why and what can be done in regards to the Wild and Scenic Designation the coastal Audubon would have acted on this issue sooner. What can be done at this late date?

We will support our government any way we can if it is in the best interest to all and everything effecting our presents and the future lives and habitats in this environment.

It is very important that you know the Audubon supports the Wild and Scenic Designation for the preservation of the St. Marys River.

a concerned society,
Respectfully,

Donna Marks
President
C.G.A.S.



Rayonier

Forest Resources, Southeast

Regional Office

April 6, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Subject: Comments on the October, 1993 Draft Report on the St. Marys River Wild & Scenic Study

Dear Mr. Brittain:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft report. I appreciate the solicitation of comments by all interested parties and natural resource professionals in particular.

I have been involved in the management of large forested uplands and wetlands in Nassau and Baker Counties, Florida as well as Camden and Charlton Counties, Georgia since 1979. My comments are based upon that experience and are as follows:

Page 53, Paragraph 2:

"Timbering has been in practice since the early 1900's..." - "Timbering" in our area has been in practice since the early 1800's. My office is in a building in Fernandina (County seat of Nassau County) that was built with native lumber in the 1870's.

Page 53, Paragraph Last:

"Non-industrial owners for the most part are producing saw timber..." - Two large non-industrial owners produce a high percentage of sawtimber but most owners produce a mix of pulpwood and Chip-N-Saw (small sawtimber 8.0" Dbh+). Our small diameter wood markets are some of the most competitive in North America.

"...long term stand rotation(s) are typical..." - This may be true for some non-industrial owners, but it is by no means "typical".

"These timberlands tend to maintain their natural integrity..." - This comment is generally editorial in nature and probably based on statements made in a report by KBN Engineering and Applied Sciences. I have seen no data that supports it.

"Due to the typical lack of proper equipment and resources, best management practices (BMP) have a greater incidence of noncompliance than the industrial owned lands..." - There simply is no lack of proper equipment; the same contractors harvest industrial and non-industrial land in our area. I have seen no data that supports a higher incidence of BMP noncompliance on non-

industrial land in our area. This is rooted in "editorial" comments from the KBN "report". The statement is also poorly written and difficult to understand.

Page 54, Paragraph 2:

"KG-blading" is very expensive and seldomly used on industrial land as a site preparation prescription.

"Tree density, lack of fire, and mechanical site preparation virtually eliminate natural groundcover and native habitat." - This is simply an uninformed editorial comment (probably from the KBN "report"). There are studies that conclude that certain types of site preparation increase biological diversity over non prepared control plots.

Page 54, Paragraph 6:

"Not one, however, of the county comprehensive plans addresses the St. Marys River basin as a regionally significant resource or specifically gives protection to the river." - Both the Nassau and Baker County comprehensive plans adopted the most recent version of the Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMP's) as a means of protecting the river. The latest BMP survey by the Florida Division of Forestry indicates a 96.2% compliance rate. The manual was recently rewritten by a well balanced committee that included: The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission.

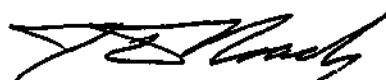
Camden County was drafting their plan at the time of your report and Charlton was just beginning the process.

The river is already protected by several federal, state, and local laws and ordinances. (e.g. Georgia River Corridor Protection Act, State Water Quality Standards and Anti degradation Policies, Federal Clean Water Act, etc.).

The "basin" of the river covers 90% of all the land in Baker County and nearly half of Nassau County (see Page 43). I feel the river itself warrants some discussion, but the "basin" does not warrant "protection".

Again, thank you for this opportunity. If I can be of further assistance or answer any questions, please call me at (904) 321-5507.

Sincerely,



J. Daniel Roach
Manager, Business Development
and Land Utilization

ROGER BASS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Marine Surveyors and Adjusters
10536 Inverness Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32257
(904) 262-4015
Fax (904) 262-0244

May 10, 1994


Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley;

I am very concerned about the environment in Northeast Florida. I think the most important issue right now is the St. Marys river. This is a unique and important river system that is part of the very unique Okefenokee ecosystem. As a life long Florida resident, I continue to see pristine and beautiful areas slowly or quickly degraded, most of which is irreversible. We have a window of opportunity and must act now.

Please designate the St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Bass



Rockin' Cheer Farm

Blackshear, GA 31516

~~Route 1 Box 713~~

Phone 912-449-5271

6080 Voigt Bridge Rd.

March 29, 1994

Wallace C. Brittain, Chief
Conservation Assistance Branch
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, SW, Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

Thank you for the draft report on the St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Study sent to my husband, William Voigt, Jr.

He considered the St. Marys one of our country's most beautiful rivers -- and he knew most of them, having published a National Fishing Guide in 1946, and devoted more than 40 years to resources conservation, most of it at the national level.

Unfortunately, he did not live to see the completion of this study; he died on November 2, 1991.

While he cannot comment on the study or assist in implementation of any of its conclusions, he would surely approve protection of suitable portions of the St. Marys as a Wild and Scenic River, having advocated just that for many, many years.

Sincerely yours,

Billie B. Voigt

Mrs. Wm. Voigt, Jr.

s/

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Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: "Wild & Scenic" Designation
St. Mary's River

June 17, 1994

Dear Mr. Cooley:

On behalf of our company and its employees, I want to express our appreciation for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the "Wild and Scenic" designation of the St. Mary's River. We also want to thank the NPS for undertaking the study of the St. Mary's corridor. The findings set forth in the Draft Report - October 1993 are most informative and hopefully will provide the basis for approval for this much needed protection.

Having traveled its length several times by canoe and kayak, I can testify that the St. Mary's River is one of the few remaining places of natural and unspoiled beauty in this part of the United States.

In addition to the fundamental issue of protecting the river, there are several other important considerations which support its designation under the federal wild and scenic legislation.

The river's importance to tourism is reflected in the increasing interest and travel dollars spent by active travelers seeking such places as the St. Mary's River. The substantial growth of this industry (referred to by some as "eco-tourism") can be seen in the rapid growth of such publications as Outside, Backpacker, Canoe & Kayak, and Paddler - to name just a few.

Eco-tourism has in recent years undergone enormous growth and will continue to do so. This group of active travelers is represented by people seeking clean water, wilderness areas, primitive camping, and abundant wildlife that they can experience in a natural setting.

Because the St. Mary's constitutes the border between Florida and Georgia, it is particularly well suited for wild and scenic designation. Without such designation, its protection would be dependant upon a hodge-podge of states (2) and counties (4) laws/ordinances, as well as unpredictable enforcement practices.

We urge your support for Alternative D of the draft report which is the choice favored by the NPS as well as the Friends of the St. Mary's - a local citizen's group supporting protection of the river.

The objections which have been raised by the opponents are based largely upon assumptions and fears which have not proven to be legitimate in other similar cases. While it is understandable that the large and powerful landowners along the river might protest, these local and narrow proprietary interests should not outweigh the interests of all our citizens to enjoy a natural resource and ensure its protection for future generations. If we do not act responsibly now, our grandchildren may not be able to enjoy the river's beauty as we do now.

One only needs to look at a map of the "wild and scenic" rivers which have been so designated in the United States to see the great need for such protection in this part of the country. While there are many rivers which have achieved "Wild and Scenic" protection in other parts of the country - the southeast, and particularly Florida, has precious few.

We strongly urge your active support for wild and scenic designation of this beautiful natural resource.

Very truly yours,


Wm. Howard Solomon
President

cc: Winifred Stephenson, Friends
of the St. Mary's
Dan Donaldson, Sierra Club





JOHN NEMAJO, PRESIDENT
BOX 659, RT. 28
INLET, NEW YORK 13360

315 357-8872

BIKING

HIKING

CANOEING

CAMPING!

GROSS BODILY SKIND

14 JUNE 1994

MR. JOSEPH COOLEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PLANNING AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS DIVISION
15 SPRING ST SW
ATLANTA, GA 30303

DEAR MR COOLEY,

I AM WRITING TO URGE YOU AND
YOUR COMMITTEE TO AWARD WILD AND
SCENIC RIVER STATUS TO THE ENTIRE
LENGTH OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHWEST
GEORGIA. I WILL NOT GO INTO A
DETAILED EXPLANATION INTO THE
ECOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATIONS OF SUCH
AN ACT WHICH YOU AND I BOTH
THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND.

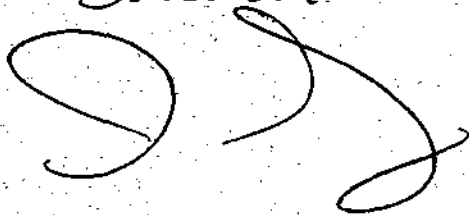
I WAS A 16 YR. RESIDENT IN FLORIDA
AND DURING MY 7 YRS IN JACKSONVILLE
WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHEAST



FLORIDA GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB AND
OVERTHO CANDIDATE FOR JACKSONVILLE
CITY COUNCIL. MY EDUCATION INCLUDES A
M.S. DEGREE IN FRESHWATER ECOLOGY FROM
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY AND I AM CURRENTLY
PRESIDENT OF MOUNTAINMAN OUTDOOR SUPPLY
COMPANY IN NEW YORK'S ADIRONDACK STATE
PARK.

