

5.13 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1271-1287), provides protection for free-flowing river areas that “possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values”. The U.S. Department of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of identifying and inventorying rivers or river segments that could be potential candidates for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Park Service has compiled and maintains the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI). The NRI is a register of rivers that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The intent of the NRI is to provide information to assist in making balanced decisions regarding the use of the nation’s river resources.

A review of the National Park Service’s Wild and Scenic Rivers System list¹ and the NRI register² indicated that Big and Little Darby Creeks are the closest waterway systems to Port Columbus International Airport (CMH or Airport) that are designated as a State and National Scenic River. Big and Little Darby Creeks run south along the western border of Franklin County. However, they are located approximately 30 miles west of CMH and are not considered within close proximity to the Airport. Therefore, no wild and scenic rivers would be impacted by the Sponsor’s Proposed Project or its alternatives and the Act would not apply.

¹ *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*, accessed on line November 2007, National Park Service, <http://www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist.html#oh>.

² *Trails & Conservation Program: National River Inventory*, accessed on line August 2006, National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/states/oh.html>.

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