

## **Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation for the Wood and Pawcatuck Watershed**

*Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Designation Committee*

Committee members: *Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Save The Bay (STB), and RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)*

There are three major steps to this process:

1. Have congressional delegates introduce a bill in the Congress and Senate which authorizes the National Parks Service (NPS) to conduct a study to determine if the rivers meet the criteria to be designated as Wild and Scenic (this is the committee's main purpose).
2. Conduct the study
  - a. When the bill is passed, Congress will be authorized funds to conduct the study.
  - b. NPS usually develops and MOU with a local organization to conduct the study for them, in this cause most likely it will be WPWA.
  - c. WPWA would convene a steering committee to direct the study. This committee would include:
    - i. State agencies
    - ii. Town representatives
    - iii. Non-profit organizations
    - iv. Tribal representation
    - v. Other interested groups such as recreational users and agriculture
  - d. The study will take 3 years.
  - e. A study report will describe the ways the rivers meet the criteria for designation. It will also include a recommended management plan for the rivers, developed by the study committee.
  - f. NPS will write a report using the study document and giving their recommendations concerning designation and management plan.
3. Have congressional delegates introduce another bill which designates the rivers as Wild and Scenic.
  - a. This bill will authorize funding through NPS to carry out the management plan.
  - b. Community will have to request appropriations.