# WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED WILD & SCENIC RIVERS STUDY A Partnership Effort on Behalf of the Wood - Pawcatuck Watershed









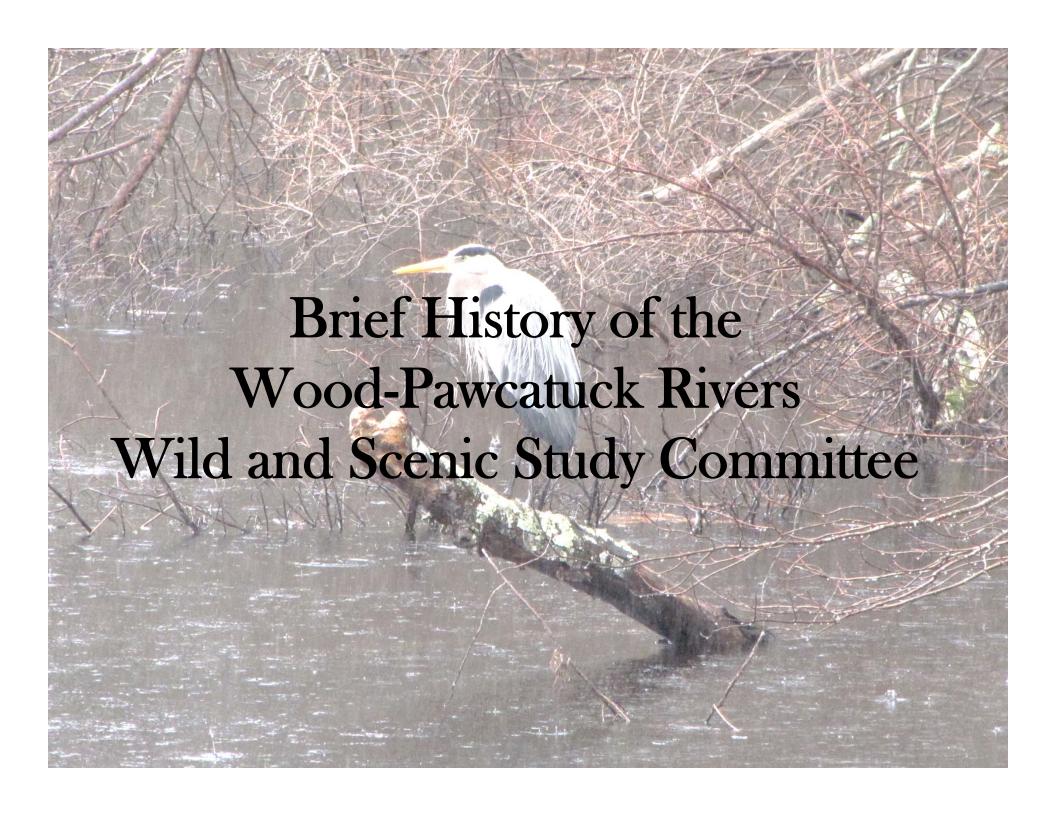


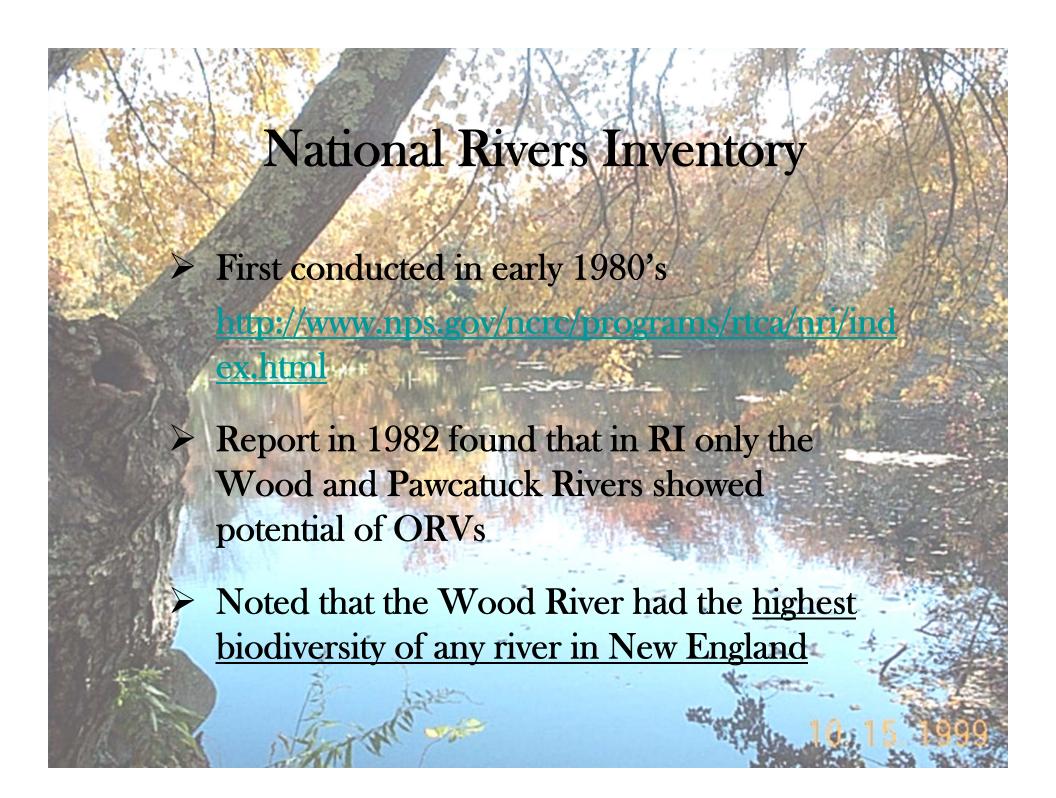


## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee

### Members:

- > Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Save The Bay
- >RI Dept. of Environmental Management
- >CT Dept. of Energy & Environment Protection
- > Representatives from Watershed towns







- Established in 1983 in part to pursue Wild & Scenic designation
- ➤ Did not happen in the 1980's due to the nature of the W&S criteria
  - > Relatively inaccessible rivers
  - ➤ On public land
  - > With no dams

### Partnership Approach

- ➤ In the 1990's Congress amended Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
  - >Added "Recreation" as 3rd designation
  - > Allows smaller rivers with some impoundments
- Allowed for partnerships between grassroots organizations, local, state, & federal agencies
- This approach incorporates development of management plans
- > 10 rivers in NE have been designated

### Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Designation Committee

- ➤In 2010 WPWA was joined by STB, TNC, RIDEM, & CTDEEP
- ➤ Worked with NPS Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Program
- Identified river segments and potential ORVs to propose for study
- ➤In 2011 garnered support from all 14 towns in the watershed

