

A scenic view of a river with a red canoe on the shore and trees with autumn foliage reflected in the water. The canoe is red with "Old Town" written on the side. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. The trees have yellow and green leaves, indicating autumn. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

National Blueways System

June 13, 2013

“America’s Great Outdoors Initiative”

Established April 2010

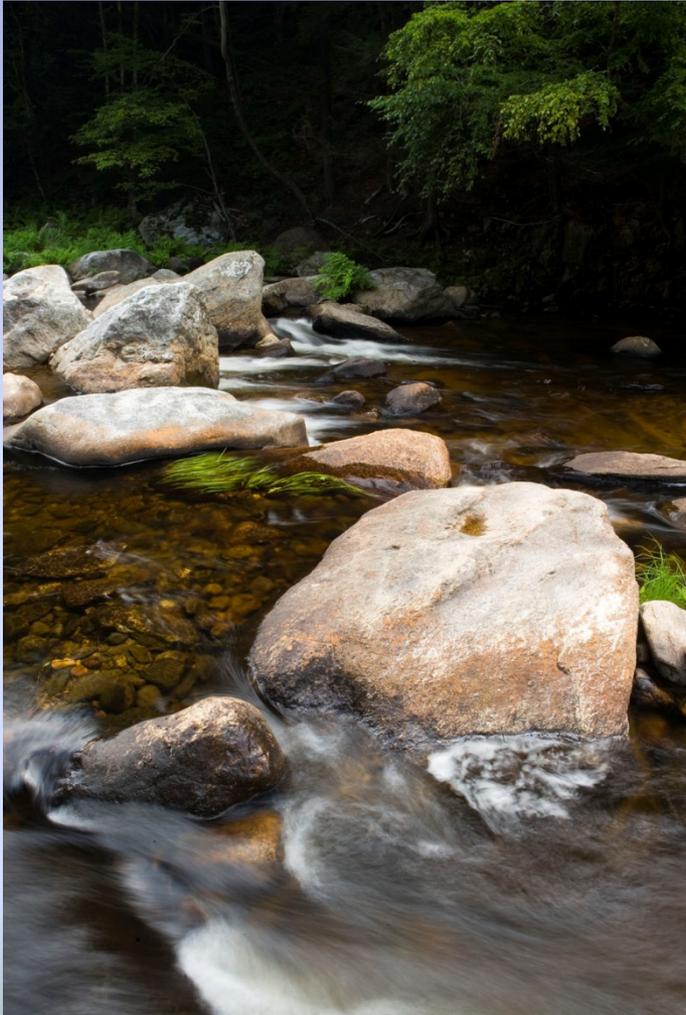
Administration action plan for **conservation and outdoor recreation** in the 21st century.

Three Main Goals:

- Reconnect Americans to the outdoors*
- Conserve and restore lands and waters*
- Utilize Federal, State, Local Gov’t, private partnerships to accomplish priorities*

What is the National Blueways System ?

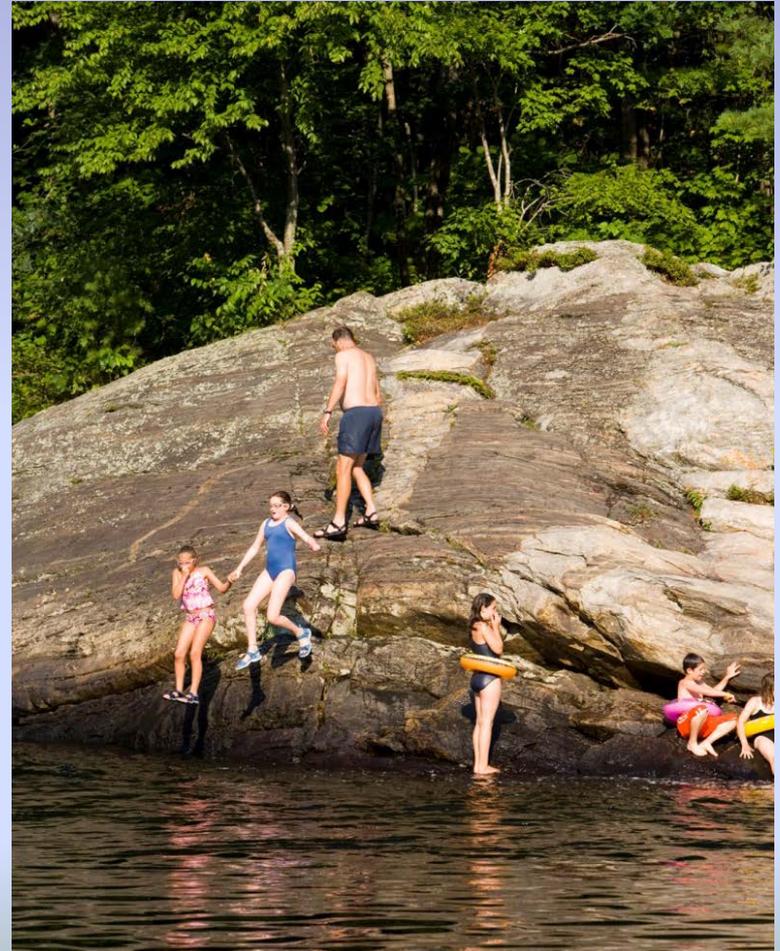
(Established by Sec. of Interior in May 2012)