I URGE YOU NOT TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO PROTECT ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING
TREASURES IN THE SOUTHEAST SLIP BY.

Sincerely,



POSTSCRIPT - I BECAME ACTIVE IN SIERRA CLUB
ISSUES IN 1990 TO SEE SIMILAR PROTECTION
AWARDED TO THE SUWANNEE RIVER. I
HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER THIS AS YOUR
NEXT CHALLENGE.

June 6, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
Nat'l Park Service, Planning and
Federal Programs Div.
75 Spring St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Margaret A. Nelson
4255 Stacey Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32250

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem.

The St. Marys River is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature.

If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river. Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely,

Meg Nelson

+

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r

p.1

Friends of the Saint Mary's River

P.O. Box 1159
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

June 21, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, Ga. 30303
Dear Joe:

re: St. Mary's River Wild and
Scenic River Study, Draft
Report, October 1993

In response to your Draft Report of October 1993, our coalition would like to again emphasize how important we feel the Wild and Scenic designation is for the St. Mary's River. The continuing population growth in Northeast Florida (Nassau County) and Southeast Georgia (especially Camden County), due both to the expansion of King's Bay military base and growing tourism and retirement opportunities in these areas, threatens the outstanding qualities of this river.

A bewildering number of laws and regulations already exists to protect the river, but an organization with enforcement capability is sadly lacking. The Friends of the St. Mary's River sees the National Park Service's Alternative D as a solution to this problem. As you know, a St. Mary's River Management Committee has formed to organize information about the river. We feel that incorporating the structure of this committee into Alternative D would work very well to protect the St. Mary's River.

Also, as we have previously recommended, any local management committee is incomplete without voting representation from the environmental and recreational communities.

Again, the impending impacts of growth and development in the St. Mary's River Basin will have a disastrous effect on this historically clean and scenic river. With Alternative D in place, local knowledge of the river, its inhabitants and its history will combine with a unified federal enforcement of laws. We feel the St. Mary's River's water quality would be better protected by this combined plan than by any local efforts.

In addition, I am enclosing copies of 120 signatures, primarily from Georgia, of a petition directed to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in support of the Wild and Scenic designation.

Sincerely,

Winifred

H. Winifred Stephenson
Co-Chair

p2

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Rabbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. Maryann Browner	Rt 1 Box 441A Rincon, Ga 31326
2. Betty Murphy	8809 Rivers End Dr., Sav'h, Ga. 31406
3. Sandra Hall	15 Hestferry Ct. Sav'h GA 31411
4. Jean Schultz	129 Bordeaux Ln. Savannah GA 31417
5. Debbie Nelson	15 E. Welwood Dr. Savannah GA 31417
6. Dorothy Liles & Robert Reid	Robert Reid Ct. Savannah, GA 31411
7. Marie Kingsley	401 Barnard St. SAV. GA. 31401
8. Charles L. Samz	6 Harwood Ct., Sav'h GA 31406
9. Randy Thompson	315 E. 49th SAV. 31405
10. Jay D. Calkins	62 Rivers Bend Dr Sav 31406
11. Alice Ford	302 Sycamore Ct SAV GA 31410
12. George Ann	2416 15th St. Tybee Island GA 313
13. James Rarow	105 E. Ginnette St Sav GA 31401
14. Cassia Rodgers	640 Northbrook Rd Savh Ga 31417
15. BARBARA A. PARYL	714 LITTLE JOHN DR HINESVILLE GA 31313

FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
 P.O. BOX 1159
 FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

p.3

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. Matt McElban	12409 Largo Dr 71 Savannah GA
2. Zlat Alban	236 Dyche Dr Savannah GA
3. Chuck Hanley	205 E. 5th St Savannah GA
4. Kate Mondwin	508 Herb River Dr Savannah, Ga.
5. Wendy Pickens	49 Pickens Dr Savannah GA
6. Cathy Handley	205 E 5th St Savannah GA
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FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
 P.O. BOX 1159
 FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

p.4

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. John H. Brewer	RT 1 Box 441A Effingham Co, GA
2. David Canfield	28 Mulberry Blvd Sav, GA 31406
3. Kathryn R. Lendon	12520 Deerfield Rd. South Ga. 31419
4. Lois M. Chapin	11606 Colleen Dr. SAVANNAH 31419
5. Dore Chapin	11606 Colleen Dr. SAVANNAH 31419
6. BQ. Strickland	202 Sycamore Rd. Sav. GA 31410
7. Willie Collins	4452 1st "Trustledon" Sav. 31405
8. Arte Rich	425 E. 60th Street GA: Savannah
9. Jeff Jennings, Ph.D.	7609 LaRoche, Savannah, GA 31416
10. Glenda Smith	3 Bellevue Ct. Savannah Ga 31406
11. [Signature]	3 Bellevue Ct Savannah, Ga 31406
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FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
 P.O. BOX 1159
 FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

p.5

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. James F. Thorne	120 Nassau Drive Savannah, GA Chatham Co.
2. Janet Van Kirk Thorne	120 Nassau Dr Savannah GA Chatham Co
3. Susan Kirkland	101 Dogwood Ave Savannah - Ga Chatham
4. Robin E. Nath	331 E. 50th St. Savannah, GA 31405
5. Charles L. Long	6 Harwood Ct, Savannah, GA 31406
6. Tom Smith	313 ABERCORN ST. SAVANNAH, GA 31401
7. John Stafford	720 BIRCHWOOD RD SAVANNAH GA 31419
8. Dave Chofor	11606 Colleen Dr. SAVANNAH, GA, 31419
9. Ronald B. Myer	6 Frederick St. Pines, Ga - 31326
10. David K. Weaver	1513 E. 44th St., Savannah, Ga 31404
11. Jennifer L. Pabraham	920 Mohawk St. 3D Sav'n GA
12. Julia A. Bann	136 Nena Ave Savannah GA 31406
13. Ann W. Krum	156 Cardinal Rd Savannah GA 31406
14. Michael A. Moll	9229 Garland Dr Sav GA 31406
15. Laurie E. Egan	412 E. Taylor St. Savannah, Ga 31401

FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
 P.O. BOX 1159
 FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
To: Georgia and Florida legislators
Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
Date:

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. <i>Annita A. Subkstad</i>	<i>906 Pamphlet Rd. S.E. GA. 31410</i>
2. <i>J. Tony Gattler</i>	<i>48 Ogale Ave. Garden City, Ga. 31408</i>
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FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
P.O. BOX 1159
FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

8-7

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. Jacqueline S. Heister	573 Marsh Hen Lane, Fernandina Bch. FL 32034
2. Elinor Duncan	502 50th St Fern. Bch FLA 32034
3. Joan G. Carr	Rt 2 Box 352 Yulee FL 32097
4. Pamela B. Selton	39 Laurel Oak, Amelia Beach FL 32034
5. Joan B. Hamburg	12572 Dunraven Tr JAX FL 32223
6. Carol L. Meeks	333 Hibiscus St Jupiter 33458
7. Alan M. ...	1112 RIFLE CREST, VAL RICH FL 33594
8. ...	PO Box 1201 Tallahassee FL 32302
9. ...	425 N.E. 7TH ST, GAINESVILLE 32601 ALACHUA
10. Debbie ...	12307 Old Country Rd., W. Palm Bch, FL 33414 PALM BEACH
11. Deb Swinn	Rt 35, Box 1815, Tall, FL 32310 WAKULLA COUNTY FL
12. Christa R. Small	2550 N. AIAFAYA TR #3201 ORLANDO, FL 32826
13. ...	
14. Martha G. Wellman	1506 Rankin Avenue Tallahassee FL 32310 " "
15. Karen Woodell	572 E. Call St Tallahassee, FL 32301 (Leon County)
16. Robert ...	305 Dyer Tr WPB FL 33405 PALM BEACH
17. Michael L. Wright	2637 Lake Bradford Rd Tallahassee FL 32310
18. Laurie McDonald	103 Wildwood Lane, St Petersburg FL 33705
19. JACK MAMEY,	PO BOX 060275, PALM BAY, FL 32906-0275
20. ...	6100 Woodloch #103 Palm Bay 32905
21. Don Baker	865 NE Vanda Terrado Jensen Beach FL 33457

p-8

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. JEAN FRANCOIS KALRA	11 MARINE ST. PACIFIC GROVE CA 93950
2. <i>Mc Capri</i>	4678 36th Ave N St Petersburg FL 33713
3. Mary E. Sheppard	3120 38th Ave E, Bradenton, FL 34208
4. <i>Gordon Williams</i>	1400 Maria Hwy, Ft. Hill FL 32117
5. Susan H. Caplow	PO Box 1201, Tallahassee FL 32302
6. Bob Sullivan	P.O. Box 11895, St. Atk, FL 33733 (Pinellas)
7. Mike Hershey	7614 NW 80th Ct. Torrance FL 33321
8. Terry Waller	233 Rex CT, Lk Wm, FL 33461
9. Bonnie Barnes-Kelly	1201 N.W. 147 ST Miami, FL 33167
10. <i>Cherie Knight</i>	5114 Oak Hill Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792 (407) 657-9581
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p.9

