

## **Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Acts**

*In: The Fully Managed, Multiple-Use Forest Era, 1960-1970*

After years of struggle, the Wilderness Act of 1964 was signed into law. This unique law established a National Wilderness Preservation System of more than 9 million acres—incorporating the existing Forest Service wilderness areas and creating several new ones. One provision in the Wilderness Act called for evaluation of any national forest areas that were without roads (hence the name “roadless areas”) that might be considered for future wilderness status. In 1967, the Forest Service undertook a Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) to identify and study these “*de facto* wildernesses.”

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 authorized a number of important, distinctive rivers to be classified as wild, scenic, and recreational. Today, the Forest Service manages more than 4,000 miles of such rivers on nearly 100 rivers or river segments.

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