A locally-led, federally supported program to recognize river systems conserved through diverse stakeholder partnerships that use a comprehensive, watershed approach to resource stewardship.

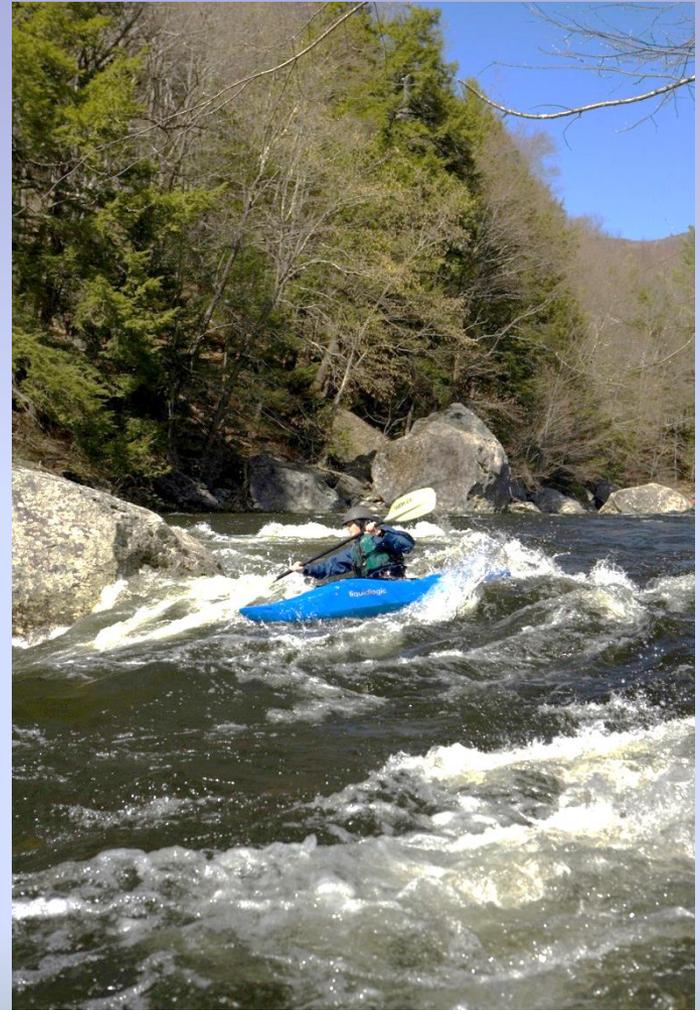
National Blueways System Objectives

- Promote healthy rivers and watersheds
- Foster strong partnerships
- Connect people with the outdoors
- Promote sustainable economic activities
- Learn and share knowledge
- Focus on the future



What is a National Blueway?

National Blueways are nationally and regionally significant rivers and their watersheds that are highly valued economic, recreational, and ecological assets for the communities that depend on them.



How are Blueways Selected?