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

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NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. GARY G. DRURY	RT. 9 Box 281 SS. Glynn, Georgia
2. W. P. Desmond PETER F. DESMONIE	194 DUNBARTON CT. S.S.I. GA 31522
3. Paul H. Sprawls PAUL H. SPRAWLS	203 WYNDERLY RD., S.S.I. GA 31577
4. Robin Haines	14 Dunbar Ct. Ft. St. Simons Is GA 31522
5. Margaret F. Borden	105 Alder Circle "
6. W. H. Doughty K. H. Doughty	1900 HEMSON St BUK, GA 31520
7. Donna Marks 5000 Atlantic Ave. " 8	Buck He 31525
8. Martha Nille	514 Union St., Brunswick, GA 31520
9. Walter E. Borden	105 Alder Circle, St. Simons Is GA 31522
10. Paula Willis	326 PINEVIEW Dr Waycross, GA 31501
11. Samuel D. Doughty	22 Capt. W. H. Rd, Glynn Island, Ga 31527
12. Elizabeth Sanders	865 W. W. St. Simons Is. GA 31522
13. Carl Norham	P.O. Box 1320, Darien, GA 31305
14. Lucile Stephens	P.O. Box 24023, St. Simons Is. 315
15. M. R. DUSENBURY	22 CAPT. WYLLY RD, WYLLY ISLAND 31522

p.10

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. Claudia Taylor	103 St. Clair Ter. St. Simons, Ga. Glynn Co.
2. Eileen J. Hutchinson	96 Village Green, SST " "
3. Kenneth J. Gross	203 Palmetto Ct St. SST Ga Glynn Co
* 4. Virginia Dunn	102 Thacker, SST, Ga Glynn Co
5. Jack Meyer	10 Village Green, SST, Glynn Co
6. Charlotte H. Hordhead	1152 E. Peachtree St. SST Ga Glynn
7. Steve A. Diavranis	4314 14 th Street, E.B. SST GA 31522
8. Joan C. Latham	4314 14 th St. E.B. St. Simons Isl. Ga. Glynn Co
9. Whit Dunn	P.O. 24545 St. Simons Island, GA 31522 GLYNN County
10. Nancy Thompson	109 Redfern - St. Simons - GA - GLYNN
11. Philip Furibanks	Appleton Road, Port Royal SC. 29935
12. Krum + Eric Best	Rt. 2, Box 102 McKee LA 31055
13. DREN KASZOWS	711 Prince St. Brunswick 31520
14. Barbara Lowery Cascio	4550 Birch Ridge Tr. St. Mtn. 30083
15. Mel & Anulib	318 Magnolia Ave SST, Ga 31522
16. Margaret Dunne	115 Ormish Oaks Dr. SST, Ga 31522

FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARY'S RIVER
 P.O. BOX 1159
 FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA 32034

* COUNTY COMMISSIONER

To: Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt
 To: Georgia and Florida legislators
 Re: St. Mary's River Wild and Scenic Designation
 Date:

p. 11

We, the undersigned, desire that the U.S. Congress designate a portion of the St. Mary's River (at least the 71.8 scenic miles studied in the Preliminary Draft Report of the National Park Service) as a Wild and Scenic River. We believe that the high quality of the water, scenic beauty of the environment, and the historical and cultural importance of this state boundary water deserves special recognition as a national treasure. We agree that a management plan should be developed to coordinate federal, state and local interests along the river while providing protection for the existing character of the river against further degradation.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS & COUNTY/STATE
1. Eric S. Dean	Rt # 1 Box 94 Waverly, Ga 31565
2. Doris Cohen	P.O. Box 1908 Darien, GA 31305
3. Dave Cohen	" " " "
4. Ann Malys	Rt # 1 Box 94 Waverly, GA 31565
5. Doug Platt	4706 Glen Ridge Cir Winston Co. 30187
6. Ralph Platt	4706 Glen Ridge Cir Winston Co. 30187
7. Ellis W. Drury	212 Magnolia Ave. St. Simons Is. Ga. 31522
8. Judith M. Drury	1246 W. Boyan St. Douglas, Ga. 31033
9. Jane T. Drury	624 Schumaker, St. Simons Is., Ga.
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June 20, 1994

Mr. Wallace Brittain
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

I hereby oppose the St. Marys River being included into the
National Wild & Scenic River system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barry Bowen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry Bowen
208 Plantation Circle
St. Marys, GA 31558

/bb

June 16, 1994

Mr. Wallace Brittain
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

Please let this letter reflect that I oppose the St. Marys River being designated as a wild and scenic river.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. H. Gowen", written over the typed name.

S. H. Gowen
P.O. Box 715
Folkston, GA 31537

June 21, 1994

Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

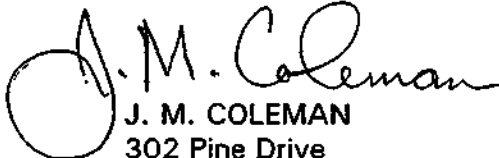
Dear Sir or Madam:

It is of my personal opinion and the opinion of the majority of the local county people with who I have personally made contact that the St. Marys River **NOT** be designated as Wild and Scenic by the federal government of the United States. We do not desire management by the National Park Service or any other governmental agency being federal, state or local.

The laws currently in place in both Florida and Georgia are sufficient to keep the river in its natural state. The several "permitting" agencies controlling land use along the river and the current nuisance laws controlling recreational use are adequate to the point of enforcement. Understandably more growth in the area will result in more use of the river and will require more enforcement of the laws currently in effect.

I feel the recommendation found in paragraph 7.3 of the Wetland Management Strategy for the St. Marys River basin is the most workable solution. In this recommendation a watershed association would be formed to run as a non-profit agency and might receive funding from counties, corporations, private donors and foundations. As a non-profit agency, it would be run by a board of directors and could have a small full or part time staff. Although such a group would have no regulatory authority, it could serve as an advocate and "watchdog" for the St. Marys River, participating in the existing regulatory process and commenting on proposed projects. Additionally, in view of the present economic situation, I feel it would be unwise to add yet another burden to the tax dollar by asking for anything other than the most minimal funding.

The St. Marys River is a God send and should be enjoyed by all public citizens and should not be unnecessarily regulated by the bureaucracy that affects so many of our lives.


J. M. COLEMAN
302 Pine Drive
Folkston, GA 31537

DONALD S. McCLAIN
P. O. BOX 30127
SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA, U. S. A.
31561

Dear Sir:

1 June 1994

I am opposed to any part of the St. Marys River
being designated as a "Wild and Scenic" River.

Yours truly,

D.S. McClain

JUNE 22, 1994

DEAN WOEHRLE
RT 1 BOX 169
HILLIARD, FL. 32046

WALLACE C. BRITTAIN
CHIEF, CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH
PLANNING DIVISION
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RICHARD B RUSSELL FEDERAL BUILDING
75 SPRING STREET S.W. ROOM 1020
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

DEAR MR. BRITTAIN:

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, ALL YOU HAVE TO STAND ON IS YOUR REPUTATION. IN THE CASE OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION, INCLUDING THE ST. MARYS, THE MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC DOES NOT WANT YOUR HELP. IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD GONE ABOUT THIS IN A MANNER OF "WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP" INSTEAD OF "WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS NO MATTER WHAT YOU WANT" THEN I AM SURE THE OUTCOME WOULD BE DIFFERENT. THE ONLY POSITIVE RESPONSES I RECIEVED ON THE DESIGNATION WERE FROM THE SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARK SERVICE.

"HELLO I'M FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND I'M HERE TO HELP" IS A STATEMENT THAT STRIKES FEAR IN THE HEART OF ALL INTELLIGENT AND RESPONSIBLE AMERICANS. THEREFORE, MY ADVICE TO YOU WOULD BE. GO HOME AND WORK ON YOUR APPROACH TO THE PEOPLE WHO YOU WORK FOR AND TRY TO DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE YOUR REPUTATION. PRACTICE KEEPING YOUR WORD. THEN COME BACK AND SEE US.