### Act of Congress

- ➤ Rep. Langevin(RI) and Courtney (CT) submitted a bill, the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act, to the House that directs the National Parks Service (NPS) conduct a study that will determine if the named Rivers meet the Wild and Scenic criteria
- ➤ WPWA asked to testify before House Natural Resources Subcommittee in May 2012
- The bill passed the House in June 2012 and February 2013
- ➤ Bill introduced into the Senate by Sen. Reed and co-sponsored by Whitehouse, Lieberman, and Blumenthal passed in December 2014

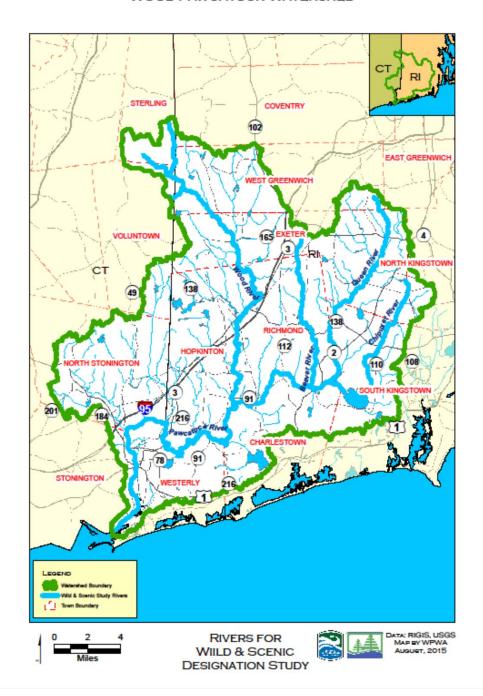
### Reconnaissance Survey

- ➤ Rep. Langiven asked NPS conduct the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Reconnaissance Survey to identify ORV in the Pawcatuck Watershed.
- Reconnaissance Survey was completed in fall 2013 and released in spring 2014
- Preliminary Findings stated "... likely to meet eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."



- ➤ In Spring 2015 NPS and WPWA signed a Cooperative Agreement to facilitate the study
- ➤ WPWA sent a request to all 14 Towns to appoint up to 2 representatives to serve on Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Rivers Wild and Scenic Study Committee

### WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED



### Rivers Under Study

- ➤ Beaver River
- ➤ Chipuxet River
- ➤ Queen/ Usquepaugh River
- **▶** Pawcatuck River
- **≻**Wood River