- National Blueways are selected through a two-step, competitive nominating process.
- Applications accepted from any stakeholder partnership that obtains sponsorship from a state and a federal agency.
- Selected eligible applications will be invited to submit a nomination
- DOI Secretary makes final decision

Review Process

Nomination packages will be reviewed by the **National Blueways Committee** comprised of senior leaders of:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Geological Survey
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Forest Service
- U.S. Army (Civil Works)

Benefits

- Permanent designation
- Cabinet-level recognition through MOU
- Increased public awareness, partner involvement, and media attention
- Federal cooperation
- Increased technical assistance
- Increased competitiveness for grants and federal funding

Federal MOU

- A Cabinet-level MOU
- Signed by USDA, DOI and Army
- Establishes framework for collaborative efforts to identify and create opportunities to work together to accomplish shared objectives
- Period of 5 years



National Blueway MOUs will include:

- Watershed-specific objectives
- Implementation strategies
- Projects and initiatives
- Short- and long-term desired outcomes for the watershed as an integrated land and water management system

Designated and Potential Blueways

Designated

- Connecticut - CT, MA, NH, VT
- White - AR, MO

Applications Received

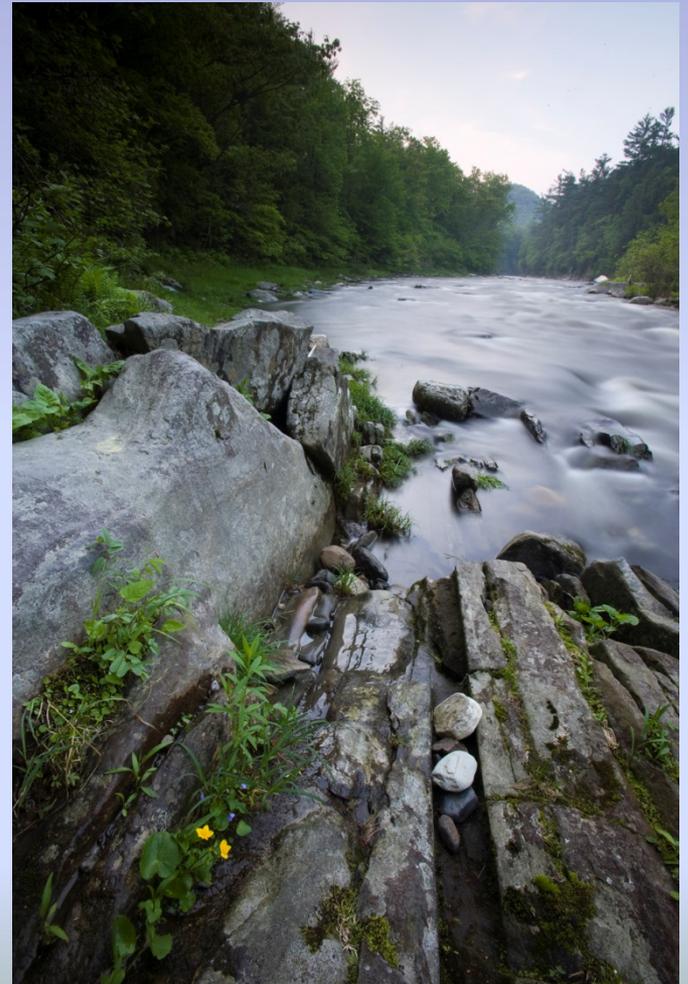
- San Joaquin - CA
- Minnesota - MN, SD, IA
- Waccamaw - NC, SC



Connecticut River National Blueway Designation

May 24, 2012

- 30+ press mentions
- MOU with DOI, USACE, USDA
- Increased grant funding to partners
- Prototype River Atlas
- NPS staffing for paddlers trail
- USFWS \$250,000 in lumber for trails