SINCERELY,
Dean Woehrle
DEAN WOEHRLE



ALVA J. HOPKINS, III

110 South Okefenokee Drive • Post Office Box 488 • Folkston, Georgia 31537
(912) 496-7343



June 17, 1994

Mr. Wallace Brittain
National Park Service
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

In Re: Response to St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River
Study dated October 1993

Dear Wallace:

As you are aware, a meeting was held in each of the four counties at the onset of the study. At that time, the citizens were advised that the citizens would be involved in the study process and in particular, a citizens advisory committee would be set up and established to assist in the study. This has not been done as was promised at the meetings. I assume that the Park Service never intended for such committees to be established but rather used this rhetoric at the meetings simply to appease the angry crowds that they faced.

As you know, the only support in this area at all that exists for incorporating the St. Marys River into the National Wild & Scenic River program is from the Sierra Club members, calling themselves the Friends of the St. Marys River. As you also are aware, they do not hold organized meetings and to date, they have never notified the St. Marys River Management Committee of any of their meetings. They do have one representative who meets on an infrequent basis with the St. Marys River Management Committee. We have forwarded to her copies of our minutes in order to keep them informed. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a request in an environmental publication advising its members to write letters in favor of including the St. Marys River in the Wild & Scenic River Program. No such effort has been made on my part or any other persons in opposition to my knowledge. We would hope that the park service would realize that such letter writing campaigns are instigated by various groups and the letters that you receive are merely responses from persons who have absolutely no knowledge of the subject matter of which they are writing! They simply are a member of the group, and therefore they would write a response anytime the group request them to write one.

Mr. Wallace Brittain

Page Two

June 17, 1994

In Re: Response to NPS study dated October 1993

All of the comments and responses as prepared in the official response of the St. Marys River Management Committee are incorporated herein by reference, a copy of said response being attached hereto. This will avoid the necessity of me having to go over each of these points.

It is obvious that the National Park Service does not want the St. Marys River Management Committee to manage and control the St. Marys River. The study treats us on equal basis with the Friends of the St. Marys River and you know that our efforts and actions in this matter are many, many times more involved than anything the Friends of the St. Marys River have done. In Alternative A, you don't so much as even mention the fact that we exist and are currently working towards a management position on the river. If this is including public involvement in the study, I would hate to see a study done with no public involvement.

Wallace, I have been very disappointed in the method and manner in which the park service used in doing this study. It has been another example of the federal government coming into a local area and telling the people what is best for them without receiving any local input. The public was told that they would be very involved in this process and yet, you know as well as I do, the public has been absolutely excluded from any of the decision making or input process in the study. Is it any wonder why the American public is so skeptical of our own federal government? All any individual needs is to be exposed to a situation like this and they soon realize that the federal government ask for our opinion and feelings and yet ignore them completely when making decisions. Tactics such as this will never develop trust between the American public and the various branches of our government and their agencies until the people feel that there is some response being made to their desires. The National Park Service has completely overlooked the St. Marys River Management Committee and its efforts and is placing equal footing with the Friends of the St. Marys. You know better than this, and so do any of your personnel who have worked on this, because the amount of work and the magnitude of effort put forward by the St. Marys River Management Committee drastically dwarfs any efforts made on the part of the Friends of the St. Marys. They are simply an offshoot of the various Sierra Club groups and they have made no effort whatsoever to gain information or knowledge about the river. They are merely the support group formed to support your study.

Mr. Wallace Brittain

Page Three

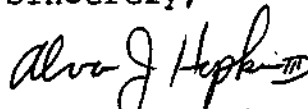
June 17, 1994

In Re: Response to NPS study dated October 1993

To all of us who own property along the St. Marys River and who have done such a fine job of managing the river since civilized persons once entered this area, your study recommendation is an absolute slap in the face. Had we done a poor job and ruined the river then no one would want to take away the management of it. However, since we have done such a fine job, not only do you want to take the management away, but you have targeted the timber industry as one of the primary potential concerns. You and I both know Wallace that due to BMP's, timber management and harvesting is done in a much more environmental and sensitive way now than it was twenty or thirty years ago. If the harvesting methods back then did not harm the river, then there is certainly no reason for anyone to even suggest that the current methods would.

Since persons from your department have already contacted Senator Bob Graham of Florida with regard to his introducing legislation to include the St. Marys River in the Wild & Scenic River program, it is assumed that you have already made your decision and that your draft study is not a draft but in fact your final study despite any comments that you may receive from the public. Based upon your prior actions, it is obvious now that you did not intend to pay any attention to any public comment. The request for comments is just another example of the park service pretending to be interested in the public and involving the public when in fact your decision is already made. If the federal legislation actually does require public involvement during the study process and public input, then the park service has violated the law. After having had this opportunity to observe the park service in action, I am convinced now more than ever that the St. Marys River does not need to be included in the National Wild & Scenic River system. I am therefore requesting that the St. Marys River not be included in the National Wild & Scenic River system. Let me state further that every single person that I have talked to in the last three years about this matter, with the exception of Winifred Stephenson, head of the Sierra Club and Friends of the St. Marys River, are in opposition to the St. Marys River being included in the National Wild & Scenic system.

Sincerely,



Alva J. Hopkins, III

AJH,III:bp

Enclosure

cc: Senator Sam Nunn
Senator Paul Coverdell
Senator Jack Kingston
Mr. Tom Brown, NPS

Harold F. Stokes

ROUTE 1 BOX 666 BRYCEVILLE, FLORIDA 32009

June 21, 1994

Mr. Wallas Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, SW Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Study of St. Marys River
Wild and Scenic Designation

Dear Mr. Brittain:

I am a landowner along the St. Marys River with property located in both, Nassau County, Florida and Charlton County, Georgia, within the area of your recent study.

This study concludes (Quote page 63) - "The River Landowners for the most part, have done an excellent job of preserving the Rivers outstanding scenic, natural, and recreational characteristics."

Silviculture is the primary use of our property in this study area. The majority of our ownership has been in my family since the late 1800's (well over 100 years). I certainly agree with your above referenced conclusion.

Your study also acknowledges that the high quality of the water, and the scenic beauty of the River is due to the fact that silviculture has dominated this area through the years. However, on page 54 your study indicates that silviculture activities have the potential to damage the water quality and scenic beauty of the River.

Since its creation, the area surrounding this River has been dominated by silviculture, with the majority of the landowners being very responsible and capable stewards. It seems very contradictory to me that silviculture can be responsible for the beauty and quality of this River all these years, and then suddenly have the potential to damage the River.

We the landowners fully recognize the importance and beauty of this river, and according to your study, have done an excellent job of preserving it through the years. I feel that we can continue without Federal Designation and U.S. Park Service Management.

I strongly urge that no action be recommended to Congress.

Sincerely,



Harold F. Stokes

VARN TURPENTINE & CATTLE CO.

P. O. BOX 4488
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32201
TELEPHONE 904/356-4881

June 23, 1994

Wallace Brittain
Park Service
Department of the Interior
75 Spring St., SW Suite 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303
Fax 404-730-3233

Dear Mr. Brittain:

We are opposed to the designation of St. Mary's as a Wild and Scenic River.

We have owned land on or near the St. Mary's for 60 years and use it both for timber production and as a weekend family retreat.

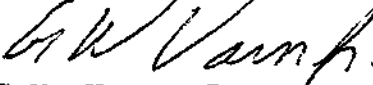
We are intensely interested in the river's protection. However we believe that better protection will occur from the St. Mary's River Management Committee than at the federal level. We have reached this conclusion because of intense local opposition to federal involvement and because of the poor track record of other designations such as the Upper Delaware River which is similar to what you propose for the St. Mary's.

Since your study is now several months old, let me frequent you with the recent work of the committee of which I am a member. Separate subcommittees focusing on water quality, recreation, land use and governmental relations have established missions, goals and time-specific plans. Winefred Stephans of the Friends of the St. Mary's is regularly attending our meetings and offering her views as well as sharing water quality data with the Water Quality Subcommittee. We have dedicated staff support from the St. John's River Water Management District and commitments of assistance from both the Georgia and Florida departments responsible for environmental assistance.

Unfortunately the commitment to local management outlined above was neglected in your study which only deepened distrust of federal involvement.

For all the above reasons we believe that designation of the St. Mary's River as a Wild and Scenic River is inappropriate.

Sincerely,


G.W. Varn, Jr.

CHARLES E. BENNETT
PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT

March 25, 1994



JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32211

PHONE (904) 744-3950

EXTENSION 4274

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief Conservation Assistance Branch
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

Dear Sir:

I reply to your March 17 letter asking for comment on the "St. Marys River Wild and Scenic Draft Study". I am delighted that "outstanding remarkable values" were found qualifying sections of the river for national designation. I hope this can be promptly accomplished.

