



The Charter - Rights of our Rivers in the Forest of Dean

The right to be free from pollution

To exist in a state of ecological health and not be subject to detrimental levels of known and emerging pollutants that adversely affect the life of the rivers.

The right to Biodiversity

To good biological health through existence of balanced, diverse and viable populations of native species and habitats specific to our rivers and their tributaries.

The right to flow and perform natural functions

To maintain their natural course and seasonal rhythms without obstructions or extractions beyond what is necessary, that detrimentally affect ecological function of any part of the river system.

The right to be supported by a healthy catchment

To flow through environments which support the river as a balanced, sustainable and resilient ecosystem.

The right to regenerate

To recover to full ecological function through natural processes and for this to be supported by intervention where necessary, to halt the decline in biodiversity and abundance and increase over time.

The right to representation

To be represented and have these intrinsic rights recognised in the determination of matters that directly affect the rivers' health now and in future.