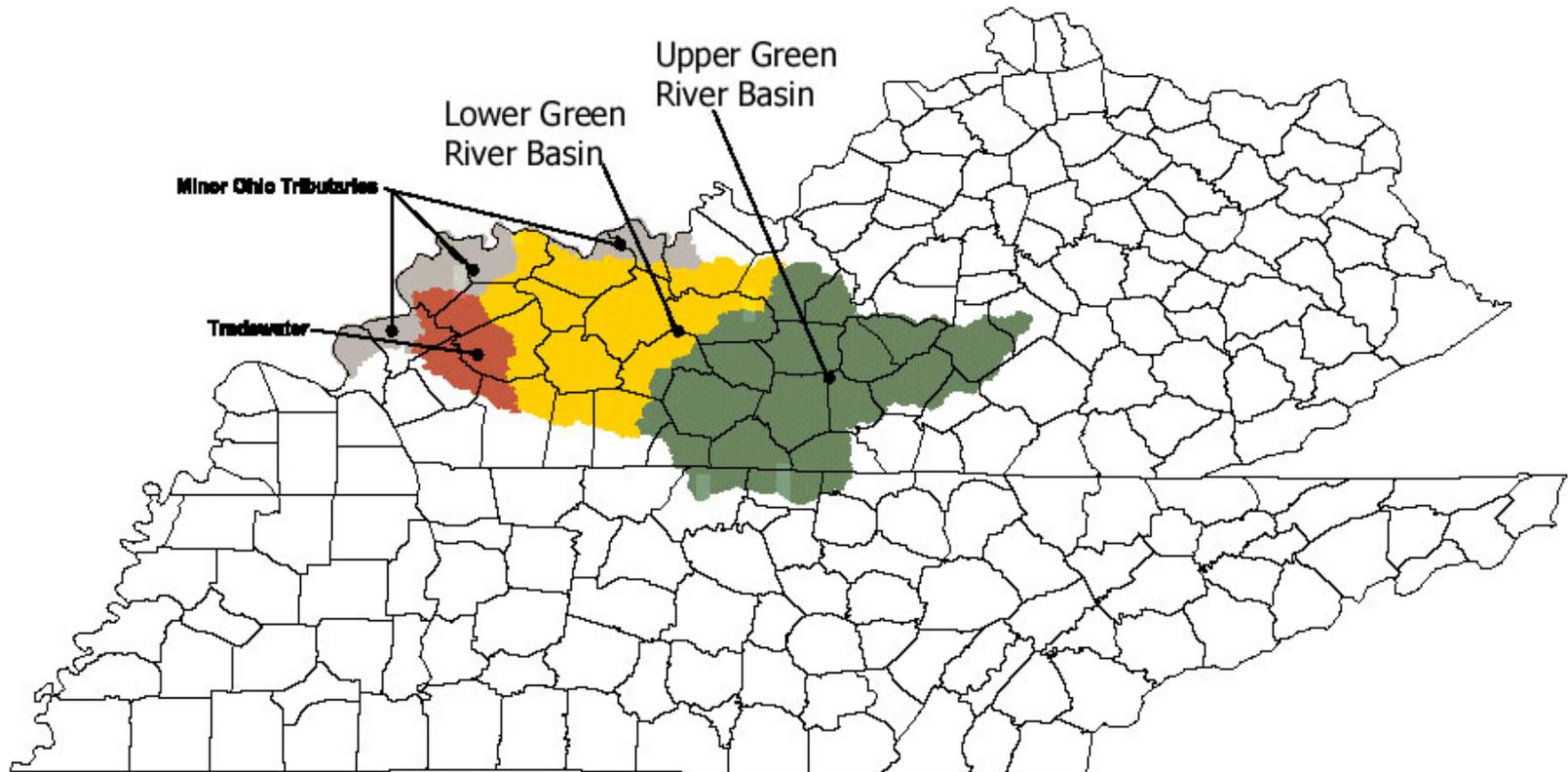


White River Designation

January 8, 2013

- USDA/NRCS: \$22 mil for soil & water conservation
- USACE: Lower Cache River restoration
- USFWS: Refuge acquisition boundary expansion
- Stakeholder Partnership: continued growth

Green River-An Ideal Candidate



Green River Overview

- One of the most significant freshwater eco-systems in the US
- Designated as an Outstanding Resource Water and Kentucky Wild River
- Supports 71 species of mussels and over 150 fish species, many of which are endangered
- According to 2011 USACOE watershed study, issues of concern include streambank erosion, inadequate land use planning, sedimentation, riparian buffer alteration, agricultural inputs, development, recreational pressure and altered stream flows

Green River National Blueways Application?

- Gauging interest of federal, state, local governments, businesses and citizens in applying for the designation.
- Please complete sign-up sheet if you are interested in attending preliminary meeting