Although I would have preferred your Alternative B over the other alternatives, because it more surely serves the public in future generations, nevertheless I recognize the strong opposition to that alternative expressed at some of the meetings and I accept the argument that it is better to achieve the achievable than to wind up with nothing but a debate. So I urge going ahead with Alternative D, i.e., Congressional designation of all or part of the eligible portions of the St. Marys, with special legislation establishing a local river management council with specific powers and restrictions on powers to be funded through National Park funding.

If I can assist in any way please let me know. I plan to assist financially when the time comes for that, and if there is anything else I can do at any time please advise me. Perhaps the legislation should provide for receiving financial or land donations from the public as I believe there are those who would be glad to cooperate in this worthy project.

Sincerely *Charles E. Bennett*
Charles E. Bennett

331 Monika Place
St. Augustine, FL 32084
June 10, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys River is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally and internationally recognized part of nature.

If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal and human communities relying on the river. Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. Its degradation would be a tragic loss to this state and to our nation.

Sincerely yours,


Seymour Chalfin

Miriam Hope
3965 Sportsman Cove Road
Lake Park, GA 31636
April 14, 1994

Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring St., S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Brittain:

I have reviewewed the Draft Report (October 1993) Of your study on the St. Mary's River.

I agree fully ~~that~~ that the St. Mary's River should be protected to maintain its scenic and recreational values. Your recommendation of having major portions of the St Marys River designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System strikes me as being the best way to protect the river and provide coordinated management.

As I understand it, a local river management council will be established and will have real power to make decisions about uses of the river. This component of your recommendation seems to me to be essential to the proper functioning of your overall plan.

Thank you for the careful work demonstrated in your Study Report.

Sincerely,

Miriam Hope

June 20, 1994

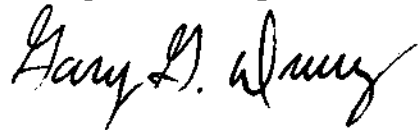
Dear Mr. Cooley,

I would like to say that i am strongly in favor of the St. Mary's River receiving Wild and Scenic Designation. I have written many letters to environmental organizations in Georgia as well as several legislators, the Governor, and the Georgia E.P.D., to hopefully increase awareness of this proposal. I have received acknowledgment from all parties with the exception of Sam Nunn.

I am writing this letter as a private citizen of Georgia.

If possible please keep me informed of progress, meetings, and dates, etc. Let me know if there is anything i can do to help and thank you and the other N.P.S. people involved for all of your hard work.

sincerely, Gary G. Drury

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary G. Drury".

Rt. 9 Box 281
St Simons Island, Ga. 31522
(912) 638-6852

RECEIVED
94 JUN 24 AM 9:14
CUMBERLAND ISLAND NS

503 Elbow Lane
St. Marys, GA 31558
June 23, 1994

Mr. Roland Scaem
Supt., Cumberland Island
National Seashore
P.O. Box 804
St. Marys, GA 31558

Dear Mr. Scaem:

I recently read with interest
the enclosed article from the Florida Times-Union
concerning a proposal to include part of the St.
Marys River in the National Scenic Register.

I am very much in favor of this
inclusion into the national wild and scenic system
and hereby register my support.

Those who are reported to be
in opposition to this proposal are most likely
from the right wing political elements of the local
community (and perhaps elsewhere) and would be
expected to oppose any thing proposed by the
Government that did not directly benefit them.

I wish you and the park service
success in this matter.

Sincerely,
Albert M. M. M., Dr. P.H.

Lorraine Dusenbury
22 Capt. Wylly Road
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

July 8, 1994

National Park Service
Att: Joe Cooley
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The St. Marys River is a beautiful and relatively unspoiled river at this time. Because of rapid development and population growth in the area, it is vitally necessary that it be afforded the protection of designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Knowing that there is substantial local opposition to having total federal control of the river, I recommend having the Local River Management Council alternative.

In the near future, I believe that the local citizens will come to realize and appreciate having the control which accompanies such a designation, and in having a strong voice in the protection of the river. In listening to their statements, it becomes clear that they like the St. Mary's the way it is. It is only when development presents a real threat to the status quo that they will fully understand the value of Scenic River designation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours

Lorraine Dusenbury
Lorraine Dusenbury

J. MICHAEL HARRISON
3007 Pine Needle Road
Suite 207
Augusta, GA 30909
(706) 731-0983

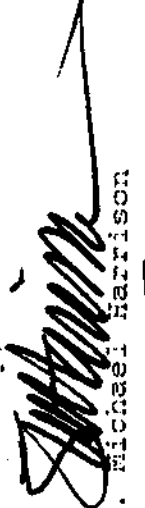
January 20, 1994

Mr. Joe Cooley
NPS: Planning & Federal Programs
75 Spring St. S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

I write to voice my support of the designation of the St. Mary's River as a National Scenic River, as proposed by the National Park Service.

Sincerely,


J. Michael Harrison

RECEIVED
JAN 25 1994
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

6/11/94

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support the preservation of the St. Mary's River as a national treasure as well as a wild and scenic river. Its uniqueness and value to us adults and our children is immeasurable. It is irreplaceable and extremely valuable as an ecosystem area. Please designate it so.

P.S.

I wholeheartedly support the FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S RIVER ORGANIZATION.

Sincerely,

Leonard J. Roman Jr.
(904) 772-9169

7030 Founders Way
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082
June 12, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Mary's River is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature.

If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river. Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely yours,
Jane P. Currie

June 17, 84

Richard Jackson
2982 Highway 17N
Green Cove Spr. FL
32043

Mr Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Fed. Prog. Div.
15 Spring St SW
Atlanta GA 30303

(304) 284-3570

Dear Mr Cooley

As an avid canoeer & potential land/business owner
I write in support of concern for the St Mary's
River group that is advocating "Alternative B".
I do so only because it appears to be a balanced
group including landowners and people that have
concern for recreation & tourism as well as
environmentalists.

I do, however, have reservations about such
involvement of the Nat Park Serv. if there
is any money from the Federal Govt going to
initiate or subsidize any programs that will
not be paid for other than 100% fees to
the beneficiaries/users of the River. The Fed.
system operated on a \$17 million deficit
last year and hopefully the Park Service will
sell off some of this land to recover the debt.
I also hope that eventually the Park Service
will be privatized to ensure good (\$) practice.
Yours in liberty,

Richard Jackson

Janet L. Stanko
3417 Hermitage Rd. E.
Jacksonville, Florida 32277

Mr Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

June 13, 1994

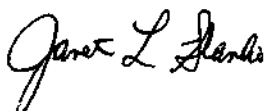
Dear Mr. Cooley:

I am writing to urge you to support the National Park Service proposal to designate 71.8 miles of the St. Mary's River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Parks system.

This area, at present pristine and unspoiled, is rich in historic sites, scenic natural areas and unique aquatic life. This designation is a tremendous opportunity to preserve this unique area for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to my position on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Janet L. Stanko

June 15, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Div.
75 Spring St SW
Atlanta, Ga 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley =

I've canoeed in the St. Marys and have seen ~~the~~ first hand what a wonderful, pristine place it is. We have so few natural treasures left in the United States.

Please designate the St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River so my children and grandchildren will have this wonderful place to visit.

Sincerely

Barbara Taylor
248 Fleming Dr.
Green Cove Springs, Fl
32043

2202 Bishop Estates Rd
Jacksonville, Florida 32257
June 16, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley;

As the National Park Service evaluates the St Marys River for inclusion in its Wild and Scenic Rivers System, I can feel sure the Service can strongly see the designation will enhance the list of all those rivers already included.

The St Marys River as it now exists is an economic gem and our citizenry wishes to maintain this status. The Wild and Scenic River designation is the biggest plus towards this desire.

Please advise me if there are other means to continue this plea for protection of this river and count my support among those requesting this designation.

Sincerely,
Sarah H. Bailey (Mrs. John M.)

STANLEY L. SWART

3315 PICKWICK DRIVE SOUTH
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32257

HOME TELEPHONES: Area Code (904)

Residence	731-3369
Office	731-5608
Children	731-5655

June 10, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
Planning and Federal Programs Division
National Park Service
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

RE: Support for Protection of St. Marys River

I am writing to urge in the strongest terms that the St. Marys River be formally recognized, and protected, under the "wild and scenic" provision of federal law. This unique and largely untouched waterway needs and deserves this status. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Stanley L. Swart

cc: files

June 6, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Cooley,

I live in Northeast Florida and St Marys River and The Okefenokee swamp are a short drive north. I have visited both and appreciate their wonderful peace and beauty. These are unique ecosystems. They are part of our national treasures.

Please designate St Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River.

