

Bill Summary

H.R. 3667: Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2008 (Rep. Welch, D-VT)

H.R. 3667, sponsored by Representative Welch (D-VT), amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276 (a)) to authorize a study by the National Park Service of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers for potential designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The segments to be studied include: the approximately 25-mile segment of the Upper Missisquoi from its headwaters in Lowell, Vermont to the Canadian border; the approximately 25-mile segment from the Canadian border to Enosburg Falls; and approximately 20 miles of the Trout River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Missisquoi.

The Missisquoi River is a tributary of Lake Champlain, located in northern Vermont; the Trout River is a tributary of the Missisquoi. With its headwaters in Lowell, Vermont, the Missisquoi River extends almost 100 miles, flowing north into Quebec then returning to Vermont to flow west through the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge before draining into the Missisquoi Bay, an arm of Lake Champlain.

The upper part of the Missisquoi River is a remarkable example of a northeastern river ecosystem; it is bordered by the largest and perhaps highest quality silver maple floodplain forest remaining in the state of Vermont. American elm, white ash, white oak, and red maple can also be found on its banks. The river is also home to a diverse range of animal life, including native rainbow and brown trout, rare freshwater mussels, spiny soft-shell turtles and river otter. In addition to these natural qualities, there are numerous Abenaki Indian archeological sites along the floodplain and the Missisquoi also possesses outstanding recreational attributes.