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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

In my Environmental Message of August 2, 1979, I recognized the important natural, historic, and recreational values of our Nation's river corridors. Unfortunately, development along the banks of our rivers continues to outpace our ability to identify and study those rivers which might qualify for protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This problem is particularly acute near urban areas, where there are greater demands for recreational opportunities. Thus, we need to improve our techniques for identifying, and designating wild and scenic rivers.

In addition, I recognized in my Environmental Message that the 1968 National Trails System Act is designed to promote the development of recreational, scenic, and historic trails for persons of diverse interests and abilities -- including the young, the handicapped and the aged -- and that the National Trails System is in its fledgling stage. I stressed the importance of expanding the National Trails System to provide increased recreation opportunities for the millions of Americans who enjoy hiking, backpacking, and similar activities.

Therefore, I am directing you to take the following actions:

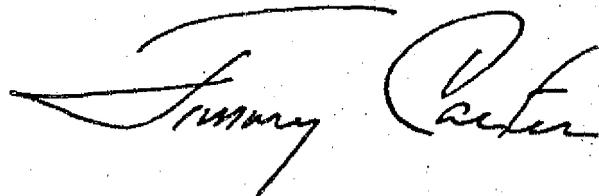
- ° Within 120 days, together with the Secretary of Agriculture, revise the Guidelines for studying Wild and Scenic Rivers. The revised Guidelines shall establish procedures to ensure consideration of river ecosystems and to shorten the length of time currently used to study rivers for designation.

Posted: 8/2/79 * Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
 1 cc VP
 2 ccs Jack Watson * Interagency Trails Council
 3 ccs Peg O'Neill
 Original via "run-stop" mail. 8/2/79

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- ° Furnish federal agencies, through the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, with the names of the rivers in its Nationwide Inventory -- which is a list of rivers having the potential to be designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act -- and with any background analysis conducted by the Service.
- ° Assist other federal agencies, through the Inter-agency Trails Council, in surveying existing trails on federal lands to determine which of those can be made part of our National Trails System.
- ° Initiate a grassroots effort in every region of the country to assess our nationwide trail needs. This nationwide assessment shall examine the types of trails now in use and their proximity to trail users; estimate current and anticipated trail needs; and recommend cost-effective programs and energy-conserving actions which could produce the types and number of trails that are needed.

Please give these assignments your immediate attention.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.