Thank you,

Virginia R. Smith

553 Davis St.

Neptune Beach FL 32266

June 6, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Programs Division
75 Spring St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

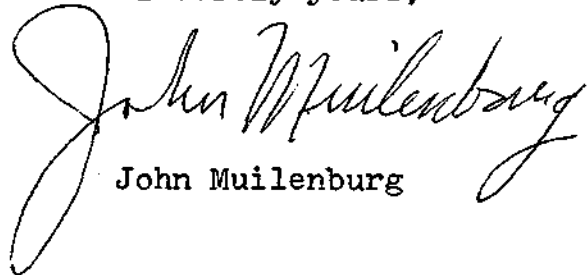
Dear Mr. Cooley,

I wish to add my voice to many others who want to preserve our wild and scenic national resources. The St. Marys River is one such national treasure.

Please do what you can to designate the St. Marys River to be a National Wild and Scenic River.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Muilenburg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Muilenburg

Steve Patrick
10196 Pine Breeze Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257

June 5, 1994

Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

As a resident of northeast Florida I've had many visitors from other parts of the country, eager to see the sights of the Sunshine state. After visits to the a beach or two and the Mouse, I always encourage a visit to the Okefenokee swamp and/or a canoe ride down the St. Marys River.

Almost without fail, both adults and children head for home talking of the reflective waters and its birds and reptiles. Given equal time and access, the natural world can always hold its own against the onslaught of commercialism.

I'm writing you on the eve of the Park Service's decision on the wild and scenic river status for the St. Marys River. Not only is this beautiful area appreciated by those of us lucky enough to visit, but it is irreplaceable habitat for numerous plant, fish, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal species in the area.

Of all the possible actions that would preserve this ecosystem, the Wild and Scenic River designation is the single most important. Please do everything in your power to help this happen.

Sincerely,



Steve Patrick

28 February 1994

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street. Southwest
Atlanta. Georgia 30303

RECEIVED
MAR 7 1994

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE
BRANCH

Dear Mr. Cooley.

Please include the St. Mary's River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. I am an avid sportsman and am deeply concerned over the potential for harm to the enviroment due to overdevelopment.

I am in full accord with the position set forth by Friends of the St. Marys River. which asks for local representation in a management program with the National Park Service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Richardson
10316 NW 25th St.
Gainesville. Fl 32606

2/21/94

Lynn R. Gastmeyer
401 NW 6th Street, #134
Gainesville, Florida 32601
(904) 395-5696

RECEIVED
MAR 7 1994

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE
BRANCH

Mr. Joe Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 331-5838

Re: St. Mary's River

Dear Mr. Cooley:

I am writing this letter in an effort to provide support for the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation for the St. Mary's River. It would be beneficial to the landowners, visitors, and to the ecology, if the National Park Service would govern the river in cooperation with the local management committee.

I have been a Florida resident for 33 years and have seen the pristine beauty of many rivers vanish due to poor management. The opportunity to "save a river" instead of "reclaim a river" is an act that needs to be given full attention.

Thank you for your consideration in this very consequential matter.

Respectfully,


Lynn R. Gastmeyer

9439 San Jose Blvd, #188
Jacksonville, FL 32257
4 May 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning + Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

I enthusiastically support
the idea of the St. Marys River corridor
worthy of "Wild and Scenic" status. All its
71 miles plus whatever more it may need.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scott

May 14, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley,

Since moving to Florida in 1950 I have seen many valuable natural resources and places of beauty reduced and replaced or changed in essential ways by commercial ventures so that all but human inhabitants seem to have disappeared from them.

It is of great concern to me that we do not take more measures to protect such places and the life forms they support so that they may continue into the future.

The St. Marys River is a critical component in a large ecosystem; and those who are capable of seeing our role as interdependent members of a community of life, must work for its preservation. With the help of the National Park Service, I am hopeful this can be achieved. Please move forward with the designation of the St. Marys as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely,


Patricia E. Jeremiah

1465 S. Shore Drive
Orange Park, FL 32073
May 12, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

This letter is written to tell you that I support the proposal to designate the St. Marys river as "Wild and Scenic".

There are so few rivers in southeastern United States that have been protected in any way. Surely a few should be. There are several that could be considered, but certainly the St. Marys is an ideal candidate. It seems like such a natural extension of the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge.

I am sure you will receive some opposition from local landowners who will object to the "Feds" coming in and telling them what they cannot do with "their" river, but I am one of those who believe that the fate of a natural scenic asset such as a river should not depend entirely on the whims of those who happen to own the land through which it flows. It should belong to everybody.

Sincerely,

Albert N. Brauer

Albert N. Brauer

STAFFORD CAMPBELL
3861 WAYLAND STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32211

23 April, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch
Planning Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River Draft Study

Dear Mr. Brittain,

In response to your request of 17 March, 1994 for comment on the Draft Report on the St. Marys River Wild & Scenic River Study, dated October, 1993, I offer the following:

The report is quite comprehensive and understandable, and I would support the conclusion in Alternative 4 to allow local management by a local river management council as long as there is a clear requirement for the timely establishment of a comprehensive management plan by such council, under guidelines and funding provided by the National Park Service.

I was disappointed to see that the source streams that act to create the St. Marys River, the Middle Prong and, especially, the North Prong, were omitted from the Wild & Scenic categorization. I think this is a serious oversight, since both these streams are indeed wild and scenic and contribute to the quality of the water in the lower areas you propose to designate.

I have canoed both Prongs in medium to high water, and while there are deadfalls and dragovers in a few places, both are interesting recreational bodies, very scenic, with few exceptions, and contain a variety of wildlife. From the point of view of the recreational canoeist, the run from GA94 downstream to the FL2 bridge east of St. George is the best the river has to offer. Were the North Prong to be snagged, it would be possible to run much of the year. I would hope protection could be included for at least the North Prong, otherwise I agree with the proposal.

Yours truly,

Stafford Campbell

April 9, 1994

Mr. Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conser. Assist. Br.
Nat. Park Ser. SE
75 Spring St. SW Room 1020
Atlanta, GA 30303

NOBLE ENGE JR.
3348 STATE ROAD 13
SWITZERLAND, FL 32259

Dear Mr. Brittain:

Thanks for the copy of the Oct. 1993
Draft report on the St. Marys River.

Overall, I think it is a very good report.
The only thing that I had my doubts
about was the fact that the upper
reach of the St. Marys from Road 2
down was not determined to be eligible.
I think it is just as unique as the next
downstream reach. Both reaches have
areas where the current bounces
around off the enlarged bases and
root masses of the Ogeechee Turkey
trees. My canoe club generally
favors the upper reaches of the St.
Marys, from Road 2^(GA 94) down to the
Stokelyville Bridge, and sometimes
down as far as Traders Hill.

Following are some trivial comments
and possible corrections to the report:

(2)

Area Map. US 301 is labeled twice, but one label has the "one" missing. The map-and-other- implies that the Suwannee Canal drains to the St. Marys. The canal definitely drains to the Suwannee River and I believe little or no water from the canal crosses Trail Ridge to the St. Marys. You could verify this by calling the Okefenokee Nat. Wildlife Refuge.

Page 7 I don't really consider the lower St. Marys hazardous for canoes, but I agree that the tide and wind could be significant and unpredictable factors. I only made one trip from Road 2 all the way to Fernandina Beach. It was a great trip. You could mention the mean tide range in the report. It is 6 feet at Fernandina Beach, which is just about the greatest tide range in Florida, caused partly by the shape and orientation of the Atlantic Coast.

(3)

page 19 I assume that the point values listed in Table 1 and also in Table 1 of Appendix C are negative values. That might be a clarification for readers. Also - one of the disqualifiers must be "Power plant"

page 32 Line 5 - river's ?

page 41 2nd par. FL 121/GA 23 bridge at RM 109.8 does not agree with Table 5 listing at RM 104.5

At RM 96 I think the common spelling is Stokesville, but I'm not sure.

At RM 83.5, it should be GA 94, or FL 2 and not US 94.

FLA DEP I guess that the FL DEP was formed while the report was in preparation. But DNR and DER are mentioned in several places, if you think they should be changed:

page 52 Table 6

page 54

Page 55 Table 7 & footnote 9.

Page 56 Table 8

(4)

Tables A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4

Footnote: a Listed species See Table A-1

Source: Lynch + Baker, 1988

It is not clear to a casual reader what this means. Does Table A-1 refer to Lynch + Baker? Also, there is no footnote for Table A-4 (at least not the same footnote)

I appreciate the report and the chance to comment.

I do support some kind of designation and protection for the St. Marys River.

