

Santa Claus came early for lovers of the Musconetcong River. On December 22, 2006, the President signed into law bill S. 1096, the "Musconetcong Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," which designates portions of the Musconetcong River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. News of the signing brought excited telephone calls and e-mail messages of congratulations from supporters of the designation from Maine to Alaska.

The bill passed the Senate in December of 2005 and passed the House in July of 2006.

The final step, passage of the Senate bill by the House to ensure that identical legislation is recorded in both houses, occurred at 2:00 a.m. on Saturday December 9, just hours before the end of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Musconetcong Watershed Association is grateful to Congressman Scott Garrett and his staff for working diligently to achieve this last minute passage. Congressman Garrett sponsored the bill in the House with co-sponsors Congressmen Rodney Frelinghuysen and Mike Ferguson. The Senate bill was introduced by then-Senator Jon S. Corzine and co-sponsored by Senator Frank Lautenberg. The signing of S 1096 makes two separate segments of the Musconetcong River, a total of 24.2 miles, a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

In addition to the elected representatives mentioned above, the designation effort, while led by the Musconetcong Watershed Association, could not have occurred without the hard work of citizens, municipal representatives, representatives from each of the four counties, Heritage Conservancy, the National Parks Service, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Watershed Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Parks and Forestry and other non-governmental organizations that aided the fifteen year-long process.