

**RESOLUTION URGING APPROVAL PROCESS
REQUIRED BEFORE FEDERAL WILD AND
SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION**

2003 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Bradley T. Johnson

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the federal government to receive approval of both the Legislature and the Governor prior to designating a wild and scenic river under the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress in 1968;

WHEREAS, the act stated that: "certain selected rivers of the Nation, which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in the free flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations";

WHEREAS, the act further stated that the protection would depend on the "type and degree of human development associated with the river and adjacent lands";

WHEREAS, rivers designated for protection and preservation, or under study for designation, are withdrawn from consideration for water or power projects;

WHEREAS, Congress must approve any rivers recommended by federal agencies for designation in the Wild and Scenic River System;

WHEREAS, the role of states in the designation of a wild and scenic river should include a requirement that the federal government receive the approval of the state legislative body and the Governor prior to any designation; and

WHEREAS, state approval prior to designation is a vital step in ensuring that the concerns of citizens and governmental entities most directly affected by the designation have been heard and carefully considered:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

Governor concurring therein, strongly urge the federal government to receive the approval of the Legislature and the Governor of a state prior to designating a river within the state as a wild and scenic river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic River Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the director of the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.