Best Regards,

Noble Engle

Noble Engle

904-287-2820

NOBLE ENGE JR.
3348 STATE ROAD 13
SWITZERLAND, FL 32259

June 13, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning + Federal Programs Division
75 Spring Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley,

I am writing to you to urge you
to designate the St. Mary's River
a National Wild and Scenic River.
This River is a vital and irreplaceable
part of the Okefenokee Swamp
ecosystem. It should be preserved
as a natural area and should
be protected permanently from
any commercial usage -

Thank you for your
support in saving this
very important and valuable
natural area -

Sincerely,
Susan P. Davis

LONDON
WESTMINSTER ASSEY



Dear Mr. Cooley,

It had been a few years since I last visited Okefenokee Swamp and Park. My husband, a friend and I went to visit it again last week and marveled at its beauty and the quiet serenity that surrounds it. Now I read that it is in jeopardy. Please designate St. Mary's River a National Wild and Scenic and preserve the natural beauty that has been there for years so that many people can enjoy it for years to come. Thank You,

Denise Harlan
8513 Old Kings Rd. S.
Jacksonville
Florida 32217

PHOTO: JOE CORNISH
© WPL 1984
W 108

Printed in England

Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning and Federal
Programs Division
75 Spring St. S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia

30303

A forest elephant, smaller in size than its savanna cousins, frolics after a mud bath. Despite the ban on ivory trade elephants continue to be threatened by poaching and increasing habitat destruction. The Wildlife Conservation Society is working to protect this magnificent creature in many projects throughout Africa. Photo: J.M. Fay

Dear Mr. Cooley,

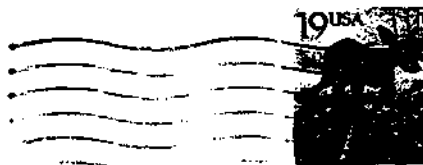
I AM ASKING YOU TO
PLACE the ST. MARY'S
River in FLORIDA ON
the "Wild and Scenic"
STATES.

Thank You,
Kip Giff



Jos. Keiper Groff
2523 Grasshopper Lane
Orange Park, FL 32073
904-264-2486

Conservation
countries around



Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal
Programs Division
75 Spring St SW
Atlanta Ga 30303

Recycled and made from recycled paper.

02PT1

The North Shore Animal League
saves abandoned dogs and cats,
and finds them new homes.

POST C

5/7/94

And so is the St. Mary's River
Please award the St. Mary's
River (between FL + GA, etc)
"Wild and Scenic" Status to
protect this beautiful area.
Thank you, Thom CP



TO:

MR. JOSEPH COOLEY, NAT'L

PARK SERVICE PLANNING + FEED
PROGRAM DIVISION
75 SPRING ST., SW

ATLANTA, GA

THOMAS C PRINCE
1934 MENLO AVE
JACKSONVILLE FL 32218-5222

NO-0076

NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE, PORT WASHINGTON, NY

GCPC-19

PERSONAL PRODUCTIONS ART BY MARY BADENHOFF

30303

I urge the Wild and
Scenic Status of over 71 miles
of St. Mary's River.
4/30/94
[Signature]

82

May 2, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cosley,
National Park Service,
Planning & Federal Program Revision,
75 Spring Street, S.W.,
Atlanta, GA 30303.

Dear Mr. Cosley:

We, Senior Citizens,
who have lived in Florida since
1955, believe that the St. Marys
River belongs in the "Wild and
Scenic River" status.

Please help the St.
Marys River join this group
of National Treasures. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harry and Catherine Gibbs
2216 Spring Park Road, #20,
Jacksonville, Fl. 32201

May 10

Dear Mr. Coker,

I am urging you to designate the St. Mary's River a National Wild and Scenic River. This river is part of a valuable ecosystem (the greater Okefenokee), and home to many plants and creatures. It is also a gorgeous river for us to treasure in its unspoiled state.

Please help.

Paige Slade

PAIGE HALSEY SLADE
14329 CORAL REEF DR S
JACKSONVILLE FL 32224

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Andrea & Brian Powell
1932 Mary St.
Atlantic Beach, Fl.
52233

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. We very much want our national government, as represented by our National Park Service, to foster and cooperate with the states of Florida and Georgia, the counties of Nassau, Baker, Camden, Charlton, affected agencies, and interested commercial and civic organizations to achieve and maintain this designation. By so doing I hope we can assure the quality of our St. Marys so it can be a wild and scenic river for our children and all future generations.

Sincerely,

R. Brian Powell
& Andrea Griffin Powell

Personal Script:

I personally enjoy all the National Parks that I have been to in this Great Nation, from the Great Smokies to the Castillo de San Marcos. Please keep up the good work.

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Mrs. Deborah Harmon
2815 Sylvan Ln. North
Jax, Fl. 32257

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. We very much want our national government, as represented by our National Park Service, to foster and cooperate with the states of Florida and Georgia, the counties of Nassau, Baker, Camden, Charlton, affected agencies, and interested commercial and civic organizations to achieve and maintain this designation. By so doing I hope we can assure the quality of our St. Marys so it can be a wild and scenic river for our children and all future generations.

Sincerely,

Deborah Harmon

Personal Script:

Please help save this beautiful river.
If ~~we~~ we do not protect it now,
I am afraid it will be lost forever to
development. Thank you for your time.

MAY 10, 1994

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: ROBERT J. FITZPATRICK
11554 BASKERVILLE ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, FLA 32223

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. We very much want our national government, as represented by our National Park Service, to foster and cooperate with the states of Florida and Georgia, the counties of Nassau, Baker, Camden, Charlton, affected agencies, and interested commercial and civic organizations to achieve and maintain this designation. By so doing I hope we can assure the quality of our St. Marys so it can be a wild and scenic river for our children and all future generations.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fitzpatrick

Personal Script:

THIS THING HAS BEEN DRAGGING ALONG FOR THE PAST 6
YEARS, I THINK AT LEAST THAT LONG. IT IS TIME FOR
A DECISION TO BE MADE.

R. J. F.

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: ^{own} SELDEN K.S. FERLINSCHETT
2514 ALCONQUIN AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FLA 32210

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Personal Script: *Mr. Cooley*

*It is vitally important to protect this
unique area around the St Mary's river ^{# NATIONAL} TREASURE
from development - so many rare species of
plants & animals inhabit this ecosystem -
Please vote to ^{GIVE} make this area
a WILD & SCENIC STATUS. Thank you.
Mrs. Selden K.S. Ferlinschett*

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Mr. David Crouch

12814 Mandarin Rd.

Jax. Fl. 32223

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Mr. David Crouch

Personal Script:

I recently studied the information about designating the St. Marys River Wild & Scenic. I thoroughly believe the portion that was determined to be worthy of wild & Scenic status has to be designated in order to protect it forever. I canoed this area recently, and I was quite impressed with how pristine this area is. If it is not protected now, I feel like development

-over-

will eventually begin to destroy the ecology of this area. I do not know of a single person who is not in favor of designating this river Wild & Scenic. I urge you to take the appropriate action and forever protect this beautiful river. I want to be able to canoe this area in 50 years and experience the same incredible beauty that can be found today.

Thankyou for your time and for sending me a copy of the report pertaining to this river.

Sincerely, Mr. David Crouch

(5-10-94)

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: John Hawley
P.O. Box 551241
JAX, FL 32255-1241

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

John Hawley

Personal Script:

While growing up I fished extensively in the "Bells River" section of this overall system and was flabbergasted by what I saw. On more than one excursion our small wooden boat was surrounded by schools of tarpon and other gamefish. That was in the early 1970's and much has changed since then. With Wild & Scenic River status a significant portion of that ecosystem will hopefully be degraded less rapidly.

Thank you

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: ESTHER ZUCKER
3467 CATA MARAN WAY
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32223

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Esther Zucker

Personal Script:

*Just came back from paddling on the
Okefenokee Swamp area. To let this prime
pristine area slip thru to developments would
be a crime. There are few places like this left in
our area. Is it fair to the unborn generations
to have such a sight pass out of being.*

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: K.R. Ludgins
P.O. Box 124693
Jacksonville, Fl 32241

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,




Personal Script:

The fact that the text above was prepared is totally irrelevant, it express not only my sentiments as a senior citizen who for well over fifty years seen our natural wonders destroyed for the sake of a selfish few whose only interest in such resources are what they alone can gain from it. And while I

do not in any manner deny the value
of our democratic capitalism, unless
in the exercise of it, the people of this
great nation are denied the opportunity
and right to enjoy the unique natural
resources such as we now have along the
St Marys. I then draw the line.

Those who would deny the right of
future generations the right to enjoy
this unique natural setting then
forfeit their right to unfettered
use of the land.



TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

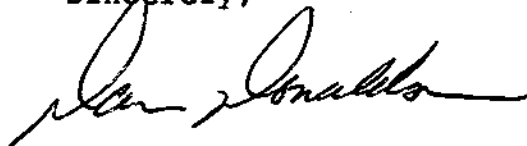
FROM: DAN DONALDSON
1648 Seminole Rd.
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32205

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,



Personal Script:

I personally have traveled from Mobile to various endings over the past 25 years. The rapid growth and development near or surrounding this river will surely degrade it shortly. The water quality and wildlife features offered by the St. Mary's makes it one of the most unique river systems in the South. Please do not compromise the opportunity to preserve this river's uniqueness. Thanks.

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

May 10

FROM:

Paige Slade
14329 Coral Reef Dr. S.
Jacksonville Fl. 32224

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Paige Slade

Personal Script:

This beautiful river, with its ~~its~~ unique plants an animals, and its important connection to the Okefenokee, needs our protection now!

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Ross Phillips
4245 St. Francis Ct.
Jacksonville FL 32210

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Ross Phillips

Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Cynthia M. Bell
3530 Victoria Pk. Rd. #12
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Bell

Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Elizabeth Darenberg
4610 Sussex Ave
Jax FL 32210

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Darenberg
Math teacher
Stilwell Middle School

Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Joanne Philpot
4630 Ortega Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Joanne Philpot

Personal Script:

*Please save this unique and beautiful
natural resource.*

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: PAMELA S. OTTESEN
2272 BRENTFIELD RD. W.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Pamela S. Ottesen

Personal Script:

*Thank you in advance for helping to
preserve for future generations the natural
beauty of our St. Marys.*

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Matthew T. Magish
6776 Townsend #196
JAD., FL 32244

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Matt Magish

Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Suzanne J. Magish
6776 Townsend Rd #196
JAX FL 32244

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

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Sincerely,



Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Janette Martin
1066 Sorrento Rd. #2
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Janette Martin

Personal Script:

Mr. Cooley,
I teach literature classes to undergraduates at University of North Florida. For the past 6 months I've been including a section on Nature writing where students read a number of essays by professional writers, some of whom are naturalists. It has been amazing to me how many of my students have had little to no direct experience with "nature" via a park, a canoe trip, a hike, etc. This indicates to me that nature is less available to the new generation mostly due to the loss of natural areas to development. Once students read some literature on nature, they are often inspired to experience
(over)

a connection with it. They often want to seek at
an experience of + in nature. I only hope that we
can preserve valuable areas like the St. Marys
for these young people. I urge you to do all
you can towards this end.

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: William F. Moritz
9785 Hogan Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-6414

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

William F. Moritz

Personal Script:

*With so much history, and beauty, and the
pristine environmental condition the
St Marys River must be made a part of
The National Wild Scenic Rivers System to
pass this natural treasure to our child-
ren.*

WFM

May 30, 1994

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Sandra Rodgers
968 Memorial Park Circle
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Sandra L Rodgers

Personal Script: I've enclosed a fact sheet which I am sure you already are fully aware of. Okefenokee is one of my favorite places to just be.

The atmosphere is filled with negative + positive ions. Negative ions are very good for us. They are not effective near concrete and metal - only in natural settings are they able to "reenergize" us.

Please feel free to use the other facts as well in your effort to designate our St. Marys River a National Wild + Scenic River. Thank you for your time + consideration

With Respect,
again

Sandra L Rodgers

enclosure: 1)

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Cynthia M. Fraser
1946 Lenox Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Fraser

Personal Script:

Mr. Cooley,

Please, please place our St. Mary's River on the list as a Scenic River. I'm sure you know the facts about the river, etc. The reason I'm asking you this is because I'm a sixth grade teacher. When the river was discussed in class many of my students said they thought the river a valuable because not only people benefit from the river, but the river was most valuable for the sake of the endangered species that live there. Many of these animals were studied in Science class. My young

Students are already aware of the great importance of the ecological link this river provides not only for man, but animals. This demonstrates to me that teenagers, students, and children do value life as a whole.

As adults, I feel it is our responsibility to set more examples of the importance of life and of having a safe place to live. Please take into consideration our pleas and place the St. Mary's River as part of the Scenic River System.

Sincerely,

C. M. Fraser

P.S. I will be forwarding the student letters to you.

June 9, 1994

Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Programs Div.
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys River is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature.

If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal and human communities now relying on the river. **Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River.**

We enjoy this river and do not want to see it commercialized or harmed in any way. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle O'Rourke

Patrick, Michelle, Shealen & Colleen O'Rourke

Colleen O'Rourke

COLLEEN

5/11/94

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Irene Shules
12144 Dividing Oaks TR. W
JAX, FL. 32223

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Irene Shules

Personal Script:

I have lived in N.E. Florida for over 30 years and have watched so many natural environments fall to development & population expansion.

Please do what you can to protect the St Marys River and the Swamp ecosystem.

Irene Shules

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Chaire C. Nielsen
4624 Waverly Lane
Jax - Fl. 32210

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

Please designate our St. Marys River a National Wild and Scenic River. We very much want our national government, as represented by our National Park Service, to foster and cooperate with the states of Florida and Georgia, the counties of Nassau, Baker, Camden, Charlton, affected agencies, and interested commercial and civic organizations to achieve and maintain this designation. By so doing I hope we can assure the quality of our St. Marys so it can be a wild and scenic river for our children and all future generations.

Sincerely,

Chaire Nielsen

Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

Holly Starkland
7740 Southside Blvd #1405
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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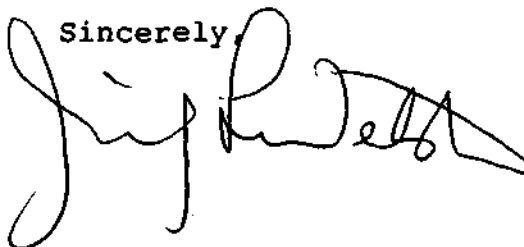
FROM: JENNIFER WEBSTER
1648 SEMINOLE ROAD
JACKSONVILLE FL 32205

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

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Sincerely,



Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM:

DAN GERDES
127 13TH AVE S. (DOWNSTAIRS)
JAX BEACH, FL 32250

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,



Personal Script:

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

FROM: Ms. V. Burke
7905 Renoir Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

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Sincerely,

Virginia Burke

Personal Script:

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National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

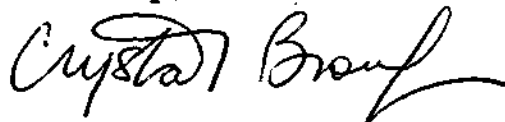
FROM: Ms. Crystal T. Broughan
9480 Princeton Square Blvd., #607
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

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Sincerely,



Personal Script:

Excessive development and industry has ruined most of the freshwater rivers in Florida. Please help keep the St. Mary's River as clean as humanly possible.

TO: Mr. Joseph Cooley
National Park Service
Planning & Federal Program Division
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: 404-331-5838

JUNE 14 1994

FROM:

Lynn Dwyer

2831 Wood Valley Ct

Xenia, OH 43217

Dear Mr. Joseph Cooley,

The more I live in Northeast Florida, the more I learn about and experience the uniqueness and importance of our greater Okefenokee swamp ecosystem. The St. Marys river is a vital and irreplaceable part of this nationally, and even internationally, recognized part of nature. If we do nothing, this natural treasure will soon be developed beyond the carrying capacity capable of sustaining all the plant, animal, and human communities now relying on the river.

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Sincerely,

Lynn Dwyer

Personal Script:

Dear Mr. Cooley

I am familiar with the St Mary's River. It is a very lovely and wild river and is very deserving of a National Wild and Scenic Designation.

I agree with the findings of the National Park Service study, completed in October 1993, which found that 101 miles of the river were worthy of wild and scenic designation. Regards
Lynn Dwyer 6/14/94



CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH
PLANNING DIVISION
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W., Room 1020
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



Phone: (404) 331-5838

FAX: (404) 730-3233

1-800-524-6878

March 17, 1994

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the "St. Marys River Wild and Scenic River Draft Study". We would very much like to hear any comments you may have regarding the study and the preferred alternative. Comments will be accepted for 90 days and must be returned to this office no later than June 23, 1994. They will then be reviewed and incorporated into the final document.

Thank you for your cooperation. Your opinion is important to us.

Sincerely,

Wallace C. Brittain

Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch

April 26, '94

Dear Mr. Brittain:

I took awhile for the St. Marys River Study to get forwarded to me. I found it to be very informative. I agree that Alternative IV is the ideal. Good luck and thank you for all the work you do.

Samuel L. Rud

John M. Rud, M.D.
13737 - 47th Ave. W.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702
605-399-1878



CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH
PLANNING DIVISION
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
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Thank you for your cooperation. Your opinion is important to us.

Sincerely,

Wallace C. Brittain

Wallace C. Brittain
Chief, Conservation Assistance Branch

Dear Park Service:

I fully endorse any & all efforts
to make the St. Marys a Wild & Scenic
River. I am a kayaker, rafting, canoe
& general lover of rivers. These locals
have never been out of Nassau or Chattahoochee
countries & don't know the great work you have
done on the Chattooga & the many western
rivers. They prefer to run their sewage lines
into the river. They are funded & a front for
Gilman Paper. Please do the alternative
with the largest designation -
Thank You
Bud Blum